Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)

- **CBD-mandated collaboration**

- **Over 40 organizations working globally**

- **Secretariat based at UNEP-WCMC**

2007-2010 Programme

A framework to assist indicator developers

Guidance Documents

National Indicators web-portal
www.bipnational.net

The Partnership to 2020 - Expansion in national capacity-strengthening will include...

- further **regional workshops** to support development of national indicators

- development of a **guidance "toolkit"** for online and remote learning

- further development of a **www.bipnational.net** based on clearly identified needs

- Development of **'Training of Trainers'** programme

What is an indicator?

Being clear about the basics…

What is an indicator?

"A measure, based on verifiable data, that conveys information about more than itself".
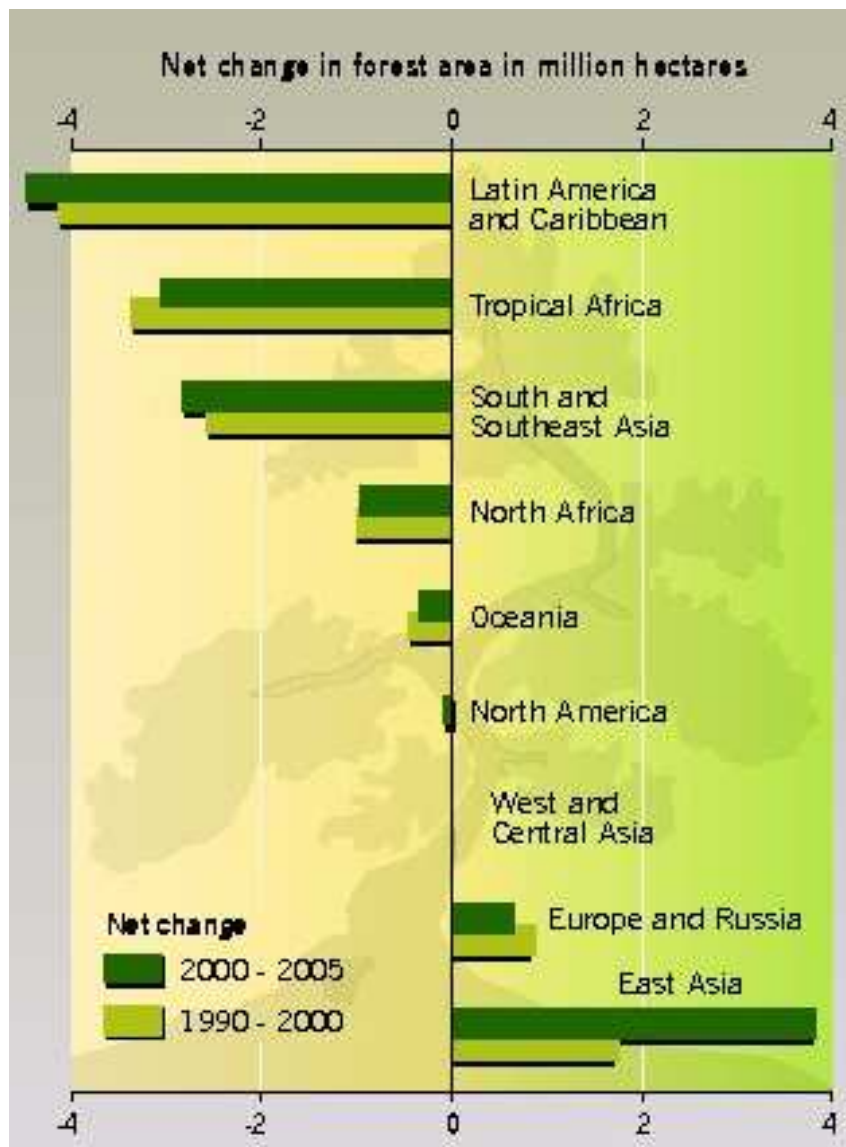
Use of biodiversity indicators

- Track progress in achieving targets

- Guide policy design & implementation
  - *Highlight where action is needed*
  - *Adaptive management*

- Build support
  - *Communicate simple messages*
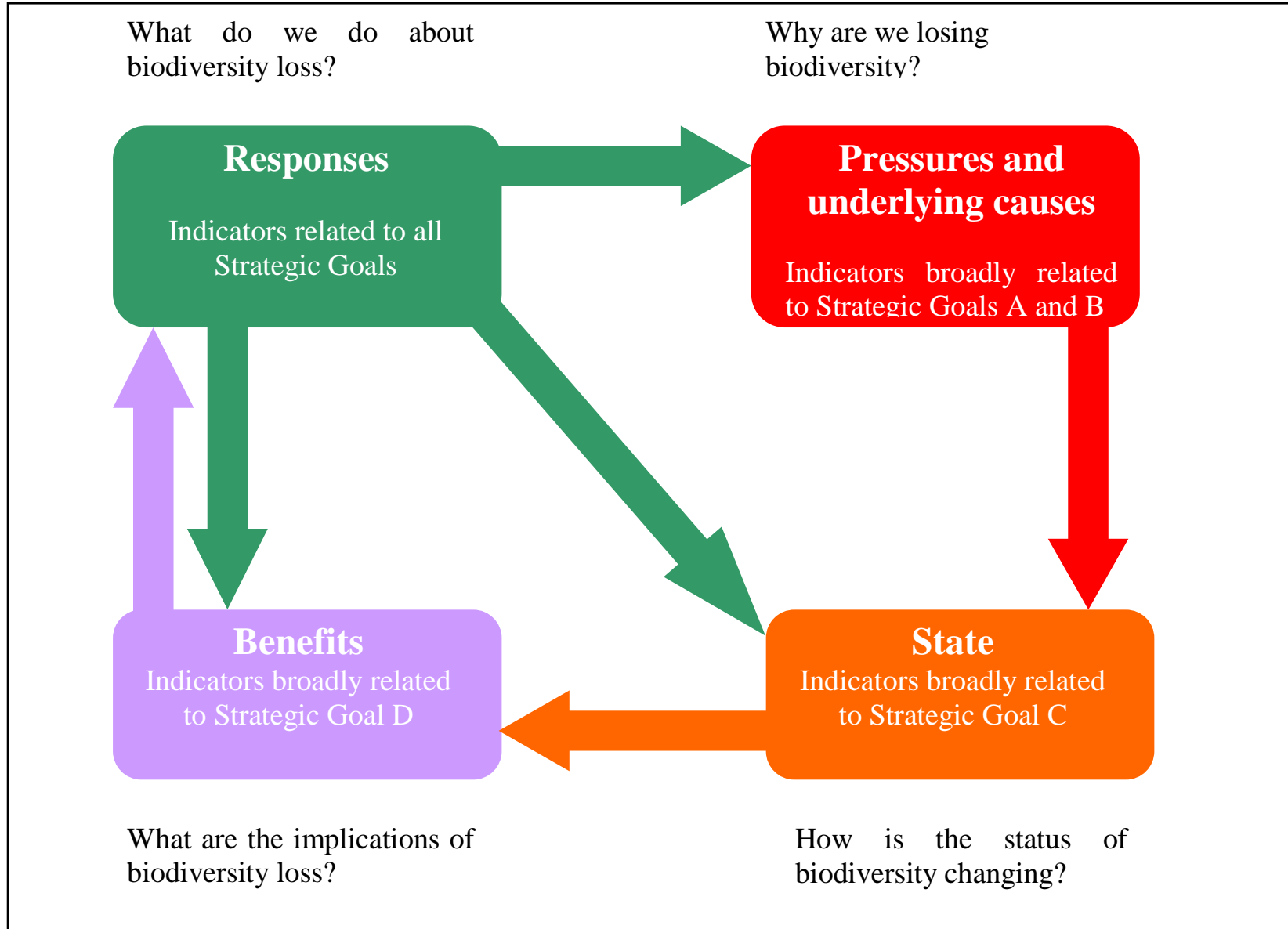
INDICATORS ARE PURPOSE DEPENDENT

- Interpretation or meaning given to the data depends on the purpose or issue of concern

- Always determine your purpose first

Indicators are purpose dependent

Net change in forest area in million hectares

Net change
2000 - 2005
1990 - 2000

Net change in forest area over time could be an indicator of:

- availability of forest resources
- progress in forest conservation
- intensity of threats to forest ecosystems
- investment in plantations
- change in soil cover and erosion
- change in forest carbon sequestration
- conservation status of forest-dependent species
- …

What makes a successful indicactor?

- **Scientifically valid** – theory of relationship between the indicator and its purpose (what change in the indicator means) + reliability of the data

- **Based on available data** – over time (monitoring)

- **Responsive to change in the issue of interest**

- **Easily understandable –** conceptually + presentation + interpretation

- **Relevant to user's needs**

- **It is used!** (for measuring progress, early-warning, understanding an issue, awareness-raising, …)

Some key messages for <u>using</u> indicators

- Understand your data: their strengths, their limitations, where they come from.

- Always put your indicators in context.

- Don't try to answer everything at once: one indicator will never tell you all you want to know.

- Indicators should lead on to other things – they are not ends in themselves.

Some key messages for <u>using</u> indicators

- What story are you trying to tell?

- Who are you trying to tell the story to?

Distinction between Targets and Indicators (1)

National Target:

Increase terrestrial Protected Area coverage from 5% of the country to 15% by 2020

Indicators?

- 15% terrestrial Protected Area coverage
- Increase in Protected Area coverage
- Protected Area coverage
- Percentage Protected Area coverage

National Target:

By 2015, reduce the level of fisheries by-catch by 10% to 50,000 tonnes per year

Indicators?

Group Exercise (a)

Within your groups, identify a successful indicator from one of your countries; Discuss what made the indicator successful?

- Audience?
- Link to subject matter or Target?
- Interpretation/message?
- Shortcomings?

Group Exercise (b)

Within your groups, reflect on the target you set and refine it based on yesterday's discussions (if needed).

Identify 3 potential indicators that will help to monitor your target. Determine a) the information source(s) for the data and b) how the indicator will be communicated.

Report back:
- justification (why is it a good indicator?)
- data sources
- communication