



Submission from ECLAC to Notification 2020/024 from the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity: Peer review of draft documents for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24).

13 August 2020

Reference is made to notification No. 2020/024. It included the request from the Executive Secretary to provide written comments on the draft documents related to Agenda item 3 on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. ECLAC welcomes the opportunity to comment on these documents.

- Role of Regional Commissions in global agreements monitoring frameworks

The Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA), which was established in 2000 pursuant to ECLAC resolution 580(XXVIII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7, contributes to the progress of policies on statistics and statistical activities in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and promotes international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national statistical offices and international and regional agencies. Members of the SCA are representatives from National Statistical Offices and international agencies. The Working Groups constitute a modality of collaboration between countries that contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. Currently, biodiversity indicators are being supported at national level through the Environment Statistics Working Group, which is led by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico.

Additionally, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, proposed, in the framework of the regional dimension of the reform of the United Nations development system, the establishment of regional knowledge management hubs to enhance the visibility and accessibility of the system's regional assets, **“by pooling the policy expertise, by or across sectors [...], making that expertise more easily accessible to respond to emerging national needs related to the 2030 Agenda”**.

In this connection, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the regional office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have developed, in conjunction with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system



in the region and the Development Coordination Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, an online portal which will serve as the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (<https://agenda2030lac.org/en>).

The objective of this Platform is to be a reference and place where all information related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be found, including activities, information resources, statistics, regional data, specific analytical tools and knowledge products developed and made available by the United Nations in response to the needs of member countries.

Furthermore, ECLAC Subprogramme of Work 10 specifically focuses on strengthening of national technical and institutional capacities in environment statistics, including biodiversity indicators, through specialized advisory services and online and in situ training courses, expert meetings and seminars.

We believe ECLAC mandate and mechanisms, especially the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, can be instrumental to strengthen collaboration and synergies with the Convention for Biological Diversity Secretariat in the roll-out of the global biodiversity monitoring framework, especially in relation to national biodiversity statistical capacity building.

- Role of National Statistical Offices in the post-2020 Monitoring Framework and Indicators

The official statistics community believes that the post 2020 monitoring framework should be built upon data collected from countries and emphasizes the important role of national statistical offices in reviewing the metadata as well as contributing and coordinating the indicator compilation at the country level. The current proposed draft framework does not include a strong link between national statistical systems and biodiversity monitoring. An approach involving national statistical offices would have the additional value added of improving country ownership –which would likely translate into the better use of indicators in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Reports to the CBD, and also would facilitate the issue of biodiversity data in other processes such as the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

We believe inter-institutional coordination between national biodiversity authorities, including Ministries of Environment, and National Statistical Offices is key to produce and sustain national biodiversity indicators, which are essential to formulate, implement, monitor and



evaluate National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Reports to the CBD.

We support the idea of a smaller, core indicator set for the post 2020 framework which includes indicators that should be monitoring nationally and globally.

We emphasized the importance for the indicators to be based on agreed statistical standards or agreed methodologies. This will help the production of the data and indicators on a regular basis and the metadata will be based on agreed methodologies that are already being rolled out in countries. This will also facilitate the development of a common approach to data collection, monitoring and reporting for UN entities and Member States, which reflects the fact that biodiversity data are critical to managing any agenda and ensures that biodiversity data are integrated into the larger development agenda information infrastructure.

A Tier approach similar to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would be helpful by which global data sets can be used to estimate national indicators for those countries that have no capacity/data. At the same time, efforts should be placed to develop capacity so that countries can investigate new data sources and compile these data in the medium term. In this context, it may be useful to look at the data flow approach used in the SDG context by which custodian agencies need to consult with the countries before publishing the data.