



**10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

*“Healthy wetlands, healthy people”*

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**Cooperation between the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership  
and  
the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**



**This information paper has been prepared for the Ramsar Convention by UNEP-WCMC  
acting as the Secretariat of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.**

**Background**

1. In response to increasing pressures of consumption levels on biodiversity, and the expected undermining of the ability of ecosystems to continue delivering the goods and services on which humanity ultimately depends, the international community agreed in 2002 “to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth”, with biodiversity defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as encompassing genes, species and ecosystems. This 2010 biodiversity target was adopted by the sixth Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the CBD and subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010 BIP), with major financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), was formed to measure progress in achieving the 2010 biodiversity target by bringing together over forty organisations, including:



2. An essential part of reaching the 2010 target is being able to measure and communicate progress. In order to address this challenge, CBD COP7 in 2004 agreed on a framework, which includes the use of a range of indicators (Decision VII/30), based on the report of an *ad hoc* technical expert group specifically formed for this purpose. CBD COP8 in 2006 (Decision VIII/15) further elaborated this framework and noted the progress made in establishing the 2010 BIP, emphasising the need for a continuous process to implement, and where necessary further develop and test, the global outcome-oriented indicators. The agreed suite of indicators currently under development or refinement is shown in the Annex.

### Linkages between the Ramsar Convention and the 2010 BIP

3. As described in COP10 DOC.23, the Ramsar Convention has identified an initial set of eight ecological “outcome-oriented” indicators for assessing the effectiveness of selected aspects of the Convention’s implementation. UNEP-WCMC, which also hosts the Secretariat of the 2010 BIP, has provided and continues to provide technical support on these indicators, as well as recommendations for next steps. As noted in the document, there are clear areas where compatibility has been sought between Ramsar and the current CBD 2010 indicators framework. Most obvious among these would be:
  - Status and trends in ecosystem extent, under the Ramsar Indicator of Effectiveness ‘The overall conservation status of wetlands’;
  - Trends in conservation status of wetlands, also under ‘The overall conservation status of wetlands’;
  - Trends in dissolved nitrate / nitrogen concentration, under ‘Water quality’;
  - Trends in management effectiveness in Ramsar sites, under ‘Wetland sites with successfully implemented conservation or wise use management plans’;
  - Status and trends of waterbird biogeographic populations, under ‘Overall population trends of wetland taxa’; and

- Wetland Red List Index, under ‘Changes in threat status of wetland taxa’.
4. In addition, other identified indicators and subindicators may also be indirectly related to the 2010 indicators. For example, the ‘Frequency of threats affecting Ramsar sites’ would be expected to include invasive alien species, itself a 2010 indicator.
  5. Of the current 2010 indicator suite, a number of the indicators listed in the Annex could be reinterpreted to highlight the status and trends in wetland habitats and species and their threats. Aside from the Waterbird Indicator, under the headline indicator ‘Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species’, which has direct relevance to the Convention, a number of the other indicators may also be considered, such as:
    - Coverage of protected areas, and the related Overlays with biodiversity;
    - River fragmentation and flow regulation, under ‘Connectivity / fragmentation of ecosystems’;
    - Proportion of fish stocks in safe biological limits, under ‘Proportion of products derived from sustainable sources’; and
    - Health and well-being of communities depending directly on local ecosystem goods & services.
  6. A major component of the 2010 BIP is to develop linkages between the use of the CBD indicators at the global and national levels. This includes guidance documents and a series of regional workshops to encourage both the use of the indicators at the national level for biodiversity monitoring, decision-making and reporting, and support to the global indicators through increased access to sub-global datasets. In line with both the anticipated broadening of the remit of the 2010 BIP in a subsequent phase, as well as the potential wetlands perspective of many of the current suite of CBD indicators, improved capacity at the national level on the use of indicators would be of major benefit to the Ramsar Convention in future reporting cycles.
  7. Discussions are ongoing to ensure the sustainability of the 2010 BIP beyond 2010, with a view to broadening the coverage of the indicators to other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. As part of this, the targets and indicator initiatives of these MEAs are being analysed alongside the CBD framework, in order to go forward in the best harmonised way.
  8. The Ramsar Convention is closely involved in overseeing the activities of the 2010 BIP through representation by the Ramsar Secretariat on the 2010 BIP Steering Committee, and direct communications have been helping with harmonised development of both indicator initiatives. This would also support the further promotion of the national level development and use of the biodiversity indicators, making full use of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, particularly in relation to the regional capacity building workshops.

### Further details

More information is available via the 2010 BIP website at:

<http://www.twentyten.net>

The 2010 BIP can be contacted at:



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### Annex: Indicators under development by the 2010 BIP

Focal Area	Headline Indicators	Subindicator	Key Indicator Partner(s)
Status and trends of the components of biodiversity	Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems, and habitats	<i>Assorted habitats</i>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) ( <i>forests</i> )
			UNEP-WCMC ( <i>others</i> )
	Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species	Living Planet Index	Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London (IOZ/ZSL)
		Global Wild Bird Index	BirdLife International
		Waterbird Indicator	Wetlands International
	Coverage of protected areas	Coverage of protected areas	UNEP-WCMC
		Overlays with biodiversity	UNEP-WCMC
		Management effectiveness	UNEP-WCMC & University of Queensland
	Change in status of threatened species	Red List Index and Sampled Red List Index	IOZ/ZSL
	Trends in genetic diversity	<i>Ex situ</i> crop collections	FAO & Bioversity International
		Genetic diversity of terrestrial domesticated animals	FAO
Sustainable use	Areas under sustainable management	Area of forest under sustainable management: certification	UNEP-WCMC
		Area of forest under sustainable management: degradation and deforestation	FAO
		Area of agricultural ecosystems under sustainable management	FAO
	Proportion of products derived from sustainable sources	Proportion of fish stocks in safe biological limits	FAO
		Status of species in trade	Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES)
		Wild Commodities Index	UNEP-WCMC
	Ecological footprint and related concepts		Global Footprint Network (GFN)

Focal Area	Headline Indicators	Subindicator	Key Indicator Partner(s)
Threats to biodiversity	Nitrogen deposition		International Nitrogen Initiative (INI)
	Invasive alien species		Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)
Ecosystem integrity and ecosystem goods and services	Marine Trophic Index		University of British Columbia Fisheries Centre
	Water quality		United Nations Environment Programme Global Environment Monitoring System (UNEP GEMS) Water Programme
	Connectivity / fragmentation of ecosystems	Forest fragmentation	UNEP-WCMC & FAO
		River fragmentation and flow regulation	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
	Health and well-being of communities depending directly on local ecosystem goods & services		UNEP-WCMC & World Health Organization (WHO)
	Biodiversity for food and medicine	Nutritional status of biodiversity	FAO
		Biodiversity for food and medicine	TRAFFIC International
Status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages		United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Status of access and benefits sharing	<i>To be determined</i>		
Status of resource transfers	Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention		Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)