

Position Paper

Review of Draft Monitoring Framework for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework¹

Conservation International (CI) has developed the following set of comments in response to the CBD Secretariat's release of a draft monitoring framework. This was shared on 22 June 2020 as part of the process to determine the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Please note that, while the entire global biodiversity framework is critical for guiding ambitious conservation and sustainable development actions over the course of the next decade, CI has focused its comments on those indicators most relevant to our ongoing science, implementation and policy priorities and areas of expertise. We hope that these inputs will be helpful to Parties as they prepare their own comments on the draft monitoring framework and we would be pleased to discuss any of these inputs with interested Parties (see contact information at end of document).

Table	Column letter	Row number	Comment
1	C	15	<p>Monitoring element for Goal A2 (Ecosystem integrity and connectivity (terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems)): Trends in fragmentation and quality of forest ecosystems.</p> <p>We propose the inclusion of the River Connectivity Status Index (CSI) as an indicator. The CSI is a measure of a river's connectivity along four different dimensions. It is an important addition to terrestrial and marine-focused connectivity indicators. Connectivity is a critical element of riverine health: it allows for species and sediment movement as well as hydrologic cycles. The CSI is a peer-reviewed indicator using the best available data.</p>
1	C	42	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element (Trends in area of terrestrial and inland water areas conserved) for goal A6 (Protection of critical ecosystems): Protected area coverage.</p> <p>In addition to protected areas coverage, we recommend using the protected area downgrading, downsizing, and degazettement (PADDD) indicator to assess quality and change in protected areas. Tracking dynamics of protected area size and status (including upgrades, downgrades, expansions, downsizes, establishments, and degazettements) would provide a much more accurate and informative picture of PA and OECM progress. We note our</p>

¹ Please find the original document released for peer review here: <https://www.cbd.int/sbstta/sbstta-24/post2020-monitoring-en.pdf>

			recommendation in Target 2 (Row 47) to integrate PADD and urge its inclusion there.
1	C	43	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element (Trends in area of terrestrial and inland water areas conserved) for goal A6 (Protection of critical ecosystems): Coverage of other effective area-based conservation measures.</p> <p>We want to ensure that PAs and OECMs also include areas that are conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) where appropriate. IPLC-governed areas can fit into either category and the process to determine this should be addressed with the consent and participation of IPLCs. We recommend a specific indicator on IPLC areas in Target 20 (Row 242) below which can help in clarifying these important differences.</p>
1	C	48	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element for goal A6 (Protection of critical ecosystems): Trends in areas of particular importance for ecosystem services conserved.</p> <p>We recommend adding “Global stocks of Irrecoverable Carbon” as an indicator for this element. “Stocks” will be measured in two ways: (1) the area of the carbon-containing places that are conserved, and (2) mass of carbon contained in this area. Climate change is one of the major threats to biodiversity and irrecoverable carbon represents the places that we most urgently need to protect to maintain climate stability. Irrecoverable carbon is carbon in ecosystems that is vulnerable to loss during a land-use conversion and, if lost, could not be recovered by 2050 (the timeframe by which we need to reach net zero emissions). We can track annually the proportion of irrecoverable carbon that is still intact by using an updated dataset and map from CI.</p>
1	B	48	<p>Indicators for Monitoring element for goal A6 (Protection of critical ecosystems): Trends in areas of particular importance for ecosystem services conserved.</p> <p>We recommend using an indicator that would assess protection coverage of the range of areas important to ecosystem services as identified in Goal B.</p> <p>In addition, we have proposed adding areas of particular importance for ecosystem services to the monitoring elements of Target 2 (see below, Table 2, Rows 39-42).</p>
1	C	56	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element for Goal Element B1 (Nature’s regulating contributions including climate regulation, disaster prevention and other): Trends in regulation of climate.</p>

			<p>We propose deleting the certified forest indicator because forests/ecosystems can contribute to climate change mitigation without being verified. However, we do note the importance of certification as an indicator in other parts of the framework.</p> <p>It is critical that we track enhanced sinks and reduced emissions of terrestrial carbon as well as the enhanced sequestration of carbon by native ecosystems. Both are essential for climate change mitigation. As such, we propose two indicators for this monitoring element:</p> <p>(1) Irrecoverable carbon, which would be measured in carbon “stocks” of area and mass (see Goal B, line 48 above for more details on the definition of Irrecoverable carbon), and</p> <p>(2) Carbon sequestration, which is calculated as the rate of addition of new biomass and/or soil carbon to a system on an annual basis.</p>
1	C	58	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element for Goal Element B1 (Nature’s regulating contributions including climate regulation, disaster prevention and other): Trends in regulation of freshwater quantity, quality, location and timing.</p> <p>We propose an indicator that monitors the “status of ecosystems providing globally important services for the regulation of water quantity, quality, location and timing”. Several organizations forming the Critical Natural Capital (CNC) Partnership² are working together on developing the methodology for this indicator using a range of data sources. The indicator includes identification of the sites that deliver these services. This information can be provided at regular intervals to assess the state of water provisioning through ecosystem services across the globe.</p>
1	C	62	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element for Goal Element B1 (Nature’s regulating contributions including climate regulation, disaster prevention and other): Trends in regulation of hazards and extreme events.</p> <p>We recommend adding an indicator that monitors the status of ecosystems that provide coastal and terrestrial flood protection.</p>

² Critical Natural Capital (CNC) Partnership: Conservation International, the Natural Capital Project, Cornell University, King’s College London, Colorado State University, and many other partners and data providers are assembling the most comprehensive set of global ecosystem service maps yet collected and aggregating them into a global prioritization map that identifies ecosystem service hotspots around the world. This map will help the global community plan for sustainable development in support of human well-being in the same way that extant global maps of carbon and biodiversity aid in prioritizing activities for the health of the planet. Following is a list of the indicators that are currently being researched by the CNC partners and could contribute to global monitoring: Water quality (nitrogen, sediment); Coastal protection; Flood regulation; Moisture recycling; Freshwater fisheries; Marine fisheries; Coral reef livelihoods; Recreation; Linguistic diversity; Timber & fuel wood; Pollination; Grazing/browsing/fodder; Wild food and non-wood products

			Such an indicator would be based upon measures of extent and integrity of the ecosystems that provide the service, such as healthy mangroves protecting from coastal erosion. These disaster risk reduction services are currently being modelled by a range of methodologies and could be used for monitoring at various scales.
1	B	64-67	<p>Monitoring elements for Goal Element B2. Nature’s material contributions including food, water and others.</p> <p>We recommend adding “Trends in status of ecosystems providing globally important services for food security and nutrition” and “Trends in status of ecosystems providing globally important services for meeting human water needs”. These ecosystem services are being tracked by CI and partners through the Critical Natural Capital Partnership project².</p>
1	C	65	<p>Indicators for Monitoring Element for Goal B2 (Nature’s material contributions including food, water and others): Trends in the provision of food and feed from biodiversity.</p> <p>An important indicator needed to monitor this element is “state of important sites delivering ecosystem services related to food”; these areas are essential to improving nutrition. Several organizations, including CI, are working together as part of the Critical Natural Capital Partnership (see footnote on Page 3 above) to develop the methodology for this indicator using a range of data sources. The indicator would include identification of the sites that deliver these services and monitoring of their status. This information can be provided at regular intervals to assess the state of food provisioning through ecosystem services across the globe. This entails mapping the places around the world that are highest-performing in terms of providing provisioning of food-related ecosystem services to all humanity, particularly to the world’s most vulnerable people.</p>
1	C	66	<p>Indicators for Monitoring Element for Goal B2 (Nature’s material contributions including food, water and others): Trends in the provision of materials and assistance from biodiversity.</p> <p>We recommend tracking the state of areas that provide critical levels of ecosystem services through delivery of materials, such as non-timber forest products, which is part of the data assessed by the Critical Natural Capital (CNC) partnership (see footnote on Page 3 above). The research community's ability to estimate or model the provision of wild fiber, fuel, medicine, materials to people is advancing.</p>
2	C	24	Indicator for Monitoring element (Trend in the area of degraded terrestrial ecosystems restored) for T1.4 (Restoration of degraded

			<p>ecosystems): Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area (SDG indicator 15.3.1).</p> <p>In addition to tracking trends in degraded ecosystems that have been restored, we recommend measuring the proportion of land that is degraded over total land area. This element is monitored under the UNCCD and SDG 15.3.1; both use the indicator “Trends.Earth”, which uses indices that monitor changes in primary productivity, land cover and soil organic carbon. We recommend adoption of this monitoring element and indicator by the CBD as well.</p> <p>We also recommend an indicator of restoration quality to ensure that restoration efforts contribute to improvement not just in extent but also integrity of natural ecosystems. CI is currently working with a partner to explore how “increase in secondary natural forest cover” could serve as a proxy indicator that would be relevant to the above monitoring element.</p>
2	C	31	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element (Trends in habitat connectivity) for Target T1.5 (Maintenance and restoration of connectivity of natural ecosystem): Protected Connected (Protconn).</p> <p>We recommend the specific development of a marine connectivity indicator with the support of Conservation International, IUCN’s Marine Connectivity Working Group, and a number of academic and other institutions. This would entail the development of a method for assessing connectivity of marine protection and/or connectivity of marine habitats (also relevant to the habitat fragmentation element). The resulting indicator would also have relevance for other UN Conventions and processes such as the High Seas Treaty and the SDGs.</p>
2	C	35	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element for T2.1 (Trends in extent of protected areas): Protected area coverage.</p> <p>We support the inclusion of an indicator on protected area downgrading, downsizing, and degazettement (PADDD) to monitor this element of Target 2 because tracking the dynamics of protected area size and status (including upgrades, downgrades, expansions, downsizes, establishments, and degazettements) is an important aspect of the quality of areas under protection (or OECMs). PADDD specifically tracks 1) losses in coverage due to downsizing and degazettement and (2) Change in status and rules within protected areas, including downgrades to protected areas and other area-based conservation measures</p>
2	C	38	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element (Trends in extent of areas under other area-based conservation measures) for T2.1 (Area of</p>

			<p>terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystem under protection and conservation): Coverage of other effective area-based conservation measures.</p> <p>We recommend an indicator that measures the “extent of IPLC lands that have some form of recognition, documentation and/or titling”. Given the large proportion of intact lands under IPLC tenure or management, this governance type of protected and conserved area needs concerted efforts for assessment. This will lead to strengthening of security and contribute to long-term biodiversity protection.</p>
2	B	39-42	<p>Monitoring element for T2.2. (Areas of particular importance for biodiversity are protected and conserved as priority): Trends in proportion of areas of particular importance for biodiversity protected and conserved.</p> <p>We recommend including an element that monitors the protected area and OECM coverage of priority areas delivering ecosystem services for climate, food and water. See Table 1 (Rows 64-67) above for further detail on how these trends can be measured.</p>
2	B	39-42	<p>Monitoring element for T2.2. (Areas of particular importance for biodiversity are protected and conserved as priority):</p> <p>We recommend adding the following Monitoring element: Trends in areas of particular importance for ecosystem services conserved.</p> <p>Areas providing important ecosystem services are being identified by CI and partners through the Critical Natural Capital partnership³. This approach can help identify areas of particular importance to be prioritized for protection under Target 2. This information can then be used to assess trends over the next 10-30 years.</p>
2	C	48	<p>Indicator for Monitoring Element T2.4. Trends in proportion of protected areas and other effective area based conservation measures under various governance regimes:</p> <p>We recommend developing an indicator on “Protected Area Governance Effectiveness” for this monitoring element that determines effectiveness of governance, similar to how management effectiveness is assessed.</p>

³ Conservation International, the Natural Capital Project, Cornell University, King's College London, Colorado State University, and many other partners and data providers are assembling the most comprehensive set of global ecosystem service maps yet collected and aggregating them into a global prioritization map that identifies ecosystem service hotspots around the world. This map will help the global community plan for sustainable development in support of human well-being in the same way that extant global maps of carbon and biodiversity aid in prioritizing activities for the health of the planet.

2	C	52	<p>No indicator proposed for Monitoring element T2.7 (Policy and governance practices outside of protected areas and OECMs compatible with their management objectives) (Integration into landscape and seascape context)</p> <p>We also suggest an IPLC land tenure/management indicator (see Table 2, Row 38).</p>
2	C	97	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element for T7.1 (Increased biodiversity contribution to climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction): Trends in carbon stocks in different ecosystems.</p> <p>We recommend tracking this element with an indicator on the “Trends in global stocks of Irrecoverable carbon” through the use of the Irrecoverable carbon data layer (see Table 1, Row 48 above). Irrecoverable carbon is carbon in ecosystems that is vulnerable to loss during a land-use conversion and, if lost, could not be recovered by 2050 (the timeframe by which we need to reach net zero emissions). CI manages this dataset with partners and it tracks carbon content per ecosystem type.</p>
2	C	117	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element T9.1 (Trends in area of agriculture under sustainable practices) (Sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity, including soil biodiversity, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives): Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area (SDG indicator 15.3.1).</p> <p>We agree with the proposal to measure the proportion of land that is degraded over total land area. This element is monitored under the UNCCD and SDG 15.3.1 and both use the indicator “Trends.Earth”, which uses indices that monitor changes in primary productivity, land cover and soil organic carbon. We recommend adoption of this monitoring element and indicator by the CBD as well.</p>
2	C	129-131	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element for T10.3. (Regulation of freshwater quantity, quality, location and timing): Trends in natural freshwater ecosystems proving good ambient water.</p> <p>We propose to adjust two of the proposed indicators for this element as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revise this indicator to “Change in the extent and status of water-related ecosystems over time (modified SDG indicator 6.6.1)”.

			<p>Additionally, define "water related ecosystems" to include both aquatic ecosystems and the terrestrial ecosystems that are essential for regulating the quality, quantity and timing of water.</p> <p>2. Proportion of bodies of water (inclusive of rivers, groundwater, floodplains, lakes, and wetlands) with good ambient water quality and quantity, including variations in quantity over time (modified SDG indicator 6.3.2)</p>
2	A	133-139	<p>T11.2. Contributions of biodiversity to human health and well-being</p> <p>We recommend that clear definitions of human health and well-being need to first be agreed before detailed monitoring can take place. Human and ecosystem well-being are multidimensional concepts, therefore there are numerous methods to measure well-being. Once these dimensions are agreed, then a process can be undertaken to identify appropriate indicators. Conservation International has a team of social scientists and other experts that can contribute to this overall process and more specific methodologies on indicators.</p>
2	C	152	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element T13.1. (Trends in integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service values into planning processes). (Biodiversity reflected in policies and planning at all levels): (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets; and (b) integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental- Economic Accounting (SDG indicator 15.9.1).</p> <p>We support the inclusion of SEEA and urge that it be kept as an indicator.</p>
2	C	157	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element T13.2 (Trends in integration of biodiversity and ecosystem service values into national accounts). (Biodiversity reflected in national and other accounts): (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets; and (b) integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental- Economic Accounting (SDG indicator 15.9.1).</p>

			We support the inclusion of SEEA and urge that it be kept as an indicator.
2	C	242	<p>Indicator for Monitoring element T20.1 (Trends in the recognition of rights over relevant resources). (Equitable participation of IPLCs in decision-making related to biodiversity and rights over relevant resources): Trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities (Decision X/43).</p> <p>We support this indicator and recommend it includes measures of the extent of IPLCs lands that have some form of recognition, documentation and/or titling. We also propose adding the following to the text of the indicator: “ensuring that additional data sources, including those verified from IPLCs, are included”. We encourage the use of a wide range of studies and datasets, including forthcoming reports, that can help inform the analysis of this trend. Some current studies lack inclusive processes or quality data. Given the large proportion of intact lands under IPLC tenure or management, this governance type of protected and conserved area needs concerted efforts for assessment. This will lead to strengthening of security and contribute to long-term biodiversity protection.</p>

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