

International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Contributions to the 24th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

May/June 2021

SBSTTA 24 Agenda Item 3: Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

This document provides key talking points as relates to the ICRI Recommendation on inclusion of coral reefs and related ecosystems in the CBD Post-2020 GBF, adopted by ICRI members in May 2020.

Key points:

- We welcome the inclusion of the ICRI Recommended indicators (see [indicator fact sheet](#); [Recommendation](#))
- Support/ strongly encourage the need for a complete, robust monitoring framework to be adopted at COP 15 – not just the headline indicators.
- Refer to coralpost2020.org and ICRI contributions to the preparatory phases and peer review of documents and our willingness to continue to support Parties.

Key comments on Working Documents:

CBD/SBSTTA/24/3: Post-2020 global biodiversity framework: scientific and technical information to support the review of the updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines

CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.1: Proposed indicators and monitoring approach for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Regarding [24/3](#) and [24/3/Add.1](#), See here for ICRI's response to the peer review [ICRI's response \(PDF\)](#)

- **we welcome the inclusion of indicators recommended by ICRI and its Party members for coral reef ecosystem extent and integrity** (sometimes referred to as area and condition).
- Although ecosystem-specific indicators are largely considered “complementary,” we stress that many of these are essential to monitor biodiversity and urge that they be adopted by CoP15 in order to maintain progress on global monitoring efforts.
- **Minor changes can be made to the proposed coral reef indicators to reduce the number and complexity**. These proposals have been reviewed by ICRI members [are available online](#), and include:
 - **Retain/support** the following proposed indicators:
 - o **A.0.1; A.1.1.15:** Global coral reef extent

- o **A.1.1.X:** Red List of Ecosystems
- o **A.1.1.47:** Fish abundance and biomass (A.1.1.47)
- o **2.1.1.4:** Protected area coverage of coral reefs (2.1.1.4)
- o **6.1.1:** Index of coastal eutrophication (6.1.1)
- **Combine** the following proposed indicators for accuracy and simplicity:
 - o **A.1.1.13 + A.1.1.14:** Live coral cover (**A.1.1.13**) and Hard coral cover and composition (**A.1.1.14**) should be one indicator:
 - o **A.1.1.20+ A.1.1.21:** Cover of key benthic groups (**A.1.1.20**) and Fleshy algae cover (**A.1.1.21**) should be one indicator:
- ICRI has undertaken a survey to understand current use, data availability, barriers and capacity gaps. Analysis is underway but shows that these indicators are widely used by countries with coral reefs.

CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2: Scientific and technical information to support the review of the proposed goals and targets in the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Regarding **24/3/Add.2**, we note that ICRI submitted consensus comments on this document as part of the peer review process (available [online](#)). Key points:

- We strongly encourage adoption of a fully developed monitoring framework including headline, component and complementary indicators as part of the Decision for COP 15.
- With respect to the proposed restoration target as a component of Target 1, Parties may wish to consider how to sufficiently reflect the varying level maturity in the restoration of different ecosystems and ensure this target is ambitious, but does not trigger perverse incentives in implementation.

Key comments on Information documents

INF/11: Annotations for terms and concepts used in the language of interim updated post-2020 goals and targets

Regarding **INF/11**, we note that 3/Add.2 provides additional clarity through definitions for key terms such as ecosystem integrity. Relying on the technical information compiled in Add.2 and through the peer review process, **we encourage OEWG Co-Chairs to update this annotations document in advance of OEWG-3.**

INF/12: Linkages between the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

INF/16: Indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (WCMC/ BIP document)

- We are concerned that the application of the methodology described for each potential indicator is not available. It is therefore difficult to understand why some proposed indicators were included or recommended, and some were not.
- We note with concern that many of the indicators that have consensus support among Parties that are members of ICRI, and that are currently included in the monitoring framework, are not included even though they meet the proposed criteria.
- Therefore, **adopting only the indicators recommended in INF/16 would be an insufficient outcome and inadequate to monitor coral reef ecosystems.**
- Strongly encourage progress along the lines proposed in document CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.1
- Ref to additional information on the feasibility of the indicators recommended by ICRI here <https://www.icriforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ICRI-Recommended-Indicators-for-SBSTTA-24-6.pdf>

INF/23: Available monitoring frameworks and information to support monitoring of progress towards goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity

CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2 Report of the Thematic Workshop on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework