

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: (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

Institutional information

Organization(s):

United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and UNEP-WCMC

Concepts and definitions

Definition:

The indicator measures the progress towards national targets established in accordance with Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: 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.

The indicator is divided in two sub-indicators.:

Sub-indicator (a)

15.9.1.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.*

Sub-indicator (b)

15.9.1.b: *Number of countries that have integrated biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).*

Rationale:

The objective of this target is to ensure that the diverse values of biodiversity and opportunities derived from its conservation and sustainable use are recognized and reflected in all relevant public and private decision-making.

Sub-indicator (a)

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

Sub-indicator (b)

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 Central Framework (SEEA CF) was adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2012 as the first international standard for environmental-economic accounting. In addition, the SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EEA) was endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2013 as the basis for further development of this new field of national accounting, and the SEEA EEA was formally published in 2014. 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. Results of The Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics provide the data needed for Sub-indicator (b) of the indicator.

Concepts:

Biodiversity

The 1992 United Nations Earth Summit defined "biological diversity" as "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".

Aichi Biodiversity Target 2

Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 is in accordance with the Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.

Aichi Biodiversity Target 2: 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.

SEEA-CF

The System for Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework (SEEA-CF) is an international statistical standard for measuring the environment and its relationship with the economy. It integrates economic and environmental data to provide a more comprehensive and multipurpose view of the interrelationships between the economy and the environment and the stocks and changes in stocks of environmental assets, as they bring benefits to humanity.

SEEA-EEA

The System for Environmental-Economic Accounting-Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EEA) is an integrated statistical framework for organizing biophysical data, measuring ecosystem services, tracking changes in ecosystem assets and linking this information to economic and other human activity. The SEEA-EEA takes the perspective of ecosystems and considers how individual environmental assets interact as part of natural processes within a given spatial area.

NBSAP

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is intended to define the current status of biodiversity, the threats leading to its degradation and the strategies and priority actions to ensure its conservation and sustainable use within the framework of the socio-economic development of the country.

National Reports

The Clearing-House Mechanism is constantly being improved to better contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The objective of national reporting, as specified in Article 26 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, is to provide information on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and the effectiveness of these measures. 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 Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics

The Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics is a survey administered by the UNSD 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.

Comments and limitations:

Sub-indicator (a) Some countries have more than one national target corresponding to a particular Aichi Target and may have different degrees of progress in achieving these different national targets. This can be addressed by a general rule (i.e. either take the more optimistic or the more pessimistic progress label). As this is possibly a cross-cutting issue, such a rule would best be formulated at the level of the entire group and be applicable to all indicators. There are countries that do have existing national targets that are less elaborate than the corresponding Aichi Targets. This case similarly applies to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 that is flexible but still needs to be borne in mind.

Sub-indicator (b) The SEEA EEA is still under development. Thus the way that the SEEA EEA is implemented by countries is still developing over time.

Methodology

Computation Method:

Sub-indicator (a)

The sixth national reports provide semi-quantitative information on progress made in achieving the national targets and/or the global Aichi Targets, which are amenable to the development of a scoring system.

The progress assessment for Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 would thus provide critical information for indicator 15.9.1. 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).

The CBD Secretariat will collect data from the National Reports as follows:

Parties establish national targets based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABT) in their National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) and report progress against these ABT national targets in their National Reports. The template for the National Reports allows them to check one of the progress labels below and the online reporting framework assigns numbers as below. Hence, the system would be based on self-reporting by Parties and consistent with the established reporting template.

- 0 no national target reflecting ABT 2
- 1 national target exists, but moving away from it
- 2 national target exists, but no progress
- 3 national target exists and progress is there, but at as insufficient rate
- 4 national target exists and progress is on track to achieve it
- 5 national target exists and progress is on track to exceed it

These will be rescored to be between 0 and 1 as follows:

- 0.0 no national target reflecting ABT 2
- 0.2 national target exists, but moving away from it
- 0.4 national target exists, but no progress
- 0.6 national target exists and progress is there, but at as insufficient rate
- 0.8 national target exists and progress is on track to achieve it
- 1.0 national target exists and progress is on track to exceed it

Sub-indicator (b)

Results of the Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics provide the data needed for Sub-indicator (b). The Global Assessment is a survey administered by UNSD, as Secretariat to and under the auspices of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting (UNCEE). Sub-indicator (b) is defined as the number of countries which indicate they have implemented the SEEA in their response to the Global Assessment. The aim of the Global Assessment is to assess the progress in reaching the implementation targets of the UNCEE 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. The next Global Assessment will be held in 2020.

Disaggregation:

The indicator is available at country level.

Treatment of missing values:

- [At country level](#)

Missing values are not imputed.

- [At regional and global levels](#)

Sub-indicator (a) Missing values are considered to be 0 as this indicator refers to reporting processes.

Thus if a country does not report then this means that the country did not report.

Sub-indicator (b): Missing values will occur if a country does not respond to the Global Assessment. If a country does not respond, no assumption will be made on the country's implementation of the SEEA.

Regional aggregates:

For sub-indicator (a), weighted averages will be developed using the method described here:

http://pre-uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/graphs/aggregation_methods.pdf.

For sub-indicator (b), a simple count of countries will be used.

Sources of discrepancies: NA

Data Sources

Description:

National Statistical Systems contribute directly to the NBSAP reporting and to reporting to the UNCEEA.

Sub-indicator (a): NBSAPs and National Reports

Sub-indicator (b): Global Assessments of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics

Collection process:

Data collection is through submission of reports (sub-indicator (a)) and a dedicated survey on SEEA implementation (sub-indicator (b)).

The data for Sub-indicator (a) is currently collected by the Secretariat of the CBD. Collection of NBSAPs and of National Reports are regularly updated by the Secretariat of the CBD here:

- I. <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>
- II. <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>

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.

The data source for sub-indicator (b) is the results of the Global Assessments, for which previous reports 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 Availability

Description:

For Sub-indicator (a), there have been six rounds of national reporting to date. The most recent round of national reporting had a deadline of 31 December 2018.

For Sub-indicator (b), the Global Assessment was last sent to national statistical offices in June 2017. The next Global Assessment will be administered in 2020.

Time series:

- (a) Collection of NBSAPs and of National Reports are regularly updated by the Secretariat of the CBD here: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/> and here: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>. The data will be updated annually for countries that submit a report during the year. It is mandated by the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Committee of the Parties (COP) – reporting typically occurs every 4 years.
- (b) The reports for previous Global Assessments can be found here: <https://seea.un.org/content/global-assessment-environmental-economic-accounting>. This data will be collected every 3 years. (2020, 2023, etc.)

Calendar

Data collection:

- Existing reporting to the CBD and to UNSD.

Data release:

- Data will be released in the year following the data collection.

Data providers

1. Ministries of Environment (or similar) through the National CBD focal points.
2. National Statistical Offices through the UNCEEA focal points.

Data compilers

1. CBD collects data on Sub-indicator (a). UN Environment and UNEP-WCMC will help process the data.
2. UNSD collects data on Sub-indicator (b)

References

URL: All information on CBD reporting can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/nr6/default.shtml>. All information on the SEEA can be found at: <https://seea.un.org>

References:

Biodiversity Indicators Partnership: <https://www.bipindicators.net/bip-dashboard-of-indicator-visualisations-is-now-live>

SEEA Central Framework: <https://seea.un.org/content/seea-central-framework>

SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting: <https://seea.un.org/ecosystem-accounting>

CBD 6th National Reporting Guidelines: <https://www.cbd.int/nr6/default.shtml>

Related indicators as of February 2020

15.a.1, 15.b.1 – These indicators related to funding for biodiversity and conservation which links to indicator 15.9.1, but not directly.