﻿ **TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS**

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| **Review comments on the draft monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework** | |
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| ***General Comments*** | |
| **Comment No. 1**  The key to “Conservation of Biological Diversity” is to facilitate assessment through clear and measurable criteria that are shared, transparent and communicated. Often lost in the voluminous species-wise ecosystem-wise details is the bigger picture of where the world is heading in terms of halting the loss of biodiversity. While focusing on details is important, it is equally important to look at the aggregated numbers and macro-assessments for a clearer vision of the goals. Statistics, in general and environment accounts, in particular, can help decision makers by providing necessary inputs for planning and policy formulations through measurable and tangible assessments. Next to measurability, the most important attribute of the monitoring mechanism is the periodicity of assessments.  Statistics or accounts need to be produced on a regular basis to facilitate mid-course corrections. Just like a statutory audit, the undertaking of the statistical assessment often provides important and valuable insight.  In the above backdrop, it is important that the National Statistical Offices are continuously engaged with during the process of monitoring as the NSOs are generally responsible for implementation of the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA).  This could ensure coherence among the different indicators since they would be juxtaposed in a standardised framework and could also help in better use of the monitoring framework in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), National Reports to the CBD, and also other reports like the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).  Further, integration of the biodiversity framework with statistical programmes like those of environment statistics and environmental accounts can help utilize resources optimally.  Use of the SEEA-based indicators and greater involvement of the National Statistical Offices in the monitoring framework are also likely to yield the following benefits:   1. Consistency across sectors in analyzing depicting trends and distributions, especially during turning points (like catastrophes) and providing inputs for better policies for disaster risk reductions, allocation of funds and economic coordination and assistance; 2. Transparency and consistency in concepts and definitions so that decision-makers use common metrics for framing the policy interventions; 3. Greater accuracy in the information provided in view of the processes adopted for reconciliation of discrepancies across data sets as part of the integration process; 4. Reduction in the reporting burden for respondents, increased efficiency in the production of data, and greater accuracy through the use of common definitions, common or reconciled classes, common or integrated questionnaires, common and integrated data processing, estimation, and dissemination systems and better use of administrative records and other strategies for integration; 5. More relevant and responsive statistics that quickly address user needs by leveraging integrated technologies; 6. Consistency across countries for purposes of assessing cross-country effects and policy coordination through the use of standard classifications and nomenclatures; and 7. Improved timeliness and quality of information through usage of standard processes and methodologies integral to an NSO. | |
| **Comment No. 2**  It is observed that some of the proposed indicators are just one-time estimates and are resource-intensive, which implies that countries will not be able to plan a periodic compilation of these indicators/indices. Indicators like ‘Cumulative human impacts on marine ecosystems’   or the Comprehensiveness of conservation of socioeconomically as well as culturally valuable species’ should be either dropped or replaced by indicators that can be compiled regularly by countries. | |
| **Comment No. 3**    A tiered/phased approach to the indicator framework would be useful for countries to adopt. Thus in the first phase, global data sets can be used to estimate national indicators for those countries that are yet to develop or are developing their data systems. Simultaneous efforts need to be made to develop capacities in such countries for compiling these data sets in the medium term. The SDG framework for involvement of custodian agencies consulting with the countries before publishing the data needs to be reinforced. | |

*Comments should be sent by e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int****no later than 25 July 2020****.*