

**Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
CBD CoP15**

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

Briefing on Monitoring Framework

(January 2023)

Outcome of CBD CoP15 - Highlights

- The general structure of the Monitoring Framework, agreed at CoP15,¹ will include headline, component and complementary indicators for each Goal and Target, as well as global level indicators collated from binary Yes/No answers in national reports. Parties are still able to propose new indicators and mail their suggestions to the Secretariat. It will only be mandatory to report headline indicators in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Reporting on component and complementary indicators is optional. The Yes/No answers based on the binary indicators will provide a count of the number of countries that have undertaken specified activities.
- A review of the Monitoring Framework was launched at CoP15, and an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators (AHTEG) is being established to advise on the further operationalization of the Monitoring Framework in order to finish its development at CoP16.²
- The proposed set of indicators for Target 5 are set out in Table 1, below. These indicators, however, are insufficient to fulfill the minimum monitoring needs of this Target. Only one potential headline indicator for Target 5, indicator 5.1 “*Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels*” is currently included in the Monitoring Framework. This indicator only covers a subset of the relevant species and drivers of loss and provides no information about the legality or safety of wildlife trade and use activities.
- In order to properly assess progress on Target 5, it is urgent to develop and propose additional headline and component indicators aimed at reducing the knowledge gaps.
- A key gap is the absence of indicators on the levels of trade and use of terrestrial species, their sustainability and legality. The CITES database on international trade can potentially narrow this gap and should be considered as a headline (or at least component) indicator.
- Parties must continue their efforts to propose new indicators to support the development of the Monitoring Framework and ensure it is robust enough for assessing progress with Target 5 by CoP16.
- Below are a set of recommended additional component, complementary, and binary indicators to monitor trends in the level of legality, sustainability, and safety of wildlife trade and exploitation.

¹ CBD/COP/DEC/15/5 (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-05-en.pdf>).

² Nominations for Party and Observer experts are to be submitted by 24 February. Notification No. 2023-001, issued 12 Jan 2023.

Analysis of the status of indicators for Target 5

Robust direct indicators for Target 5 are not currently available (see Table 1, below). Moreover, since the only headline indicator accepted so far (5.1: the *Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels* (FAO))³ covers only sustainability of fish species, it does not fulfill the definition of a headline indicator: “*a minimum set of high-level indicators, which capture the overall scope of the goals and targets*”⁴ Such an indicator does not currently exist for terrestrial species, necessitating its urgent development for Target 5.

In addition to headline indicator 5.1, there are three component indicators and thirteen complementary indicators suggested for Target 5.⁵ Component indicators are optional indicators that together with the headline indicators would cover all components of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at different levels. For Target 5 these currently include IUCN’s *Red List Index for used species* (well developed and accepted), the *Living Planet Index for used species* (which fills a key gap in the Headline Indicators but needs development), and *Sustainable use of Wild species* (in development). Although each of these indicators reduces the knowledge gaps, they are still insufficient.

- The Living Planet Index is only useful at the global level and many Parties have expressed their lack of support for this indicator. It is unlikely to receive consensus agreement to stay in place as a component indicator.
- The Red List Index would only partially narrow the knowledge gap by identifying some of the major species at risk, but with a limited taxonomic coverage.
- The indicator on the Sustainable use of Wild species remains undefined and needs development, as there is currently no existing, comprehensive methodology for assessing the use of wild species. It is also unclear whether such an indicator will register the nature of uses in relation to their legality and safety.

Recommendations for additional indicators for Target 5

Target 5⁶

Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spill-over, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

To address the three elements of Target 5 - legality, sustainability and safety – different policies and strategies will be needed. Trade could be legal but not sustainable, or legal and sustainable but still pose a safety risk of zoonotic infection. Each of the three elements therefore need to be supported by separate indicators.

³ See Table 1, CBD/COP/DEC/15/5

⁴ CBD/COP/DEC/15/5, Annex 1, p. 3 (“advance unedited” version)

⁵ See Table 1 at the end of this briefing.

⁶ CBD/COP/15/L25 (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/e6d3/cd1d/daf663719a03902a9b116c34/cop-15-l-25-en.pdf>).

1. Proportion of wildlife used or exploited in any way that is illegal, including illegal trade (both domestic and international trade)

The UNODC and CITES have already elaborated two indicators, the *Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked* and the *Proportion of wildlife (terrestrial and marine species) that are used or exploited in any way that is illegal*, including illegal domestic and international trade, which are readily available at the national level.

This is acknowledged in the *Technical Analysis of Indicators Proposed for the Monitoring Framework for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework* prepared for the Expert Workshop on the Monitoring Framework held in June-July 2022.⁷ These indicators were, however, not included in the final list of accepted indicators for Target 5. We recommend these indicators be reconsidered and developed as appropriate to be included as headline indicators for Target 5.

Additional supplementary indicators of legality can be proposed as binary indicators including, for example, the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat wildlife and forest crime (e.g. using the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, ICCWC indicator framework, or the Financial Action Task Force, FATF national risk assessments etc.), or the number of successful prosecutions. None of these indicators were considered in the Technical Analysis.⁸

2. Extent to which any trade or use of wildlife is ecologically sustainable

The proposed component indicator on *Sustainable use of wild species* has yet to be defined and developed. This is a major challenge and will take time, as there are no comprehensive measurements on the extent of wildlife use, and data on population is lacking for many species. Additional component and complementary indicators are needed to reduce knowledge gaps before a robust indicator is developed.

To advance along this line, we recommend using the IUCN Red List assessments of the conservation status and trends for species that are or may be exploited commercially, ensuring that both international and domestic use, trade and consumption are assessed. The Red List index on impacts of use, and the Red List index on the impacts of fisheries (both by IUCN and BirdLife International), as well as the Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction (FAO), are readily available at the national level, as acknowledged by the Technical Report.⁹ These indicators were, however, not included in the final list of accepted indicators for Target 5.¹⁰

An additional potential headline indicator of the level of legal and sustainable international trade, that has already been validated by experts and institutions, is the CITES trade database. This database is available with high resolution at national and species levels and would only require relatively simple compilation

⁷ CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/INF/3, p. 19 (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/8e2a/1c14/e7fb68393294a9ff59b8c815/id-om-2022-01-inf-03-en.pdf>).

⁸ CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/INF/3.

⁹ CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/INF/3, p. 19.

¹⁰ CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/2 (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/3190/c3f4/1d9fe2d2dedc8c8b97023750/id-om-2022-01-02-en.pdf>).

processing to be aggregated at required national levels and taxa (mainly by estimating numbers of individual organisms from parts, as this database is product-based).

Parties must, however, insist on the **need to develop additional headline indicators that include the domestic trade of wildlife species**, which is a major knowledge gap.

As required by the language of Target 5 itself, Component indicators should also assess the impact on non-target species and ecosystems, and assess the application of ecosystem approaches and customary sustainable use.

3. Extent to which commercial exploitation and trade (domestic and international) presents a risk to human or animal health

There are currently no binary indicators proposed for Target 5, but these offer an opportunity to close key knowledge gaps on health-related issues. Indicators of this nature were not considered in the Technical Analysis of Indicators Proposed for the Monitoring Framework for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework¹¹ and have not made their way into the framework. **There is an urgent need to identify, describe, and propose specific indicators to cover this gap.**

We recommend Parties report on the adoption of legislation and regulations to prohibit commercial trade and markets, prioritizing taxonomic groups known to present a significant risk to human and animal health when traded live and marketed live or freshly slaughtered, like birds and mammals. A simple binary indicator could reflect the number of Parties that are working to close domestic markets and prohibit international commercial trade in live wild animals, due to the risk of both pathogen spillover and becoming invasive. In addition, further binary indicators could monitor the adoption of measures of preparedness, response and prevention of infectious diseases, including for prevention and mitigation of pathogen spillover.

4. Trends in legal commercialization of wildlife species, their parts and products

Trends in trade and commercialization of many wildlife species and their derived products can also be identified using UNCTAD's BioTrade database on international trade in biodiversity-based products.¹² Physical units, however, are not always available through this tool. This database is readily available at the national level, as assessed by SBSTTA. This indicator is listed as a complementary indicator to Target 5, but we recommend it should be considered as a component indicator.

¹¹ CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/INF/3, p. 19. An indicator on “*Zoonotic diseases in wildlife*,” was assessed as ready available and developed by the WHO in the Technical Report, but then rejected in the Report of the Expert Group (CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/2, p. 40).

¹² <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/biotrade.html>.

Table 1

Proposed indicators for Target 5, scored according to their level of development and the capacity-building requirements				
Proposed headline indicator	Component indicators	Assessment	Capacity needs	Linkages
Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels		1	Low	Targets 9, 21
	Red List Index for used species	1	Low (global)/medium (for national monitoring)	Targets 4,5,6,7, 9, 10
	Living Planet Index for used species	2	Low (global database)/High (for national monitoring)	Targets 4, 5
	Sustainable use of Wild species	3	See Goal B	Target 5, Goal B
<p>Complementary Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable watershed and inland fisheries index - Red List Index (for internationally traded species and for migratory species) - Marine Stewardship Council Fish catch - Total catch of cetaceans under International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling - By-catch of vulnerable and non-target species - Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (SDG indicator 14.6.1). - Proportion of legal and illegal wildlife trade consisting of species threatened with extinction - Illegal trade by CITES species classification - Number of countries incorporating trade in their national biodiversity policy - Proportion of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecological regions which are conserved by protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures - Implementation of measures designed to minimize the impacts of fisheries and hunting on migratory species and their habitats - Number of MSC Chain of Custody Certification holders by distribution country - Trends of trade and commercialization in biodiversity-based products that is sustainable and legal (in line with BioTrade Principles and/or CITES requirements) 				
Assessment labels				
1: Broad support for inclusion as a headline indicator and meets the assessment criteria (methods, data available, etc).				
2: Fills a key gap in the headline indicators but needs development.				
3: Priority for development (e.g., Goal C)				
<i>Sources: CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/2, Table 1, and Table 2 CBD/COP/DEC/15/5</i>				