

## CBD Survey on post-2020 Indicators - views of the IUCN SSC Phylogenetic Diversity Task Force

### General views on Appendix 1 of recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2

The IUCN SSC PDTF's recommendations for specific indicators in Appendix 1 are as follows, relating to those which we have committed to producing alongside our partners:

#### Goal A

Promote:

To Component indicator: Changing status of evolutionary distinct and globally endangered species (EDGE Index) – currently Complementary Indicator a.40

It is available, globally feasible with national disaggregation.

#### Goal B

Promote:

To Headline indicator: Expected loss of Phylogenetic Diversity – currently Complementary Indicator b.1

It is available, globally feasible with national disaggregation.

### General views on Appendix 2 of recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2

We support the inclusion of two proposed additional/alternative headline indicators listed in Appendix 2:

#### **Goal A: A.40 Changing status of evolutionary distinct and globally endangered species (EDGE Index), as Component:**

The EDGE (Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered) Index monitors how well we are performing at averting the greatest losses across the Tree of Life by conserving the most distinctive species. This index tracks the change in conservation status for distinctive and threatened species through time, highlighting species whose conservation can safeguard large amounts of threatened evolutionary history. This newly developed indicator (based on methodologies in use for 15 years) adds value to existing broader species measures and Goal A indicators. Prioritising evolutionarily distinct species to conserve evolutionary lineages across the Tree of Life was listed as an important element in the CBD Scientific and Technical Review (CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1). This indicator is already developed, and is globally feasible with national disaggregation (updating its status from Orange to Green in CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/INF/3).

#### **Goal B: B.1 Expected loss of Phylogenetic Diversity, as Headline:**

The Phylogenetic Diversity indicator monitors biodiversity's capacity to provide benefits into the future, and is used by IPBES to monitor multiple NCPs. This captures the suite of non-material benefits and future options from biodiversity across the Tree of Life, which have arisen as a result of our planet's evolutionary history, and which is omitted from the current Goal B headline indicator '*National environmental economic accounts of ecosystem services*'. Phylogenetic Diversity (PD) is a critical and often overlooked facet of biodiversity which measures the evolutionary heritage represented by a set of species across the Tree of Life. By conserving PD globally, we conserve the variety of different evolutionary features of species, and so benefits and future options for humanity. For example, prioritising plant species for conservation based on PD most effectively safeguards a larger and wider variety of benefits to people. Phylogenetic diversity and maintaining options for future generations has been recognised as an essential component of NCPs in the CBD Scientific and Technical Review (CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1). This indicator is already in use by IPBES, and is globally feasible with national disaggregation (updating its status from Orange to Green in CBD/ID/OM/2022/1/INF/3).

These two indicators monitor our progress towards safeguarding variety across the Tree of Life and associated non-monetary benefits and future options from biodiversity ensuring intergenerational equity, as encompassed by Nature's Contributions to People. They also uniquely link species conservation in Goal A with its contributions to people in Goal B. Without explicitly monitoring biodiversity's contributions to NCPs, we risk prioritising conservation activities solely for maintaining ecosystem services while assuming sufficient biodiversity will also be conserved.

The IUCN SSC Phylogenetic Diversity Task Force has committed to generate both indicators at the global and national level, and make these publicly available and accessible through an online tool currently in development. Data is available for terrestrial and marine vertebrate groups, gymnosperms, and corals, and will eventually be available for all seed plants under the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. A fuller brief on the indicators can be found [here](#) based on our preprint [here](#), and a shortform metadata sheet for each has been lodged with UNEP WCMC.

**[View on the Goal B indicator proposed in Appendix 1 of recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/REC/24/2](#)**

### **National environmental economic accounts of ecosystem services**

While this indicator is capable of measuring monetary and physical assets of ecosystem services, it neglects an entire set of non-monetary benefits and future options that biodiversity across the Tree of Life provides, as an essential aspect of Nature's Contributions to People in Goal B.

Although the indicator metadata is clear it is restricted to monetary and physical assets, it is also incorrectly listed in Appendix 1 as being appropriate for non-material contributions. For example, the accounts propose biomass as a measure of the benefits from wild animals and plants, which may be appropriate in a fishery/hunting/timber productivity context, but is completely inappropriate for non-material benefits and future option values of biodiversity.

Non-monetary benefits and future options provided by biodiversity are at risk of being omitted entirely from the GBF unless an appropriate indicator is included. We propose the IPBES Phylogenetic Diversity indicator, already used by IPBES as a measure for maintenance of options (NCP 18), and as relevant to medicinal, biochemical and genetic resources (NCP 14) and learning and inspiration (NCP 15), and proposed as an alternative headline indicator for Goal B in Appendix 2.