

The role of indicators in the integrated biodiversity monitoring and reporting framework

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Post-2010 policy setting

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Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

Framework for all Conventions and stakeholders.

Vision: *Living in harmony with nature.* By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.

Mission: Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication

20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets under 5 Strategic Goals

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity European Environ

Strategic Goals

- A mainstreaming**
Targets on: awareness, values/accounting, incentives, sustainable consumption and production
- B pressures**
Targets on: habitat loss, fisheries, sustainable land use, pollution, invasive alien species, climate change impacts
- C status**
Targets on: protected areas, threatened species, genetic diversity of domesticated species and wild relatives
- D benefits**
Targets on: ecosystem services, restoration, access to genetic resources
- E implementation**
Targets on: NBSAPs, traditional knowledge and local communities, science base, resources
<http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

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MEETING THE 2020 BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

Action and monitoring based on birds

BirdLife International

Meeting the 2020 biodiversity targets: action and monitoring based on birds

The world's biodiversity is being lost faster than ever. As we destroy it, we lose its capacity to deliver the ecosystem services such as crop pollination, climate regulation and fish and other species upon which we all depend. Current and planned activities by governments, business and society is urgently needed in order to halt the extinction of species and ease the loss of natural habitats. The world's governments have made commitments through the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to tackle this issue, and the CBD has proposed 20 targets for 2020 in order to frame and focus action.

Birds are better known than any other comparable group of organisms, and we have unparalleled information about which species are the closest to extinction, the threats they face, actions needed and current and important laws, treaties that need strengthening. These data can help to focus and target actions to tackle biodiversity loss. Furthermore, as birds are sensitive to environmental change, they are good to watch, and relatively easy to monitor. Indicators based on birds are a key tool for tracking progress in addressing the biodiversity crisis.

In this booklet, we provide summaries for 12 of the CBD targets of how birds can help to focus actions to meet these targets, and how data from birds can help to monitor success.

BirdLife and the CBD

The CBD is the most comprehensive international agreement on biodiversity conservation and its objectives encompass all the strategic objectives of birds and animals. BirdLife International is a partner in the CBD process. BirdLife International is therefore a valuable partner in the CBD process. BirdLife International is a member of the CBD Parties. BirdLife International is a member of the CBD Parties. BirdLife International is a member of the CBD Parties. BirdLife International is a member of the CBD Parties.

CBD 2020 target

1. Everyone is aware of the value of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
2. Biodiversity is integrated into national and local development and planning processes.
3. Hazardous substances are eliminated or reformed and positive incentives are developed and applied.
4. Governments and businesses have achieved or implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption.
5. Loss, degradation and fragmentation of forest and other habitats is at least halted.
6. Overfishing and destructive fishing practices are eliminated.
7. Agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably.
8. Pollution is reduced to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
9. Invasive alien species are identified, prioritized and controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to control pathways of introduction.
10. Pressure on coral and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized.
11. Terrestrial, inland water, coastal and marine areas, especially those of particular importance for biodiversity, are conserved through well-planned, representative and well-connected systems of effectively managed protected areas.
12. Extinction and decline of threatened species is prevented and their status improved.
13. Loss of genetic diversity in crops, livestock and wild relatives is halted.
14. Ecosystems that provide essential services and livelihoods are safeguarded and/or restored, with equitable access.
15. Ecosystems resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks in degraded ecosystems.
16. Access to genetic resources is enhanced and benefits shared.
17. All parties have implemented effective national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
18. Traditional knowledge and practices are protected and their contribution to biodiversity conservation is enhanced.
19. Knowledge and technologies relating to status, trends and value of biodiversity are improved and shared.
20. Human resources and financing for implementing CBD has increased.

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The CBD Strategic Goals, 2020 targets, and how birds can contribute

How birds can help focus action and monitor success

Birds are inspiring, engaging and popular. Tracking the numbers of people engaging in activities that celebrate birds or count them can be used to monitor awareness of biodiversity. ... see page 2

Data from birds can be used to ensure this is done effectively, and bird population trend indicators are being used by many governments to monitor the degree to which development is sustainable. ... see page 3

Bird-scale land-use policies need to incorporate biodiversity concerns in order to 'keep common species common'. Birds can help to identify the specific measures needed in particular habitats and to monitor their impact. ... see page 8

Fisheries bycatch threatens many species, including seabirds, yet simple measures can substantially reduce this problem. The distribution and status of the relevant species can be used to identify the ocean areas where the problem is greatest, and measure progress in tackling it. ... see page 9

Birds can help identify how to make farming biodiversity-friendly, and their population trends are used by many governments for monitoring the sustainability of agriculture. ... see page 10

Data from birds can help to set priorities for eradication, and the Red List Index can help to monitor the impacts of invasive species. ... see page 11

Protected areas will play a key role in helping biodiversity cope with climate change, but will increasingly need to be managed adaptively. Protected and documented climate change effects on birds can help to frame such management and monitor impacts. ... see page 12

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) form a global network of Key Biodiversity Areas that is being used to target the priority locations for additional or expanded protected areas. IBAs monitoring helps to track the conditions and management effectiveness of such protected areas. ... see pages 6-7

The actions required to prevent any more birds from going extinct are well documented. The Red List Index can be used to monitor the scale of the extinction crisis and our success in addressing it. ... see page 4-5

Effectively conserving the global network of key sites for bird conservation (IBAs) would also safeguard substantial provision of ecosystem services and local livelihoods. ... see page 13

Restoring degraded forests can enhance their value for birds and other biodiversity, while improving the ecosystem services and the livelihood values they provide. ... see page 14

Conservation priorities for birds are better known than for other groups, so they can help target national activities on the most urgent issues, species and places. ... see page 15

BirdLife manages unparalleled data on the world's birds and IBAs. Monitoring provision of, and access to, this information can help track knowledge-sharing. ... see page 16

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EU Policy framework


As the 2010 biodiversity target was not met:

EU 2020 Biodiversity strategy

In March 2010 the Environment Council unanimously agreed a **post-2010 EU vision and target for biodiversity**

In May 2011 the European Commission adopted an **EU biodiversity strategy towards 2020 with 6 mutually supportive and inter-dependent targets**

The Council (ENV) adopted conclusions on the EU 2020 biodiversity strategy at its meeting on 21 June 2011 and adopted conclusions on the implementation of the strategy at its meeting on 19 December 2011

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EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2020


HEADLINE TARGET: halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss;

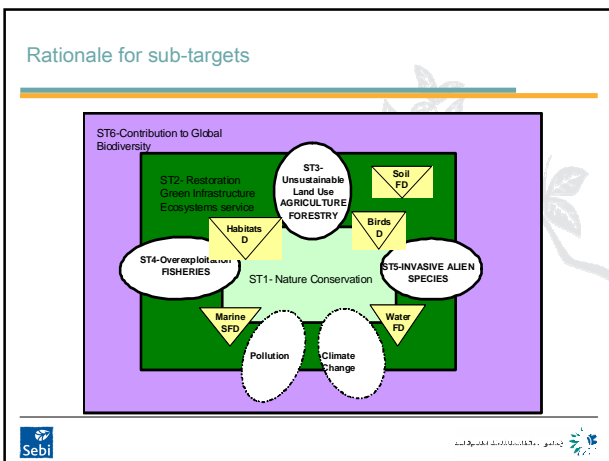
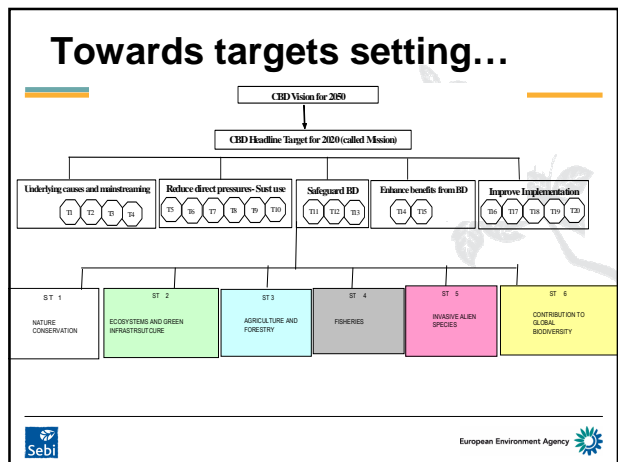
Council Conclusions March 2010

targets

1. Conserving and restoring nature
2. Maintaining and enhancing ecosystems and their services
3. Ensuring the sustainability of agriculture and forestry
4. Ensuring the sustainability of fisheries
5. Combating invasive alien species
6. Addressing the global biodiversity crisis

+ 20 Actions

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EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy

'...The Commission will work with Member States and the European Environment Agency to develop by 2012 an integrated framework for monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress in implementing the strategy.'

'The EU 2010 biodiversity baseline and the updated EU biodiversity indicators will be key components of this framework....'*



*<http://biodiversity.europa.eu/topics/sebi-indicators>

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Main events in 2011




↓

the road to SBSTTA-15

GEO BON

the Executive Secretary of the CBD invited the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) and its constituency to prepare an evaluation of existing observation capabilities relevant to the twenty 'Aichi targets' contained in the Strategic Plan.

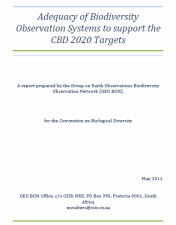


GEO BON

For each Aichi target:

- Key concepts
- An initial list of variables / datasets / indicators
- Gaps and data limitations
- Adequacy assessment
- Estimated costs

+



“essential variables”

CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators

COP10 requested the CBD Secretariat to convene an AHTEG to:

- Identify indicators to measure progress against the Aichi targets
- Provide a framework for reporting
- Provide guidance for national indicator development

AHTEG & International Expert Workshop

The need for technical expertise in all areas covered by the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, led to the proposal, endorsed by the SBSTTA Bureau, of organizing an International Expert Workshop in support of the AHTEG.

Monday	Tuesday	Weds	Thurs	Friday
A Workshop	A Workshop	A Workshop	A	A

AHTEG funded by EU (c. 30 participants)
 Expert workshop funded by UK, Norway, Switz., Canada and EEA (c. 70 participants), organised by UNEP-WCMC
 Supported by Review of National Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting for Global Biodiversity Targets (DEFRA) & other Relevant reports (SEBI, GEOBON, etc.)







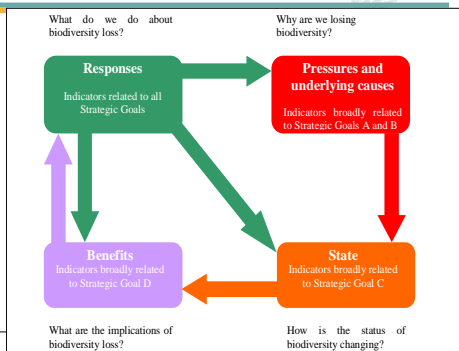


AHTEG results

- **12 Headline Indicators** – each covers several sub-topics
- **Operational indicators needed under each headline** – may be relevant to more than one headline
- **Three 'grades'**
 - **A: Priority indicators that are ready for use globally**, and, where appropriate, sub-globally (22 indicators)
 - **B: Priority indicators to be developed** at global and sub-global levels (51 indicators)
 - **C: Additional indicators** for consideration at sub-global level
- Main development needs for strategic goals
 - A (mainstreaming)
 - D (benefits)
 - E (implementation)

Framework



CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators

reported through SBSTTA 15 to CoP11 in 2012.
Flexible framework of indicators as basis for 5th & 6th National Reports

Report and recommendations in SBSTTA 15 papers INF/6, 15/2 and 15/3 <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=sbstta-15>

SBSTTA 15

- **SBSTTA** - an open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body known as the **Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice**
- provides the Conference of the Parties (COP) and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies, with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention.
- **SBSTTA 15 – Montreal, Canada, 7 - 11 November 2011**

SBSTTA 15 recommendations to COP 11

SBSTTA recommends that the COP:

- take note of: the indicative list of indicators annexed to the recommendation, the indicator framework developed by the AHTEG, and the work of the Article 8(i) Working Group on the development of indicators relevant for traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use;
- recognize that the Aichi Targets and proposed indicator framework provide a flexible basis that can be adapted, taking into account different national circumstances;
- urge parties to consider using the flexible framework and the indicative list of indicators, inter alia, in their updated NBSAPs and in reporting, including through the fifth national report as far as possible, and subsequent national reports

SBSTTA 15 recommendations to COP 11

SBSTTA further recommends that the COP request the Secretariat to:

- propose a limited number of simple, easily applicable and cost-effective indicators that can potentially be implemented by all parties;

SBSTTA 15 recommendations to COP 11

SBSTTA further recommends that the COP request the Secretariat to:

- support review of the use of the indicator framework to identify gaps and priorities in national and regional institutions for future capacity building;
- develop practical information on the indicators, including the rationale behind the indicators, and the scale at which they are applied;
- further develop global indicators identified in Annex I to ensure **each Aichi Target can be monitored by at least one global indicator by 2014**;
- explore options for the further harmonization of global indicators with other conventions, regional agreements and processes;

UNEP CBD SBSTTA REC.XV/1
Page 5

Annex I


INDICATIVE LIST OF INDICATORS PROPOSED BY THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON INDICATORS FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 identified three categories of operational indicators. Indicators which are ready for use at the global level are denoted by the letter (A). Indicators which could be used at the global level but which require further development to be ready for use are denoted by the letter (B). Additional indicators for consideration for use at the national or other sub-global level are denoted by the letter (C) and formatted in italics. The set of (A) and (B) indicators are those which should be used to assess progress at the global level while the (C) indicators are illustrative of some of the additional indicators available to Parties to use at the national level according to their national priorities and circumstances.

Aichi Target **Headline indicators (in bold) and most relevant operational indicators**

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

Target 1 - By 2020, in the latest, people Trends in awareness, attitudes and public engagement in support of

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Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Target 5 - By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Trends in extent, condition and vulnerability of ecosystems, biomes and habitats

- Extinction risk trends of habitat dependent species in each major habitat type (A)
- Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats (A) (decision VI/90 and VIII/15)
- Trends in proportion of degraded/threatened habitats (B)
- Trends in fragmentation of natural habitats (B) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15)
- Trends in condition and vulnerability of ecosystems (C)
- Trends in the proportion of natural habitats converted (C)

Trends in pressures from unsustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture

- Trends in primary productivity (C)
- Trends in proportion of land affected by desertification (C) (also used by UNCCD)


Trends in pressures from habitat conversion, pollution, invasive species, climate change, overexploitation and underlying drivers

- Population trends of habitat dependent species in each major habitat type (A)

Target 7 - By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

Trends in pressures from unsustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture

- Trends in population of forest and agriculture dependent species in production systems (B)

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Target 10 - By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.


Trends in pressures from habitat conversion, pollution, invasive species, climate change, overexploitation and underlying drivers

- Extinction risk trends of coral and reef fish (A)
- Trends in climate change impacts on extinction risk (B)
- Trends in coral reef condition (B)
- Trends in extent, and rate of shifts of boundaries, of vulnerable ecosystems (C)
- Trends in climatic impacts on community composition (C)
- Trends in climatic impacts on population trends (C)

Target 12 - By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Trends in abundance, distribution and extinction risk of species

- Trends in abundance of selected species (A) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) (UNCCD indicator)
- Trends in extinction risk of species (A) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) (MDG indicator 7.1) (also used by CMS)
- Trends in distribution of selected species (B) (decision VII/30 and VIII/15) (also used by UNCCD)

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- SBSTTA 15 Recommendation XV/1
- **XV/1.Indicator framework for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets**
 - invites GEO-BON to continue its work on the identification of essential biodiversity variables and the development of associated data sets as presented in document [CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/8](#) and report to a meeting of SBSTTA prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties



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Table 21: An initial list of essential variables for monitoring change in biodiversity.

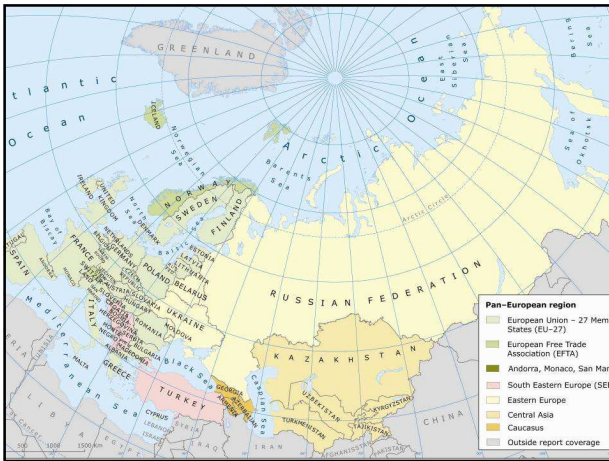
Essential variables	Sub variable	Examples of datasets and/or relevant indicators*	Gaps	Could be done by 2020 or already in development	Targets (if denotes less relevance)
State: Genetic diversity for selected species over time	Domestic animals and exploited species	DAD-B (FAO)	Data gaps and infrequent data updates, particularly in developing regions; fisheries and aquaculture not covered.		(4), (6), (7), (13), (14), (15)
	Cultivated plants	Ex situ collections databases (FAO, CGIAR)	Lack of in situ data		(4), (6), (7), (13), (14)
	Threatened species	SB (animals) SB (plants)	Coverage (predominantly large mammals, captive populations) Lack of data		(5), (8), (12)
State: Species abundance over time, distribution patterns, extinction risk	Terrestrial species abundance	Birds (BirdLife International) Africa, South America, Asia, Pacific Tropics		Critically endangered and common birds in gap regions Large mammals (camera trapping - Wildlife Picture)	5, 6, 7, (10), (11), (12), (14), (15)
	Marine species abundance				

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SEBI

- SEBI – Streamlining European Biodiversity Indicators
- Initiated in 2005 to select a set of indicators to monitor progress towards halting biodiversity loss by 2010 in Europe
- Partnership between: EEA & ETC/BD, EC, UNEP-WCMC, PEBLDS and Czech Republic
- SEBI built on the conceptual framework provided by the CBD, and worked with a set of headline indicators within the CBD focal areas
- Involvement of over 120 experts allowed to develop a set of 26 indicators

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... and 26 specific indicators

1. Abundance and distribution of selected species	14. Fragmentation of river systems
2. Red List Index for European species	15. Nutrients in transitional, coastal and marine waters
3. Species of European interest	16. Freshwater quality
4. Ecosystem coverage	17. Forest: Growing stock, increment and fellings
5. Habitats of European interest	18. Forest: Deadwood
6. Livestock genetic diversity	19. Agriculture: Nitrogen balance
7. Nationally designated protected areas	20. Agriculture: Area under management practices potentially supporting biodiversity
8. Sites designated under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives	21. Fisheries: European commercial fish stocks
9. Critical load exceedance for nitrogen	22. Aquaculture: Effluent water quality from finfish farms
10. Invasive alien species in Europe	23. Ecological Footprints of European countries
11. Impact of climatic change on bird populations	24. Patent applications based on genetic resources
12. Marine Trophic Index of European seas	25. Financing biodiversity management
13. Fragmentation of natural and semi-natural areas	26. Public awareness

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SEBI 01: Abundance and distribution of selected species

Figure 3 Common birds in Europe, population index (1980 = 100)

Note: How to read the graph: since 1980 the number of common farmland birds has declined by around 50 %.

Source: EBCC/RSPB/BirdLife International/Statistics Netherlands, 2008.

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SEBI 02: Red List Index for European species

Figure 5 Red List Index (RLI) for European birds based on pan-European extinction risk in 1994-2004

Note: How to read the graph: the smaller the RLI is, the greater the number of European bird species with an increased extinction risk.

n = 522 species.

Source: BirdLife International, 2008.

Figure 6 Red List Indexes (RLIs) for birds in the EU-25, EFTA-4, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and South-Eastern Europe during 1994-2004, based on their extinction risk at pan-European level

Note: n = 522 species.

Source: BirdLife International.

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SEBI 11: Impact of climate change on biodiversity

Figure 21 Climatic impact indicator for European birds

Note: How to read the graph: the indicator demonstrates the impact of climate change on widespread bird populations has increased strongly in the past twenty years.

Source: Gregory et al., 2009.

Figure 22A Weighted population trend of species predicted to gain range in response to climatic change (26 species)

Note: How to read the graph: the weighted population index of species predicted to gain range in response to climatic change has increased strongly in the past twenty years.

Source: Gregory et al., 2009.

Figure 22B Weighted population index of species predicted to lose range in response to climatic change (130 species)

Note: How to read the graph: the weighted population index of species predicted to lose range in response to climatic change has decreased strongly in the past twenty years.

Source: Gregory et al., 2009.

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- ✓ Reporting EU Nature Directives
- ✓ Habitats Directive article 17
- ✓ NEW!!! Birds Directive Article 12

streamlined 2013-2015

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SEBI for the 2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy

Mapping SEBI indicators to new global and EU targets

Further development of SEBI set for monitoring of implementation of the strategy to 2020

Assessment of role of SEBI in developing the national biodiversity indicator sets



Possible indicators to assess progress towards targets of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy

an exhaustive analysis of the alignment of the current SEBI indicator set with the 2020 biodiversity targets, complemented by indicators from other relevant sets.

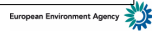


ALIGNMENT OF SEBI INDICATOR SET WITH GLOBAL TARGETS AND HEADLINE INDICATORS

BASED ON ANNEX II TO THE DOCUMENT UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/2 'SUGGESTED INDICATORS FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS'

(in bold – SEBI indicator proposed for use in the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy monitoring and assessment framework)

Policy Question(s)	Headline Indicator	Aichi Target	Other relevant Aichi Targets	Relevant SEBI indicators
State – How is the state of biodiversity changing?	Trends in extent, condition and vulnerability of ecosystems biomes and habitats	5	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 19	SEBI 04. Ecosystem coverage SEBI 05. Habitats of European interest SEBI 07. Nationally designated protected areas SEBI 08. Sites designated under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives SEBI 13. Fragmentation of natural and semi-natural areas SEBI 14. Fragmentation of river systems (where available)
	Trends in abundance, distribution and extinction risk of species	12	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15	SEBI 01. Abundance and distribution of selected species SEBI 02. Red List Index for European species SEBI 3. Species of European interest
	Trends in genetic diversity of species	13	7, 11, 12, 14, 16	SEBI 06. Livestock genetic diversity



EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and relevant SEBI and other indicators

EU Biodiversity Target (Aichi)	Relevant SEBI indicator	Headline Indicator (AHEIC)	Proposed lead service/data source	Update
Target 1: Ecosystems	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14	100%	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14	2017
Target 2: Species	SEBI 01, 02, 03	100%	SEBI 01, 02, 03	2017
Target 3: Genetic diversity	SEBI 06	100%	SEBI 06	2017
Target 4: Ecosystems and Species	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	100%	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	2017
Target 5: Ecosystems and Species	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	100%	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	2017
Target 6: Ecosystems and Species	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	100%	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	2017
Target 7: Ecosystems and Species	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	100%	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	2017
Target 8: Ecosystems and Species	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	100%	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	2017
Target 9: Ecosystems and Species	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	100%	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	2017
Target 10: Ecosystems and Species	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	100%	SEBI 04, 05, 07, 08, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	2017



Bird data relevant to Targets 1, 2 & 3

as well as potentially to Targets 5 & 6



CONCLUSIONS

As the role of scientifically-sound, understandable and policy-relevant indicators for monitoring progress to targets and the strategy implementation is gaining more and more importance:

To be continued.....



More information, or comments?



Thank you

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