Key points to share with Parties 9 Dec

Why we need to keep the Living Planet Index as a headline indicator to measure Goal A

The UK and Ghana proposal for a streamlined set of headline indicators removes the Living Planet Index as a headline indicator. This results in there being no headline indicator to measure species population abundance, and hence removes the ability to measure recovery. The Red List Index measures reduction in extinction risk, but it’s not enough to just reduce extinction risk, we also need to facilitate recovery. Given that the mission is to halt and reverse loss, this is a crucial omission.

The Living Planet Index can also be disaggregated to provide a reliable indicator for measuring progress against other targets (e.g., with the RLI, Target 5, and T20) which was flagged as beneficial in the UK-Ghana document.

Expanding national capacity to use the LPI

Key points

1. Minimal capacity is needed to develop a national level LPI
   - The expert workshop pointed out that to "implement national scale population monitoring" needs high capacity, which is certainly true to achieve broad national monitoring on the scale of UK/EU/Canada/North America.
   - However, as an alternative to physical monitoring, very little capacity is needed to get up and running with an LPI for 50-100 species, and such data exists for many countries in the database already (over 75 countries already have > 40 populations). This allows Parties to produce an ‘entry-level’ LPI within a few weeks.
   - A national LPI can then be further enriched with other data over time - through mobilising data from other existing literature. Many data sources remain untapped so the number of species being tracked could be increased quickly. Documentation and clear guidelines are available to Parties to support them to undertake this work. Resources and support can also be provided by the Living Planet Index team.
   - There is no reason that, by 2025, a majority of countries would not be able to produce a relatively basic, robust national LPI.

2. Support is available
   - The LPI team is available to support countries to develop a national LPI based on existing data in the Living Planet Database. Where there is insufficient data in the Living Planet Database for a country, support can be provided by the LPI team in two possible ways. One is to provide support and guidance on finding and mobilising monitoring data that is already available in a country. Another is to provide modelled trends based upon the LPI database, these will be freely available over the coming year for all countries.
3. **Methodology is freely available and easy to apply**

- We can also share the experience of other countries who have produced a national LPI, for example Canada, Australia, Uganda and Indonesia. Countries can also use technical capacity in-country, e.g. national statistics agencies, to develop a national LPI as the guidance, data and tools for analysis are freely available. This means that support from the LPI team is not always required.

*The LPI is the most established indicator for tracking species population abundance, an essential biodiversity variable that must be included in Goal A and associated targets.*