

BirdLife International Priorities for the Post-2020 GBF Global Monitoring Framework

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Overarching messages

BirdLife calls for the adoption of a SMART monitoring framework that serves the three following purposes: (a) to assess global progress toward meeting the Goals and Targets of the Post-2020 GBF, (b) for countries to assess their own national progress, (c) to allow national progress to be compared between countries.

We support a limited set of Headline indicators, which all Parties should be required to report against, that are able to generate national-level data that can be readily aggregated to assess global progress. These Headline indicators must be supported by a larger set of Component indicators that translate across each identified component of the Goals and Targets and a set of Complementary indicators which are available for in-depth or thematic analyses. While flexibility should be allowed for Parties to use the most nationally appropriate component indicators, these indicators should be standardised and comparable wherever possible.

BirdLife has identified gaps in the current draft monitoring framework, especially with regard to reducing threats to biodiversity. We make recommendations for the inclusion of additional indicators and several amendments in the naming of some indicators to better track progress at the national, regional, and global scales.

Principles for the draft monitoring framework

The need for a SMART framework: The Global Monitoring Framework needs to support SMART targets (Specific, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic and Timebound) – and needs the target wording to clearly read across to the indicators. A SMART target will make it easier to define appropriate indicators.

Purpose of the monitoring framework: We note that indicators in the monitoring framework serve three purposes: (a) to **assess global progress**, (b) **for countries to assess their own national progress**, (c) to **allow national progress to be compared between countries**. In some cases, the same indicator will serve all three purposes (e.g. an indicator mobilised nationally using standardised methods that allow comparison between countries and that allow aggregation to form a global indicator). In other cases, countries may use the best version of an indicator available locally to assess their own national progress, but this may not allow comparison between countries as easily. For this purpose, national disaggregation of a

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global version of the indicator could be used if they are available and valid at the national scale (which is not yet the case for some of the current global headline indicators in Appendices 1 and 2 of the SBSTTA 24 Recommendation 2¹). **It is key that the indicator set reflects the diversity of methods and scales for data collection.**

Availability of indicators: The Global Monitoring framework should include priority indicators that have been tried, reviewed, and published in the peer-reviewed literature as well as other appropriate indicators that are already used to report on progress toward other global processes to enhance synergies (e.g. SDGs, other conventions, IPBES etc.). Following the recommendations in INF document 16, the global monitoring framework should also allow an **element of flexibility** to accommodate new and more suitable indicators as they are developed.

The need for guidance: Further guidance will be needed to assist Parties in using the indicators in monitoring on the ground, especially in terms of the Headline and Component indicators to allow for robust comparability and aggregation (where relevant). For example, guidance will be required for each indicator to set out and explain the methodologies to be used at national scales to construct meaningful versions or equivalents of the indicators.

The three-tiered approach to indicators

There is room for much improvement to the structure of the monitoring framework, and the definitions of each indicator tier and their inter-relationships. While we briefly discuss our recommendations for each indicator tier below, we will give more in-depth recommendations for our priority indicators.

1) Headline indicators

A primary aim of developing Headline indicators is to generate comparable national-level reporting data that are readily aggregated to assess global progress. It is key that the data used for Headline indicators are standardised to allow for consistent monitoring which enables comparison between and across countries. We need this in order to appropriately implement the 'ratcheting' of global commitments through the implementation mechanism.

All Parties should be required to report against the full list of Headline Indicators in a section of their National Reports, using standardised methods for data sources. In some cases this will require development of expanded monitoring, assessment and data compilation at the national scale (e.g. implementation of population abundance monitoring to allow national indices to be developed, such as the Wild Bird Indices recently developed for Botswana and Uganda).

We agree with the call from many parties to have a limited list of Headline indicators. The number per goal, milestone and target will vary and depend on the complexity of each of these, and the availability/feasibility of appropriate indicators. **We don't agree with the**

¹ [CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2](#) RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

proposal to group the Targets under the Goals with just a few Headline indicators for each grouped cluster – as this would make the monitoring framework confusing (SMART targets would not clearly translate across to indicators), and would risk some targets not being clearly reported against.

The process for choosing Headline indicators must be clear and transparent, and we see the following criteria as key:

- **Easily understood:** it is conceptually clear how the indicator relates to the goal or target and the data is easy to interpret and present
- **Quantitative:** the indicator enables accurate measurement of the feature of interest with low bias and assessment of error. Shows trends over time, measures a rate of change and changes in the rate, with good spatial coverage.
- **Amenable to analysis at different scales:** the indicator is nationally relevant, including the ability of the indicator to be disaggregated and/or aggregated from global to national and national to global scales without creating bias. This is to help understand the underlying patterns and shed light on the potential drivers of change and remedial policy actions.
- **Scientifically robust:** the methodology for the indicator and the underlying data are published in a peer reviewed location that can be accessed, and the methodology can be repeated by other scientists or agencies with the same overall result obtained.
- **Regular data collection:** data for the indicator can be updated regularly throughout the duration of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
- **Good availability and support:** the indicator currently exists or is likely to be agreed through a scientific or intergovernmental process where there is an existing body that will continue to review and revise the methodology as needed, such as the indicators identified for monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

2) Component indicators

These indicators must **clearly translate across to the monitoring of each identified component of each of the Goals and Targets** (the components are shown in the appendix of the SBSTTA 24 (resumed) Non-paper on item 3 (Version 1²)).

All Parties should be encouraged to report against these as far as possible.

While there should be flexibility for Parties to use the most nationally appropriate component indicators, these indicators should be standardised and comparable wherever possible, such as through using a methodology that is derived in a standardised way. This is especially important if there is a limited number of Headline indicators, meaning that many elements of the targets are not explicitly addressed in the Headlines. Therefore, it must be made clear to all Parties that Headline and Component indicators are equally needed to adequately assess progress at all scales.

² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/bfc9/c6c3/bcca6df9211099b1adf14947/non-paper-item3-monitoring-v1-en.pdf>

3) Complementary indicators

These indicators should be **available for thematic or in-depth analysis** for each Goal and Target but should not be required for all parties to report against.

Recommendations on specific indicators

Below are BirdLife's recommendations for specific indicators. Based on the appendices presented SBSTTA 24 Recommendation 2³, we make recommendations for where indicators should be retained, changed (either in terms of wording or indicator level) and added.

Points related to headline indicators are highlighted in yellow, and those related to the appendices of SBSTTA Rec 24/2³ are highlighted in blue.

To note: Nature-positive outcomes (as under discussion for inclusion in the mission and in relation to several goals) can be measured by quantifying the maintenance and improvement of species, ecosystems, and natural processes over time⁴. The ecosystems and species elements are best represented under Goal A through indicators on ecosystem extent and integrity and species extinction risk and abundance.

Goal A on conservation of ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Retain as is:

- **Headline A.0.3. Red List Index**
 - This received a strong assessment in Appendix 1 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2: 'relevant and ready to use'
- **Headline indicator A.0.1 "Extent of selected natural and modified ecosystems" with data available from multiple sources (incl. UN SEEA)**
 - This received quite a strong assessment in Appendix 1 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2: 'relevant, not fully operational'
- Complementary indicator a.54. Red List index (wild relatives of domesticated animals)
- Complementary indicator a.33. Biodiversity Intactness Index

Change:

- Move a.42. Wild bird index to become a Component indicator.
- Move a.39. to become a Component indicator and re-word as "Percentage of threatened species that have improved in status since 2020"

Re-insert:

- **Headline Indicator: Living Planet Index**
 - This is proposed to be re-instated as a headline indicator in Appendix 2 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2

Add:

- A Component indicator: "Number of extinctions prevented owing to conservation actions"
- A Component indicator: "Trends in number of species becoming extinct or qualifying for uplisting to Critically Endangered"

³ [CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2](#) RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

⁴ Naturepositive.org [The Measurable Nature Positive Goal for the CBD Mission](#) (2022).

- Headline indicator “Integrity of selected natural and modified ecosystems” with data collated from the UN SEEA and/or the Ecosystem Intactness Index (currently Component indicator a.3.1)
 - UN SEEA-related indicators are proposed to be included at the headline indicator level in Appendix 2 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2

Goal B on nature’s contributions to people

Retain as is:

- Complementary indicator b.2. Red List Index (pollinating species)
- Complementary indicator b.7. Climatic Impact Index.

Retain/change:

- Headline indicator: “Number of countries that recognise the right to a healthy environment through their constitutions, legislation or as parties to legally binding regional treaties”
 - This is the version proposed to be added as a headline indicator for Target 21 in Appendix 3, Table 2 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2. We prefer this to the similar headline indicator proposed for Goal B in Appendix 3, Table 1 (‘Number of countries with national constitution or legislation recognizing a right to a healthy environment’) as this covers all three ways that countries can recognise the right to a healthy environment.
 - Currently 156 countries recognise this right in their national constitutions, legislation or as parties to treaties (though not necessarily regional ones) so this would act as the baseline and is easily reported at both national and global level. This is already reported by the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment and agreed as a feasible indicator by the current Special Rapporteur, David Boyd. It therefore qualifies as ‘green’ under all three questions a-c posed by the co-leads of the WG2020-03 Contact Group.
- Headline indicator: “Extent to which human rights, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, are integrated into national biodiversity planning, policies and reporting (e.g., included in NBSAPs and reported in National Reports)”
 - The indicator “Processes and tools to monitor the implementation of a right to a healthy environment (e.g., included in NBSAPs and reported in national reports)” was proposed to be added as a headline indicator in Appendix 3, Table 1 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2. Upon discussion at OEWG4 with the UN’s OHCHR and other members of the Human Rights and Biodiversity WG set up under the CBD, we are proposing the above slightly amended and improved version of this indicator. This would measure the following element of Goal B: **“the fulfilment of all human rights including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment”**.
 - This is a simple and effective indicator for measuring the **fulfilment** of human rights across the framework, including the right to a healthy environment. A review of the integration of human rights into NBSAPs has recently been conducted by the OHCHR and this could be used as the basis for development of this indicator by acting as a baseline that is reviewed again for the next round of NBSAPs and so on through a collective, global index, thus tracking the planning aspect, with a separate measure potentially being the integration into National Reports to track the implementation/reporting

aspect. This indicator would qualify as 'green', 'yellow' and 'green' under questions a-c posed by the co-leads of the WG2020-03 Contact Group.

Goal D on means of implementation

Retain/change:

- **Headline indicator: "Extent to which human rights, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, are integrated into national biodiversity planning, policies and reporting (e.g., included in NBSAPs and reported in National Reports)"**
 - The indicator "Number of Parties that have processes and tools to measure the right to a healthy environment" is proposed to be added as a headline indicator in Appendix 3, Table 1 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2. However, this should be in addition to, not instead of, retaining this indicator to track Goal B, and would read better as worded above for Goal B.

Target 1 on ecosystems and spatial planning and land/sea use change

Retain as is:

- Complementary indicator t1.2. "Percentage of spatial plans utilising information on key biodiversity areas"

Change:

- **Reword Headline indicator 1.0.1. "indicator of the percentage of land and seas covered by spatial plans that integrate biodiversity tbc" to "Percentage of land and seas covered by spatial plans that integrate biodiversity" Guidance on this indicator should indicate that comprehensive identification and mapping of KBAs should form a core component of any spatial plan that integrates biodiversity.**
 - The wording for this indicator includes several bracketed options in Appendix 1 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2: "1.0.1 Indicator of the percentage of land and seas covered by [landscape-level] spatial [plans that integrate] [integral] biodiversity [plans] tbc*"

Target 2 on restoration

Retain as is:

- Complementary indicator t.2.10 "Percentage of cropped landscapes with at least 10% natural land"

Change:

- **Headline indicator 2.0.1 "Percentage of degraded or converted ecosystems that are under restoration" to be more results oriented and include a measure of impact, not just process – using international standards for high quality restoration as a measure.**

Target 3 on area-based conservation measures

Change:

- **Re-word Headline indicator 3.0.1 "Coverage of Protected areas and OECMs (by effectiveness)" to "Coverage of Protected areas and OECMs (by effectiveness and Key Biodiversity Areas).**

- The wording for this indicator includes this as a bracketed option in Appendix 1 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2: “[Percentage] [Coverage] of protected areas and OECMS, by effectiveness, [ecosystem type,] [KBA/EBSA status]”
 - Re-word Component indicator 3.2.1 “Protected area coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas” to “Protected area coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas by type (terrestrial, freshwater, mountain, marine and coastal)”.
 - Re-word Complementary indicator t.3.2 “Status of Key Biodiversity Areas” as “Proportion of Key Biodiversity Areas in favourable condition” and upgrade to Component indicator.
- Add:**
- A Complementary indicator: “Number of countries in which KBA inventories have been updated nationally using the KBA Global Standard”

Target 4 on species conservation actions

Change:

- Reword Component indicator 4.1.1 as “Number of species for which recovery has been documented using ‘Green Status of Species’ assessments on the IUCN Red List”
- Re-word Complementary indicator t.4.4. “Percentage of threatened species that are improving in status” to “Percentage of threatened species that have improved in status since 2020”

Add:

- Add Headline indicator: “Proportion of species requiring intensive recovery actions to avoid extinction that are under active recovery management”
 - This is proposed to be added as a headline indicator in Appendix 2 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2
- A Component indicator: “Mean % of each Key Biodiversity Area identified for globally threatened species that is covered by protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)”
- A Component indicator: “Proportion of Key Biodiversity Areas identified for globally threatened species in ‘favourable condition’”
- A Component indicator: “Number of threatened species for which global or national action/recovery plans are i) up to date, and ii) being implemented.

Target 5 on sustainable harvesting, trade and use of wild species

Add:

- A Complementary indicator: “Red List Index (Impacts of utilisation)”
- A Complementary indicator: “Red List Index (Impact of fisheries)”

Target 6 on invasive alien species

Re-insert:

- Component indicator: Red List Index (impacts of invasive alien species)
- Component indicator: Proportion of key biodiversity areas threatened by invasive alien species

Target 7 on addressing pollution

Add:

- A Component to the target reading “Avoidance of harm from pollution to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health”
- Against this new Component, add a Component indicator: “Red List Index (impacts of pollution)”

Target 8 on climate change mitigation and adaptation

Retain as is:

- **Headline indicator 8.0.1 “National green-house gas inventories from land use and land use change”**
 - **This assessment in Appendix 1 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2 is inconclusive: “Relevance cannot be assessed until the target is agreed”**

Add:

- A Complementary indicator: “Climatic Impact index”
- Through development, add indicators that measure the:
 - Number of countries that include nature-based solutions as part of national commitments to mitigate climate change impacts through biogenic carbon sequestration and storage
 - Number of countries that include nature-based solutions as part of adaptation approaches in national coastal, water, fire, agricultural, health and disaster risk reduction strategies
 - Contribution of biodiversity-inclusive nature-based solutions measured as an amount of greenhouse gas/ carbon dioxide equivalent in emissions reductions and enhanced sinks, [at global level or evidenced in individual countries’ NDCs]
 - Extent of high carbon areas being managed as nature-based solutions for mitigation.
 - Extent of high carbon areas being managed as nature-based solutions for adaptation.

Target 9 on sustainable management of wild species of fauna and flora

Retain as is:

- Complementary indicator t9.5. Red List Index (species used for food and medicine)

Add:

- A Complementary indicator: Red List Index (Impacts of fisheries)
- A Complementary indicator: Red List Index (impact of utilisation)

Target 10 on productive ecosystems managed for sustainable use

Retain as is:

- Complementary indicator t10.2. Red List index (wild relatives of domesticated animals)
- Complementary indicator t10.3. Red List Index (pollinating species)

Add:

- A Component indicator: Wild Bird Index

Target 14 on mainstreaming and economic reform

Change:

- **Headline indicators to require that integration of biodiversity includes spatial elements, including through the tracking of integration of SEA.**

Add:

- A Component indicator: “The proportion of national biodiversity policies and plans that incorporate national spatial assessments of KBAs and other areas of importance for biodiversity”
- Component indicator, SDG indicator 12.1.1: “Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies” specifying that this should be limited to plans that explicitly incorporating biodiversity considerations or with SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies including NBSAPs.
- Other suggested indicators (based on no net loss/net gain but could alternatively reference sustainable production and consumption or sustainable practices):
 - Proportion of national territory covered by current biodiversity-inclusive strategic environmental assessment (or equivalent comprehensive spatial planning)
 - Number of governments / subnational governments (a) with public procurement policies and action plans for achieving at least no net loss or net gain of biodiversity and (b) achieving at least no net loss or net gain of biodiversity through these policies and plans
 - Number of sector-wide policies in place for achieving no net loss or net gain of biodiversity.

Target 15 on supply chains

Change:

- Develop Headline indicator 15.0.1 “Dependencies and impacts of businesses on biodiversity” to clarify what is being measured; this should consider the work of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TFND), and reference SDG 12.6.1: “Number of companies publishing sustainability reports” retaining the requirement to publish impacts on biodiversity.
 - Appendix 1 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2 recommends adding the SDG 12.6.1 as a headline indicator

Add suggested indicators (based on no net loss/net gain but could alternatively reference sustainable production and consumption or sustainable practices):

- Number of countries having policies requiring no net loss or net gain of biodiversity and reporting for companies listed or operating in their territories
- Number of financial institutions using biodiversity metrics to guide investment and risk management around a goal of no net loss or net gain of biodiversity
- Number of companies that have set and implemented targets for achieving no net loss or net gain of biodiversity, taking into consideration biodiversity impacts across their value chains
- Number of sectoral policies in place for achieving no net loss or net gain of biodiversity
- Number of governments / subnational governments (a) with public procurement policies and action plans for achieving at least no net loss or net gain of biodiversity and (b) achieving at least no net loss or net gain of biodiversity through these policies and plans

Target 19 on resource mobilisation

Change:

- Ensure headline indicators measure 'new' additional and effective financing to effectively track progress towards closing the biodiversity finance gap.

Add:

- Indicator tracking the number of countries with National Biodiversity Finance Plans.
- A cross-reference to the Target 18 Headline indicators on reduction and redirection of harmful subsidies and incentives.

Target 20 on information sharing

Retain as is:

- Complementary indicator t20.3. Proportion of known species assessed through the IUCN Red List
- Complementary indicator t20.4. Number of assessments on the IUCN Red List of threatened species

Add:

- Complementary indicator: "Number of countries in which comprehensive national Key Biodiversity Areas assessments have been updated using the KBA Global Standard". We believe it is important to have an indicator to monitor trends in use biodiversity information to guide policy.

Target 21 on participation and rights

Potentially retain:

- Headline indicator: "Number of countries that recognize the right to a healthy environment through their constitutions, legislation or as parties to legally binding regional treaties"
 - This is proposed to be added as a headline indicator in Appendix 2 of SBSTTA Rec 24/2, although this should be only be retained in addition to, not instead of, retaining this indicator to track Goal B, and only if Target 21 broadens its focus from IPLCs. The word 'regional' should be removed as explained above under Goal B.