

## Proposed Binary Indicator for Target 5

### Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Sixteenth meeting

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Mechanisms for monitoring, planning, reporting and review

#### I. Introduction

1. Over the past two decades, multiple workshops and consultations have been organized to advance the development of indicators for tracking the sustainable use, harvest, and trade of wild species. These efforts have involved collaboration among conservation organizations, governments, and academic experts. Among these initiatives, the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) has played a central role, leading two significant events: the 2019 Consultative Workshop on Sustainable Wildlife Management Beyond 2020 and the 2020 CPW Virtual Workshop on Wildlife Harvest, Use, and Trade Targets and Indicators. These events contributed to the refinement of indicators, particularly addressing gaps related to the Aichi Targets, and resulted in the formulation of Target 5 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which focuses on ensuring sustainable, safe, and legal harvesting and trade of wild species.

2. A critical challenge consistently highlighted is the lack of sufficient data collection and monitoring systems at the national level, which hinders the ability to compute these indicators reliably. Many countries lack the legal frameworks and infrastructure necessary to gather comprehensive data, leading to significant gaps in the tracking of sustainable use. This issue was also reflected in the gap analyses presented in SBSTTA/26/L.10 and SBSTTA/26/INF/19, where it was noted that the main headline indicator for Target 5 primarily focuses on fish species, while other wild species, particularly terrestrial and non-target species, are underrepresented. A further gap analysis conducted by CPW, documented in CBD/COP/16/INF/6, also identified a significant lack of data related to wild meat, further emphasizing the gaps in information and access necessary for robust monitoring.

3. The annex to the present document, prepared by CIFOR-ICRAF (Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry), CASCADE (Conservation & Sustainability Consortium of Academic Institutions), University of Oxford, and TRADE Hub (Trade, Development and the Environment Hub), presents a binary indicator for Target 5, arising from the outcomes of a recent expert workshop held in Cambridge in August 2024. This effort carried out by over 30 specialists from diverse institutions laid the foundation for a binary indicator specifically for Target 5, subsequently refined by the aforementioned groups, intended to address the gaps in legal and monitoring frameworks identified over the last 20 years. The annex presents the proposed binary indicator, which aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's goals of ensuring the sustainable use of wild species. This proposal is in line with the draft decisions on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and review, as highlighted in Item 10 of CBD/COP/16/2.

4. In particular, the binary indicator:

- a) fills a gap in the current list of proposed binary indicators and as identified in the gap analysis in Annex III of the draft Decision for Item 10 in CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1;

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- b) would address the desire by some Parties, expressed in bracketed text in paragraph 2 of the draft Decision for Item 10, for a binary indicator 5.b for trade in wild species;
  - c) does not add significantly to the reporting burden by Parties (it consists of two multiple choice questions only);
  - d) complements rather than duplicates other binary indicators for Goal B (B.2 & B.3) and Target 9 by providing an integrated assessment towards progress across all key elements of Target 5;
  - e) was not available for discussion by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators or for consideration by Parties at SBSTTA26.

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## GBF Indicator Metadata: Proposed Binary Indicator for Target 5

### Background

Over the past 20 years, a series of workshops and consultations have been convened with the goal of developing indicators that track the sustainable use, harvest, and trade of wild species. These efforts have involved a wide range of experts from conservation organisations, governments, and academia. During this period, six major workshops were held to develop and refine these indicators. The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) led two key events, including the 2019 Consultative Workshop on Sustainable Wildlife Management Beyond 2020, and the 2020 CPW Virtual Workshop on Wildlife Harvest, Use, and Trade Targets and Indicators. These workshops sought to close the gaps identified in the Aichi Targets, especially the need for a Target specifically focused on sustainable use of wild species. This is now represented by Target 5 - Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species - of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework/GBF).

A key challenge repeatedly identified throughout these meetings was the lack of proper information to compute indicators commonly used at the local level due to insufficient data collection and monitoring systems at national levels. Many countries lack the legal frameworks and infrastructure required to gather the necessary information to reliably calculate these indicators, which creates significant gaps in tracking sustainable use. This is mirrored by the issues identified in the gap analysis presented in Annex III of SBSTTA/26/L.10 [\[1\]](#) and in SBSTTA/26/INF/19 [\[2\]](#) of the CBD, showing that the main indicator (headline indicator) for Target 5 of the GBF focus exclusively on fish species, while other wild species, particularly terrestrial and non-target species, are inadequately represented. Another gap analysis undertaken by CPW (CBD/COP/16/INF/6) [\[3\]](#) under request by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (recommendation 25/7) identified a lack of data and information availability and access for natural resources related to Target 5, particularly wild meat. Furthermore, complementary indicators for Target 5, while proposed, cannot be easily computed at the national level without clear legal and monitoring structures in place, and there is a lack of any measure of the risk of pathogen transmission through the use of wild species in any indicator.

These discussions culminated in the Expert Workshop on Indicators of Sustainable Use and Trade of Wild Species, held in Cambridge on 1-2 August 2024. In this event, a group of over 30 specialists from various institutions around the world convened to develop a binary indicator specifically for Target 5. This indicator was designed to address the key challenges identified over the last 20 years, particularly the gaps in legal and monitoring frameworks. This proposal aligns with Item 10. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, of the CBD/COP/16/2 [\[4\]](#) decision on the draft agenda for COP16, in which Parties are expected to “[Agree... to add a binary indicator 5.b for Target 5...]”.

[\[1\]](#) CBD/SBSTTA/26/L.10 [\[Link\]](#)

[\[2\]](#) CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/19 [\[Link\]](#)

[\[3\]](#) CBD/COP/16/INF/6 [\[Link\]](#)

[\[4\]](#) CBD/COP/16/2 [\[Link\]](#)

### Full Indicator Name

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Number of countries with policies and measures to ensure the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, minimises impacts on non-target species and reduces the risk of pathogen spillover, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use.

## Goals and Targets Addressed

This indicator aims to measure the national implementation of policies and measures to ensure the use, harvesting, and trade of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe. This is a proposal for methodology for an indicator in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/COP/DEC/15/5) [\[5\]](#) to be potentially adopted to track progress in achieving the Target 5.

[\[5\]](#) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, December 2022. CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 [\[Link\]](#)

### Goal

N/A

### Target

Binary indicator for Target 5. Ensure that the use, harvesting, and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe, and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spill-over, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

### Rationale

The direct exploitation of wild populations of species is the largest driver of biodiversity loss in marine ecosystems and the second largest in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. Actions to address the legality, sustainability, and safety of the use of wild species of fauna and flora need to take place at the point of harvest, landing, during transportation and trade, and at the point of final consumption – the latter influencing overall demand. These measures are key to preventing biodiversity loss.

Target 5 aims to prevent overexploitation, minimize negative impacts on non-target species and on ecosystems, and reduce the risk of pathogen spillover, which can have significant ecological and public health implications. The sustainable use, harvesting, and trade of wild species are integral to conserving biodiversity and ensuring ecosystem resilience. Pathogen spillover from wild species to humans is a growing concern, as demonstrated by the recent pandemic, and creating measures to prevent and monitor this risk is crucial for both biodiversity conservation and global health. Moreover, respecting, protecting and supporting the customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities is essential. These communities possess traditional knowledge and practices that are vital for sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation.

Governments play a pivotal role in this process by developing and implementing policies and regulations that promote sustainable practices, protect biodiversity, and uphold the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. This includes developing policy and legal frameworks, ensuring enforcement of those, monitoring mechanisms for their implementation and fostering community engagement.

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This proposed binary indicator aims to measure national progress on the implementation of policies and measures to ensure the sustainable, legal, and safe use, harvesting, and trade of wild species, while protecting the customary sustainable practices of indigenous peoples and local communities. The development of this binary indicator is the culmination of a long and methodical process, involving discussions including a series of six expert workshops and consultations over nearly two decades. Since 2006, these events have aimed to refine and improve the ways in which sustainable use of wild species is measured and ensure that policies are successfully implemented. This process has involved extensive collaboration among conservation experts, government representatives, and other stakeholders in a range of countries and internationally, each contributing insights into the feasibility of existing indicators and development of new ones that can be used to monitor progress on both national and global scales. A key challenge identified throughout this process has been the insufficient coverage provided by existing indicators, particularly regarding the implementation of policies, and related to wild species use beyond fisheries. Additionally, the lack of comprehensive datasets to assess the sustainability of wild species use highlights the need for implementing policies and monitoring frameworks that ensure sustainability can be measured in the future. This is crucial for enabling Parties to have more consistent and robust information to report on their progress.

Developing this binary indicator also aligns with the gap analysis presented in Annex III of SBSTTA/26/L.10 and in SBSTTA/26/INF/19, in which was identified the need to comprehensively address the sustainable use and harvesting of wildlife, which the headline indicator for Target 5 only partially covers by focusing on certain fish populations. In addition, other critical aspects of the target are currently inadequately addressed. The element of safety is not considered in any of the GBF targets or indicators for Target 5. With the COVID-19 pandemic, monkeypox, Ebola, SARS, MERS and other emerging infectious diseases potentially stemming from contact with wild species, it is critical that countries implement legal and monitoring mechanisms to ensure the safety of wild species use. Therefore, this binary indicator aims to fill these gaps by ensuring a more comprehensive approach to monitoring and reporting the implementation of policies and monitoring frameworks for the sustainable, safe and legal use of wild species, thereby supporting the broader elements of the target.

## Definitions Concepts and Classifications

### Definition [\[6\]](#)

*Wild species:* Populations of any species that have not been domesticated through multigenerational selection for particular traits, and which can survive independently of human intervention that may occur in any environment. This does not imply a complete absence of human management and recognizes various intermediate states between wild and domesticated.

*Customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities:* Actions to implement this target should take into account indigenous and local systems for the control, use and management of natural resources and seek to protect and encourage these. Customary use of biological resources includes spiritual, cultural, economic and subsistence functions.

*Sustainable use:* The use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

*Use, harvesting and trade:* Use refers to all the various ways in which wild species are used by people, including for food and non-food purposes, such as for clothing, medicinal, cultural, scientific, recreational and work-related uses, as well as for selling or trading. Harvesting involves the gathering, catching or

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hunting of wild species for human uses. Trade includes the selling or exchange of live or dead wild species and/or products derived from them.

*Impacts on non-target species and ecosystems:* In addition to the direct pressures on species, some harvesting, trade and use can have unintentional impacts on other species, such as through bycatch and/or damage to habitat. These impacts, though unintentional, can nonetheless have major ramifications on species and ecosystem health and must be minimized.

*Ecosystem approach:* The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Application of the ecosystem approach helps to reach a balance of the three objectives of the Convention. It is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization that encompass the essential processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environment. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems. The ecosystem approach is the primary framework for action under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

*Sustainable:* Implies the harvesting, trade and use of organisms at a rate within the bounds of their capacity for renewal.

*Safe:* The harvesting, trade and use of wild species should be undertaken in such a way that it is safe for people, other species and ecosystems. For example, specific considerations may be needed to ensure that any risks associated with the spread of invasive alien species, the spread of disease and pathogen spillover are appropriately accounted for.

*Legal:* Implies that the harvesting, trade and use should respect all relevant international, national and local laws as appropriate.

[6] As per CBD's guidance on 2030 Targets [\[Link\]](#)

## Method of Computation

This binary indicator aims to collect information on the number of countries with policies and measures to ensure the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, minimises impacts on non-target species and reduces the risk of pathogen spillover, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use. Data can be compiled by national agencies involved in the review and update of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and establishing national monitoring systems.

This indicator must be compiled from the answers to two questions:

**5.1** Does your country have legal instruments or other policy frameworks, and administrative measures, in place to ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species: (select all that apply)

- (a) prevent the overexploitation of wild species?
- (b) minimize impacts on non-target species and on ecosystems?
- (c) reduce the risks of pathogen spillover?
- (d) respect, protect and support customary sustainable use of indigenous peoples and local communities?

**5.2** Does your country have processes in place to monitor and assess: (select all that apply)

- (a) use, harvesting and trade of wild species?
- b) impacts of use, harvesting and trade of wild species on target and non-target species and on ecosystems?

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(c) pathogen spillover to humans, wildlife and other species stemming from use, harvesting and trade of wild species?

(d) whether measures to achieve the sustainable, safe and legal use of wild species respect, protect and support customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities?

Questions allow for multiple choices and are to be answered selecting all responses that apply. For each question the number of options chosen allows the answers to be mapped to the standard four answers used by other binary questions (fully, partially, under development, and no) as explained in section 1 of the guidance provided in SBSTTA/26/INF/14 [\[7\]](#):

- If no options are chosen the answer is 'no'
- If one or more of the options (but not all of them) is chosen the answer is 'partially',
- If all options are chosen the answer is 'fully'

The answers from the two questions can then be combined to give an answer on an ordinal scale of 0-5 as described in section 1 of the guidance provided in SBSTTA/26/INF/14. It is expected that Parties will be asked if they have indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) as part of the start of the online report tool which will gather the results of the indicators used in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> National Reports. To be consistent with other binary indicators, if the answer to this question is 'no', it is expected that option (d) under both question 5.1 and 5.2 would not appear. This is to avoid a situation where a Party without IPLCs would only be able to tick the first three options but not the fourth and would not therefore under the scoring schema be counted as 'fully' meeting the requirements of the indicator. The indicator would be assessed as 'No' if no answers are ticked to both of the questions; 'Partially' if one or more (but not all) answers are chosen for either question 5.1, 5.2, or both; and 'Fully' if all answers are selected for both questions.

[\[7\]](#) CBD/SBSTTA/26/INF/14 [\[Link\]](#)