Essential Elements of a Monitoring Framework of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be adopted at COP15
Joint NGO points
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The success of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) depends on the foundation of a clear, robust monitoring framework which can guide Parties in implementation, reporting and review. Accessible, transparent indicators are required in order to assess whether enough action is being taken to meet the GBF's goals and targets across the decade. Yet amid the challenges of negotiating the text of the GBF, the process to develop the monitoring framework has been long, complex and opaque, and there are still many gaps and uncertainties.

SBSTTA has recommended that COP15 adopts the monitoring framework[1], and the current draft COP15 decision operationalizing the GBF also includes adoption of the monitoring framework[2]. This lays out a clear mandate to adopt the monitoring framework along with the GBF in Montreal this December.

Even if the monitoring framework is not perfect at the time of adoption at COP15, we feel that it is essential for it to be adopted alongside the GBF's goals and targets, to make it clear from the start that progress must be monitored. The indicators are essential to feed into National Reports and to help shape NBSAPs, and hence must be in place - even if in a form to be improved - from the start. Regardless of future updates to the monitoring framework from the AHTEG, adopting a preliminary version is necessary to provide guidance to Parties on updating NBSAPs and reporting progress against the goals and targets of the GBF.

There needs to be sufficient time allocated at COP15 for Parties to discuss the monitoring framework. This will enable the monitoring framework to be adopted in its most progressed form at COP15.

Here we set out **what must be agreed as a minimum at COP15 with respect to the monitoring framework**, in order to set ourselves up for a strong decade of implementation:

- **The preliminary monitoring framework must be adopted alongside the GBF**. This must include:
    - **A set of headline indicators that is as comprehensive as possible**, and allows every goal and target to be measured (ensuring that important elements such as human rights are included here as well as in section B.bis, and reported on accordingly). We are aware that the adoption of an overly restrictive set may result in perverse outcomes. Therefore the list needs to remain flexible to allow gaps to be filled ahead of COP16 and national reporting deadlines. This must have a transparent process (see below on the role for civil society and participation in the AHTEG).

[1] CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2
[2] CBD/WG2020/4/L.2 states the monitoring framework will be adopted alongside the GBF (para 1), and that its implementation will be monitored and assessed via the monitoring framework (para 9).

    - **A list of component and complementary indicators**, which should be refined prior to COP16
- **A clear TOR for the AHTEG must be agreed at COP15.**
    - The AHTEG must start its work immediately, have a clear process for work and must be as open as possible.
    - The TOR should include a mandate to provide technical advice to solve unresolved issues, prioritising developing and confirming the final set of headline indicators (with a clear process for how future headline indicators are reviewed), and further developing the full framework.
    - There is much work to be done. For example, it was noted in the workshop report that only 10 of the 39 proposed headline indicators from the Bonn expert workshop are ready for use now. 13 need further development and 17 need to be developed (e.g. no existing methodology).
    - It is important that certain proposed indicators (e.g. those addressing human rights aspects), which were placed by the Bonn expert workshop in category 5 (to be included as a question in national reports), are not relegated in importance and are reviewed for development as Headline indicators.

What needs to happen before COP15

We understand that the SBSTTA list (from recommendation 24/2) will be used as basis for discussion at COP, but clarification is needed on how the outcome of the Bonn expert workshop (CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/2) will be used. While the Bonn workshop provides a useful initial analysis of headline indicators, we note that the resulting list of HL indicators in the workshop report has significant gaps.

A role for civil society to provide capacity and support delivery

As indicator developers and data-holders, our community is primed to support Parties and other actors in the delivery of their monitoring, reporting and review commitments, through:

- the provision of global indicators into the reporting process to support tracking global level progress;
- the sharing of nationally-disaggregated indicators and datasets for inclusion in national reports, where applicable;
- supporting the crosswalk of global commitments with national indicator sets;
- the development of guidelines on the selection and application of these indicators; and
- our expert participation in the AHTEG (which should also include social science, human rights and Indigenous Peoples' expertise and representation).