

## Informal Oceania Panel for supporting input into the AHTEG on GBF Indicators

### Background

At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD) adopted the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) ([decision 15/5](#)).

In the same decision, it also decided to establish an ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG), with a time-bound mandate until the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to advise on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework. The terms of reference for the expert group are contained in annex II of that decision.

The CBD called for nominations to the AHTEG from Parties and Observers earlier this year. Only two delegates from across the Oceania region were successfully nominated onto the AHTEG: SPREP's consultant Tiffany Straza and Piers Dunstan from the Australian Government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

### Establishing an Informal Oceania Panel

To ensure that Pacific island biodiversity and management context are considered during the development of indicators in this global process, and to ensure information is efficiently shared back to Pacific, **SPREP is supporting the establishment of an informal Oceania panel of experts** to liaise with the AHTEG nominees throughout the process (2023 and 2024). The intent is to create a panel of experts with knowledge and contacts within the Oceania region (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands countries).

The Oceania Panel will essentially be an informal listing of interested experts from governments, academia, NGOs, regional agencies, etc.) who nominate GBF targets and associated indicators that they are specifically interested in providing input on as requested, and also receiving information from the Oceania nominees on the status of discussions within the AHTEG. The goal is to support an open flow of information from the AHTEG process, and vice versa to the Oceania nominees for inputting into the AHTEG.

### Areas of expertise needed

The monitoring framework ([decision 15/5](#)) will address the entirety of the GBF; there are known gaps regarding, *among others*, measurements of the integration of knowledge held by indigenous peoples and local communities, financial costs/benefits of biodiversity and biodiversity management, gender-related impacts, and benefits from the use of genetic resources including digital sequence information.

With more than 100 proposed indicators (headline, component and complementary indicators) and several Goals and Targets without identified indicators, a range of expertise is needed to ensure a practical, representative, and effective monitoring framework is reached by COP16 in 2024.

## CONCEPT NOTE

### How the Informal Oceania Panel will work

The Oceania Panel will provide targeted scientific advice regarding appropriate indicators, and respond to queries from the AHTEG nominees during the development of the monitoring framework. All participation is voluntary.

The Oceania Panel is a set of contacts against proposed indicator and/or subject area of expertise. The AHTEG nominees may approach Panel members via email as needed for specific technical questions in their area of expertise, or the AHTEG nominees may pose requests to the Panel as a group for rapid response.

Panel members commit to:

- Receiving intermittent communications (with requests for expert advice or summaries of discussions) via email or another method where appropriate (eg. WhatsApp);
- When and where appropriate, providing timely voluntary expert input as requested to support the development of effective monitoring under the GBF, with global context.

The Panel is open-ended and self-nominations are permitted. Experts are asked to indicate which indicators (arranged by GBF Goal or Target) and/or subject areas they are willing and able to provide advice.

We are seeking your input on:

- (1) contact information for experts willing to participate in this panel. All meetings and coordination are expected to be virtual; and
- (2) suggestions for effective ways to coordinate Pacific expertise to inform the AHTEG process (eg. Virtual zoom meeting, Emails, WhatsApp etc) and
- (3) Inputs into the indicators

To join the Oceania panel of experts, please add your name and contact information in the appropriate row(s) in the spreadsheet attached arranged by proposed indicator and/or subject area or you can complete the sheet found [here](#).

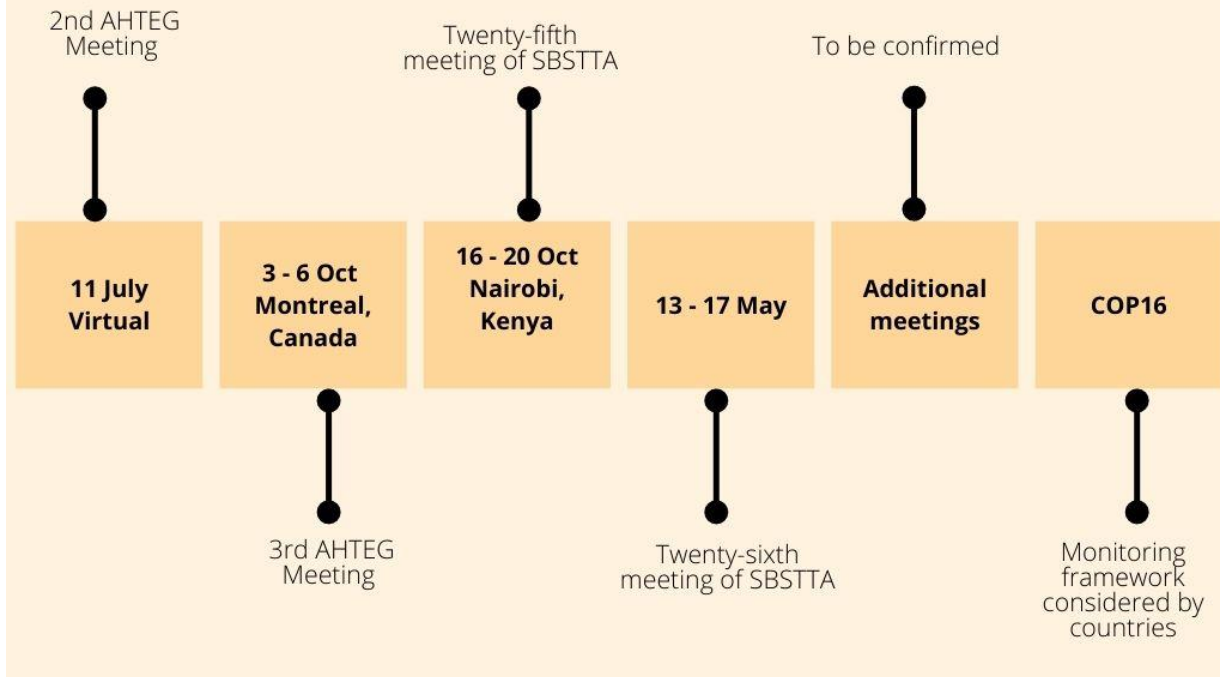
To join the Oceania panel of experts, provide comments or seek additional information, please contact your Biodiversity Coordination Team at: [cbdbiodiversity@sprep.org](mailto:cbdbiodiversity@sprep.org).

AHTEG website: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/indicators-ahteg>

Please find below indicative timeline of the AHTEG and SBSTTA meetings.

# Indicative Timeline

## YEAR 2023/2024



For further information, please contact Amanda Wheatley, Biodiversity Adviser [amandaw@sprep.org](mailto:amandaw@sprep.org) or Juney Ward, Ecosystem and Biodiversity Officer [juneyw@sprep.org](mailto:juneyw@sprep.org).