

# SDG indicator metadata

(Harmonized metadata template - format version 1.1)

## 0. Indicator information (SDG\_INDICATOR\_INFO)

### 0.a. Goal (SDG\_GOAL)

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

### 0.b. Target (SDG\_TARGET)

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

### 0.c. Indicator (SDG\_INDICATOR)

Indicator 15.9.1: (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14 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

### 0.d. Series (SDG\_SERIES\_DESCR)

Until 2022: ER\_BDY\_ABT2NP - 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 (1 = YES; 0 = NO) [15.9.1]

From 2023: Countries that established national targets in accordance with Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14

ER\_BDY\_SEEA - Countries with integrated biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (1 = YES; 0 = NO) [15.9.1]

### 0.e. Metadata update (META\_LAST\_UPDATE)

2025-04-23

### 2023-01-240.f. Related indicators (SDG\_RELATED\_INDICATORS)

15.a.1, 15.b.1

### 0.g. International organisations(s) responsible for global monitoring

(SDG\_CUSTODIAN\_AGENCIES)

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

## 1. Data reporter (CONTACT)

### 1.a. Organisation (CONTACT\_ORGANISATION)

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

## 2. Definition, concepts, and classifications (IND\_DEF\_CON\_CLASS)

## 2.a. Definition and concepts (STAT\_CONC\_DEF)

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### Definition:

Until 2022: The indicator measures the progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity 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.

From 2023: The indicator measures the progress towards national targets established in accordance with Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14: By 2030, Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

The indicator is divided in two sub-indicators:

- **15.9.1(a):** *Number of countries that established national targets in accordance with Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets.*
- **15.9.1(b):** *Integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.*

### 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".

#### Until 2022: Aichi Biodiversity Target 2

Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 is under Strategic Goal A of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which addresses 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.

#### **From 2023: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable development in environmental, social, and economic aspects is crucial to meet the Framework's goals and targets.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has four long-term goals for 2050 related to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity and has 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030.

**TARGET 14** Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

### **NBSAPs**

In accordance with Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Parties are obligated to develop national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and integrate biodiversity considerations into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. 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**

In accordance with Article 26 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Parties are obligated to provide information on measures taken towards the implementation of the Convention and its strategic plans, as reflected in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), as well as on 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 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Targets. These national reports are publicly available on the Convention's Clearing-House Mechanism, which is constantly being improved to enhance usability by Parties and better contribute to assessment of the implementation of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** and the achievement of GBF 23 Targets.

**The system of environmental-economic accounting** is presented by two international statistical standards: the System for Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework (SEEA-CF), adopted in 2012, and the System for Environmental-Economic Accounting-Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA), adopted in 2021.

### **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-EA**

The System for Environmental-Economic Accounting-Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EA) is an integrated statistical framework for organizing biophysical data, measuring ecosystem services in physical and

monetary terms, tracking changes in the condition and extent of ecosystem assets and linking this information to economic and other human activity. The SEEA-EA takes the perspective of ecosystems and considers how individual environmental assets interact as part of natural processes within a given spatial area.

### **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 (UNCEE). The aim of the Global Assessment is to assess the progress in reaching the implementation targets of the UNCEE.

## **2.b. Unit of measure** (UNIT\_MEASURE)

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For time series characterising the world or regions: number.

For time series characterising selected countries: identification “1” meaning presence, or “0” meaning not present.

For indicator 15.9.1a, the “number” represents the number of countries that established national targets in accordance with:

- **Until 2022:** Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
- **From 2023:** Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14

in their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans.

For indicator 15.9.1b, the “number” represents the number of countries with integrated biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.

## **2.c. Classifications** (CLASS\_SYSTEM)

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Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use (UN M49 classification of countries and regions).

# **3. Data source type and data collection method** (SRC\_TYPE\_COLL\_METHOD)

## **3.a. Data sources** (SOURCE\_TYPE)

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### **Description:**

National Statistical Systems and other relevant agencies contribute directly to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) reporting and to the reporting on SEEA implementation.

Sub-indicator (a): NBSAPs and National Reports.

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

## **3.b. Data collection method** (COLL\_METHOD)

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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 Convention on Biological Diversity. Collection of NBSAPs and National Reports is regularly updated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and is available here:

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

The number of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity considered to have submitted **post-2020** NBSAPs that take Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) into account is regularly updated as well.

The data source for **sub-indicator (b)** is the results of the Global Assessments of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics administered under the auspices of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting (UNCEEAA), for which reports can be found here: <https://seea.un.org/content/global-assessment-environmental-economic-accounting>.

### 3.c. Data collection calendar (FREQ\_COLL)

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Existing reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

### 3.d. Data release calendar (REL\_CAL\_POLICY)

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Data are released in the year following the data collection.

### 3.e. Data providers (DATA\_SOURCE)

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1. Ministries of Environment or other relevant agencies through the National Focal Points to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. National Statistical Offices through the UNCEEAA focal points.

### 3.f. Data compilers (COMPILING\_ORG)

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1. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) collects data on sub-indicator (a).
2. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) collects data on sub-indicator (b).

### 3.g. Institutional mandate (INST\_MANDATE)

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**Sub-indicator (a):** In decision XV/4, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, urged Parties to develop national and regional targets, using the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**, as a flexible framework, in accordance with national priorities and capacities and taking into account both the global targets and the status and trends of biological diversity in the country, and the resources provided through the strategy for resource mobilization, with a view to contributing to collective global efforts to reach the global targets, and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its **sixteenth meeting**. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to prepare an analysis/synthesis of national, regional and other actions, including targets as appropriate, established in accordance with the Strategic Plan, to enable the Conference of Parties at its **sixteenth** and subsequent meetings to assess the contribution of such national and regional targets towards the global targets.

**Sub-indicator (b):** For sub-indicator (b), the UNCEEA was established by the UN Statistical Commission at its 36<sup>th</sup> session in March 2005. The UNCEEA functions as an intergovernmental body to provide overall vision, coordination, prioritization and direction in the field of environmental economic accounting and supporting statistics. As Secretariat to the UNCEEA, UNSD administers the Global Assessment on Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics.

## 4. Other methodological considerations (OTHER\_METHOD)

### 4.a. Rationale (RATIONALE)

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The objective of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14 is to ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

**Sub-indicator (a):** National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans are described in Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity on General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use. Under this article, it is stated that “each 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 this 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”. Further, under Article 26, it is stated 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”.

**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 Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA EA) was endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2021. Results of the Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics provide the data needed for Sub-indicator (b) of the indicator.

### 4.b. Comment and limitations (REC\_USE\_LIM)

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**Sub-indicator (a):** The assessment of national targets has several limitations stemming from the different approaches Parties have taken in setting national targets and in reporting against them. Parties have mapped their national targets to the GBF Targets in different ways and based on different information. The different approaches in national target-setting and reporting present challenges to undertaking analysis in a systematic manner.

**Sub-indicator (b):** The SEEA EA was adopted in March 2021, and the way that the SEEA EA is implemented by countries is expected to develop over time. In addition, the extent to which specific SEEA accounts relate to biodiversity differs, and some accounts relate more directly to biodiversity than others. Thus, the extent to which certain SEEA accounts directly integrate biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems will also differ.

#### 4.c. Method of computation (DATA\_COMP)

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**Sub-indicator (a):** The seventh and eighth national reports provide progress made in achieving the national targets and/or the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The progress assessment for Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14 would thus provide critical information for indicator 15.9.1.

Parties are also requested to use the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in their national reports, supplemented by optional component and complementary indicators and also other national indicators.

**Sub-indicator (b):** The Global Assessment of Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics collects information on whether countries are currently planning or implementing SEEA accounts, the specific accounts being implemented and plans for new/future accounts. Sub-indicator (b) is defined as the number of countries, which indicate they have implemented any SEEA Central Framework or SEEA Ecosystem Accounting accounts in their response to the Global Assessment. The sub-indicator uses the definition of implementation put forth by the UNCEEA, which disaggregates implementation into three progressive stages:

- 1) **Compilation:** A country falls into this stage if it has compiled at least one account (which is consistent with the SEEA) over the past five years.
- 2) **Dissemination:** A country falls into this stage if it has compiled and published at least one account within the past five years.
- 3) **Regular compilation and dissemination:** A country falls into this stage if it regularly publishes at least one account. Regularly published accounts are compiled and published according to a scheduled production cycle (which may differ by account).

These stages will be scored as follows:

- 0- No compilation
- 1- Compilation
- 2- Dissemination
- 3- Regular compilation and dissemination

#### 4.d. Validation (DATA\_VALIDATION)

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**Sub-indicator (a):** Information is provided directly by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The data is provided to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as to relevant meetings of the Convention's subsidiary bodies.

**Sub-indicator (b):** For sub-indicator (b), the data is derived from the Global Assessment for Environmental-Economic Accounting and Supporting Statistics, which is sent to all national statistical offices. UNSD validates the data and consults with countries in the case of any discrepancies.

#### 4.e. Adjustments (ADJUSTMENT)

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No adjustments are made.

#### 4.f. Treatment of missing values (i) at country level and (ii) at regional level

(IMPUTATION)

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- **At country level**

**Sub-indicator (a):** Missing values are not imputed.

**Sub-indicator (b):** Missing values will occur if a country does not respond to the Global Assessment. If a country does not respond, missing values will be imputed if the custodian agency can find evidence of implementation, such as online publications of SEEA accounts, or based on information gathered from international organizations on the compilation of SEEA accounts. In particular:

-If a national statistical office or other government institution has published a SEEA account which is easily accessible online, this country will be imputed as compiling the SEEA. Since no assumption can be made that the country regularly compiles and publishes the account, this country would fall under Stage II.

-If the custodian agency finds that a country compiles SEEA accounts through a project or other implementation programme and verifies this with the international organizations involved, this country will be imputed as compiling the SEEA under Stage I or Stage II as appropriate.

In all cases, imputation is only be done as a secondary step after first contacting countries. All imputations will be clearly flagged for users as imputations by UNSD.

- **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 it is assumed that there is no corresponding national target.

**Sub-indicator (b):** A simple count of countries will be used.

#### 4.g. Regional aggregations (REG\_AGG)

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

[http://wesr.unep.org/media/docs/graphs/aggregation\\_methods.pdf](http://wesr.unep.org/media/docs/graphs/aggregation_methods.pdf).

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

#### 4.h. Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level (DOC\_METHOD)

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**Sub-indicator (a):** The reporting guidelines (decision XV/6), including reporting templates, and associated guidance for the preparation of the seventh and eighth national reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity are available at: [https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/Annex%20II%20\(decision15-6\).pdf](https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/Annex%20II%20(decision15-6).pdf)

**Sub-indicator (b):** SEEA methodology is available [here](#).

#### 4.i. Quality management (QUALITY\_MGMNT)

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For **sub-indicator (a)**, the information is provided by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity directly through their seventh and eighth national reports. The information can only be submitted by the



National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Given that the information is submitted directly by the Party, there are no significant issues related to quality management.

**For sub-indicator (b)**, the UNCEEA evaluates the Global Assessment survey with each administration to ensure the survey is clear and obtains the information needed. The UNCEEA also reviews all reports related to the Global Assessment survey results.

#### 4.j Quality assurance (QUALITY\_ASSURE)

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**Sub-indicator (a)**: The information is provided by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity directly through their seventh and eighth national reports. The information can only be submitted by the National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Given that the information is submitted directly by the Party, there are no significant issues related to quality assurance.

**Sub-indicator (b)**: When the information is provided by countries directly through the Global Assessment, there are no significant issues related to quality assurance. In the case of imputation, this is only used as a secondary step after first contacting countries. If UNSD finds that a country compiles SEEA accounts through a project or implementation, this information is verified with the appropriate persons within the international organizations involved.

#### 4.k Quality assessment (QUALITY\_ASSMNT)

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**Sub-indicator (a)**: The information is provided by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity directly through their seventh and eighth national reports. The information can only be submitted by the National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Ultimately, the quality of the assessment is dependent on the quality of the information being provided by Parties. The limitations noted under section 4.b should be kept in mind.

**Sub-indicator (b)**: The quality of the Global Assessment responses is dependent on the quality of information provided by respondents.

### 5. Data availability and disaggregation (COVERAGE)

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#### Data availability:

**For sub-indicator (a)**, there have been six rounds of national reporting to date.

**For sub-indicator (b)**, the Global Assessment was last sent to national statistical offices in August 2020. A Global Assessment will be administered annually.

#### Time series:

- (a) Collection of NBSAPs and National Reports is regularly updated by the CBD Secretariat (see <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/> and <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>). Under the Convention, national 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>. Data on SEEA implementation will be collected every year, with the full detailed questionnaire being sent approximately every three years.

**Disaggregation:**

The indicator is available at the global, regional and country levels.

## 6. Comparability / deviation from international standards (COMPARABILITY)

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**Sources of discrepancies:**

Not applicable

## 7. References and Documentation (OTHER\_DOC)

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**URL:**

All information on national reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity can be found [here](#).

All information on the SEEA can be found [here](#).

**References:**

[Biodiversity Indicators Partnership](#)

[SEEA Central Framework](#)

[SEEA Ecosystem Accounting](#)

[CBD 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> National Reporting Guidelines](#)

[Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

[Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)