

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Target 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

[Indicator 15.9.1: Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#)

Institutional information

Organization(s):

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Environment, UN Statistics Division

Concepts and definitions

Definition:

This indicator aims to quantify progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Target 2.

Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 states *“By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems”*. As part of Strategic Goal A, Target 2 helps to *“Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society”*.

This indicator is composed of two parts:

- Part A: Number of countries that established national targets in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP) and the progress reported towards these targets
- Part B: Integration of biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).

Rationale and interpretation:

Under Part A, the indicator addresses the extent to which the integration of ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts is reflected in the national targets established in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP). It also addresses the progress reported towards these targets based on information provided by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity through their national reports. By mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society, countries can undertake conservation interventions as well as address the underlying economic pressures and drivers of biodiversity loss. Measurement of Part A can be completed by analysing the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the national reports submitted by Parties of the Convention to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Such analyses are undertaken on a regular basis by the CBD Secretariat and submitted to the bodies of the Convention for their consideration, as part of their assessment of progress made against the Strategic Plan for biodiversity 2011-2020.

Under Part B, the indicator also addresses the integration of biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems. National accounting systems follow the international statistical standard of the System of National Accounts (SNA), which is the agreed standard set of recommendations on how to compile measures of economic activity. Integration of biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems can be achieved through implementation of the international statistical standard, the System for Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). The SEEA is the first and only international statistical standard for measuring the relationship between the environment and economy. It is an accounting framework that brings together economic and environmental information using an agreed set of standard concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and tables to produce internationally comparable statistics in physical and monetary terms. By providing an accounting framework to understand the natural resources being used, changes in ecosystems and the services they provide, as well as the effectiveness of expenditures for biodiversity protection, implementation of the SEEA demonstrates the integration of biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems.

Concepts:

According to the Convention for Biological Diversity, biological diversity, or biodiversity, means “*the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems*” (CBD, 1992). Thus, biodiversity consists of variability between ecosystems, between species and within species. In addition, an ecosystem is designated as “a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit” (CBD, 1992).

Part A:

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans are described in Article 6 of the Convention on General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use. The article states that:

Each Contracting Party to the Convention shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:

- (a) Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for the purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, inter alia, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned; and*
- (b) Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.*

Article 6 creates an obligation for national biodiversity planning. A national strategy will reflect how the country intends to fulfil the objectives of the Convention in light of specific national circumstances, and the related action plans will constitute the sequence of steps to be taken to meet these goals.

Current NBSAPs are made available here: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>

National reports are described in Article 26 of the Convention on reports which states that”

Each Contracting Party shall, at intervals to be determined by the Conference of the Parties, present to the Conference of the Parties, reports on measures which it has taken for the

implementation of the provisions of this Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of this Convention.

There have been sixth rounds of national reporting to date. The most recent round of national reporting had a deadline of 31 December 2018. The format for the sixth national reports requested that Parties, among other things, provide an assessment of their progress towards their national targets and/or the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The progress assessment for Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 would thus provide critical information for indicator 15.9.2.

The sixth national reports are accessible from <https://chm.cbd.int/search/reporting-map?filter=nr6>

Part B:

There are two parts to the SEEA—the SEEA Central Framework (SEEA CF) and the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA). The SEEA CF was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission as the first and only international standard for environmental-economic accounting in 2012. It was produced and released under the auspices of the United Nations, the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. The SEEA CF describes the interactions between the economy and the environment, and the stocks and changes in stocks of individual environmental assets, such as water, energy, forests and fisheries resources. The SEEA CF also includes environmental activity accounts, which cover the areas of environmental protection expenditures, environmental goods and services and taxes and subsidies.

The SEEA EEA complements the SEEA CF and represents international efforts toward a coherent accounting approach to the measurement of ecosystems. The SEEA EEA provides a framework which integrates measures of ecosystem extent, ecosystem condition and the flows of ecosystem services with measures of economic and other human activity. The SEEA EEA framework also contains species accounts. In March 2013, the United Nations Statistical Commission endorsed the SEEA EEA as the basis for commencing testing and further development of ecosystem accounting. The SEEA EEA was formally published in 2014 under the auspices of the United Nations, the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group. Following the decision of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2017, a revision of the SEEA EEA is now taking place, with the intention to reach agreement on as many aspects of ecosystem accounting as possible by 2020.

Comments and limitations:

Part A:

The national targets reflected in countries' NBSAPs have various levels of alignment to Aichi Biodiversity Target. As such, a degree of interpretation may be required to determine to what extent the progress being reported nationally contributes to the global Aichi Biodiversity Target. Further, while the deadline for submitting the sixth national reports was 31 December 2018, not all Parties to the Convention have submitted their reports as of yet. .

Part B:

The SEEA covers the measurement of the relationship between the environment and economy according to a multitude of dimensions, including individual environmental assets, various aspects of ecosystems

and their services and environmental activities. Thus, depending which modules of the SEEA CF or SEEA EEA a country has implemented, the specific biodiversity values being integrated into national accounting and reporting systems will vary.

In addition, the degree of SEEA implementation varies between countries. While some countries, particularly developing countries, are just beginning to integrate biodiversity values into their national accounting and reporting systems through pilot SEEA accounts, other countries have established SEEA programmes and have regularly produced both SEEA CF and SEEA EEA accounts for several years.

Methodology

Computation Method:

Part A: National commitments (a target or targets) reflecting Aichi biodiversity Target 2 are identified within each submitted NBSAP and mapped against the components of this Aichi Biodiversity target. Parties in their national reports then provide an assessment of progress towards their national targets corresponding to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 or to the Aichi Biodiversity Target itself. Parties are assessed to assess their progress using one of five categories::

- On track to exceed target
- On track to achieve target
- Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate
- No significant change
- Moving away from target
- No information

The indicator provides aggregate numbers under these six categories.

Part B: The number of countries implementing either the SEEA CF or SEEA EEA, where implementation can be in the form of compilation of pilot accounts or official accounts. Implementation includes compilation of accounts that have not yet been published.

Disaggregation:

- As information is available for each reporting country, the indicator can be disaggregate.

Treatment of missing values:

- [At country level](#)
Countries which as yet have to submit an (updated) NBSAP and/or a sixth national report are omitted from the indicator.
- [At regional and global levels](#)
NA.

Regional aggregates:

- All datasets developed for the measurement of this indicator used the country name as the qualifier. Datasets can be aggregated regionally if desired.

Sources of discrepancies:

All data sources are national, and so there are no differences between global and national figures.

Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level:

- NA.

Quality assurance

- NA.

Data Sources

Data sources and data collection:**Part A:**

The data for Part A is currently collected by the Secretariat of the CBD. To date, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention and since COP-10, 190 of 196 (97%) Parties have developed at least one “post-Nagoya” NBSAP. All NBSAPs (first submissions and revised submissions) are made available by the Secretariat of the CBD on the CBD website (<https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>). These NBSAPs set out national targets which align with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 but reflect varying degrees of ambition. Similarly information from the national reports is also collected by the Secretariat of the CBD and made available here <https://chm.cbd.int/search/reporting-map?filter=AICHI-TARGET-02>. The latest analysis is contained in document CBD/COP/14/5/Add.2, available here:

<https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2018/cop-14/documents>

(see paragraphs 16-17 and figure 1 in Annex). An updated assessment will be made available for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

Part B:

Results of The Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics provide the data needed for Part B of the indicator. The Global Assessment is a survey administered by the United Nations Statistics Division, as Secretariat to and under the auspices of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting (UNCEEA). The aim of the Global Assessment is to assess the progress in reaching the implementation targets of the UNCEEA of 100 countries with SEEA CF programmes and 50 countries with SEEA EEA programmes by 2020. The Global Assessment collects information on whether countries are currently planning or implementing SEEA accounts, the specific accounts being implemented and plans for new/future accounts.

The survey was first administered to the national statistical offices of UN Member States and additional territories in 2006. It was again administered in 2014, and most recently, the Global Assessment was sent to national statistical offices in June 2017.

Data Availability

Description:

Part A:

More than 80% of the 196 parties to the CBD have submitted a post-2010 NBSAP and more than 95% of the 196 parties have submitted at least one NBSAP. Countries regularly revise their NBSAPs and submit them to the Secretariat of the CBD. The Secretariat of the CBD is regularly carrying out an assessment of the NBSAPS, for consideration by the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and their subsidiary bodies. As of 1 April 2019 65 sixth national reports have been received.

Part B:

The 2017 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics was administered to 193 countries and 22 territories, and 109 countries/territories from all regions responded to the online questionnaire. Data collection will next occur in 2020.

Calendar

Data collection:

Part A:

Data are regularly collected from the submission of NBSAPs by the Secretariat of the CBD.

Part B:

Data on SEEA implementation is collected every three years by the United Nations Statistics Division, under the auspices of the UNCEEA.

Data release:

Part A:

Collection of NBSAPs are regularly updated by the Secretariat of the CBD here:

<https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>. The number of parties considered to have submitted post-2010 NBSAPs that take the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) into account is regularly updated as well.

Part B: The report for previous Global Assessments can be found here:

<https://seea.un.org/content/global-assessment-environmental-economic-accounting>. The results of the 2020 Global Assessment are expected to be available in March 2021.

Data providers

Part A:

Preparation of the NBSAPS and national reports is coordinated by relevant national agencies, usually ministries of environment or similar agencies, and submitted to the Secretariat of the CBD through the National Focal Points of the Convention. In turn, the NBSAPs and national reports are made available through the CBD website. The aggregated assessment of the NBSAPs and national reports is conducted by the Secretariat of the CBD and made available to Parties as a global picture.

Part B:

The primary respondents of the Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics are from the national statistical offices. In many cases, the national statistical offices will coordinate their response with other relevant national agencies (usually ministries of environment).

Data compilers

Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Statistics Division

References

These metadata are based on <http://www.bipindicators.net/iaslegislationadoption>, supplemented by the references listed below.

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CBD (2016). Glossary of Terms. Convention on Biological Diversity, Montréal, Canada. Available from <https://www.cbd.int/invasive/terms.shtml>.

CBD (2018) Analysis of the contribution of targets established by Parties and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity targets. CBD/COP/14/5/Add.2
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/7c28/274f/338c8e84ad6f03bf9636dcbf/cop-14-05-add2-en.pdf>

MCGEOCH, M.A., et al. (2010). Global indicators of alien species invasion: threats, biodiversity impacts and responses. *Diversity and Distributions* 16: 95-108.

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Related indicators

NA.