

Research needs expressed in the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Cross-Cutting Issues: Identification, Monitoring, Indicators and Assessments

Our knowledge of biodiversity is still limited. Only one out of five to ten of all species is known to science. And even among the most well-known taxonomic groups - mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and vascular plants - we do not know the population size, distribution or threat status for many. We still have many questions about the inherent dynamics of ecosystems and their functioning and cannot predict when gradual impact on an ecosystem reaches a threshold at which the state of the ecosystem changes dramatically and irreversibly. To address these questions the Convention calls upon countries to identify components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use (<http://www.cbd.int/indicators/default.shtml>).

Cited Decisions that express research needs are III/10, VIII/9, VIII/15, IX/15, X/7 and XIII/28, also checked were Decisions V/7, VI/7, VII/6, VII/8, VII/30, VIII/7 and VIII/14.

Direct research needs

Decision	Paragraph	Chapeau / Heading	Text	Source http://www.cbd.int/decisions/
VIII/9	Para 19	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Aware also</i> of the need to improve knowledge of trends in biodiversity, and understanding of its value, including its role in the provision of ecosystem services, as a means of improving decision-making at global, regional, national and local levels, and also recognizing cross-scale interactions in ecosystems, urges Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, including scientific bodies , to increase support for and coordinate research, <i>inter alia</i> , to improve: basic knowledge and understanding of biodiversity and its components; monitoring systems; measures of biodiversity; biodiversity valuation; models of change in biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and ecosystem services; and understanding of thresholds;	cop-08.shtml?m=COP-08&id=11023
X/7	Para 2	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Recognizes</i> the need to continue strengthening the ability to monitor biodiversity at all levels including through, <i>inter alia</i> Inviting scientific networks, including national academies of science, to contribute to the development and refinement of indicators suitable for monitoring biodiversity at the global, regional, national and	cop/?id=12273

			local levels and encouraging science funding bodies to support such endeavours;	
X/7	Para 3	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Agrees to develop measures (or specific indicators), in cooperation with the scientific community, that could complement or substitute the existing indicators;</i>	cop/?id=12273
XIII/28	Para 14	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Notes the need to urgently identify or develop indicators for those Aichi Biodiversity Targets which currently do not have identified indicators.</i>	decisions/cop/?m=cop-13

Indirect research needs

Decision	Paragraph	Chapeau / Heading	Text	Source
III/10	Para 1	The Conference of the Parties	<u>Urges</u> Parties to identify indicators of biological diversity.	http://www.cbd.int/decisions/ cop-03.shtml?m=COP-03&id=7106
VIII/15	Annex II	The Conference of the Parties <i>Notes that the framework for monitoring implementation of the Convention and achievement of the 2010 target is comprised of:</i>	A limited number of indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, to be developed on the basis of the proposed indicators: Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats; Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species; Change in status of threatened species; Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socio-economic importance; Marine trophic index ; Nitrogen deposition ; Water quality in aquatic ecosystems; Trends in invasive alien species; Connectivity/fragmentation of ecosystems; Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages.	cop-08.shtml?m=COP-08&id=11029
IX/15	Para 1	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to, where appropriate, promote and support , through various mechanisms, integrated national, regional and subglobal ecosystem assessments including, where appropriate, response scenarios that build on the framework and experiences of relevant biodiversity assessments, such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;	cop/?id=11658
XIII/28	Para 15	The Conference	<i>Notes</i> that many indicators rely on a small number of essential	decisions/cop/?m=cop-13

		of the Parties	biodiversity variables and that further efforts are required to improve the monitoring of these variables.	
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