



Informal Working Group on trade and biodiversity statistics

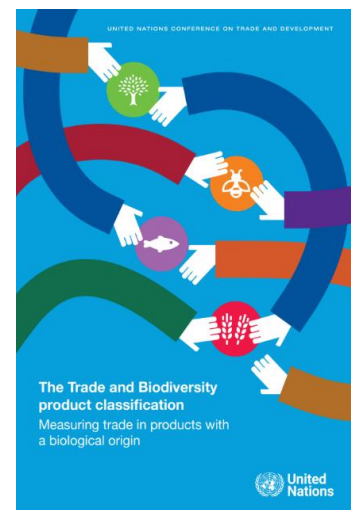
Background

Trade data - particularly related to biodiversity-based products and services- is scattered and not easily accessible to all stakeholders. This affects decision-making not only at the government level but also for businesses and civil society.

To fill this gap, UN Trade and Development's [BioTrade Initiative](#) and the [Statistics Service](#) developed the **Trade and Biodiversity (TraBio) statistical tool** with the support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO under the [Global BioTrade Programme](#): *Linking trade, biodiversity and sustainable development*.

The [Trade and Biodiversity \(TraBio\) database](#) contains information on global trade flows of biodiversity-based products. It aims to contribute to establishing a harmonized and internationally accepted statistical framework for biodiversity-related trade. In September 2022, TraBio was launched including:

- [Product classification](#) of biodiversity-based products covering over 1,800 biodiversity-based products;
- [Database](#) on trade flows in these products and related indicators updated annually, and dating from 2010 onwards; and
- [Visualization tool](#) with interactive maps and charts.



However, TraBio and several other databases on trade and biodiversity suffer significant data gaps, lack of harmonized concepts and clear definitions, have weak interoperability, thus failing to capture the nexus between trade and biodiversity and inform about the social, economic and environmental sustainability of this trade. To address all these issues, the UN Trade and Development convened an informal Working Group on trade and biodiversity statistics, inviting experts from international organizations, national agencies, NGOs, academia and think tanks to participate in the discussion.

Informal Working Group (iWG)

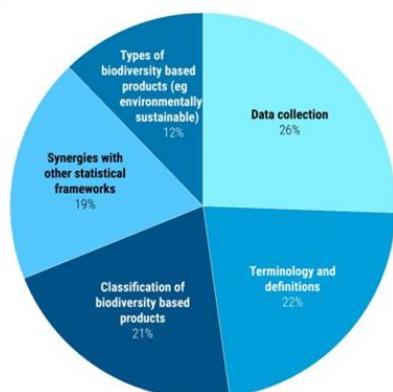
On 17 October 2023, an informal lunch [event](#) at the Palais des Nations was organized to discuss the priorities and challenges of developing trade and biodiversity statistics with potential iWG members.

Priorities and challenges identified by iWG experts



Priorities identified

Selected as 1st or 2nd priority

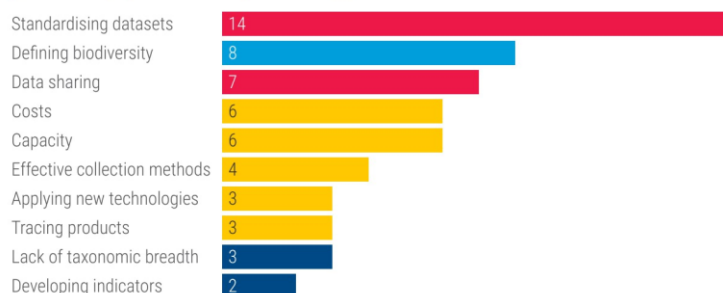


N = 54



Challenges identified ranked by number of respondents

■ Synergies ■ Terminology ■ Collection ■ Classification



N = 51

The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials or Member States. The document has not been formally edited.



On 23 November, the iWG convened its [first meeting](#), resulting in an initial mapping of existing databases related to trade and biodiversity based on information shared by iWG members. 40 databases have been mapped as of October 2024.

On 7 February 2024, a [second meeting](#) led to a consensus on the scope and coverage of the iWG's work:

- Product type: biodiversity-based products as defined by the [UN Trade and Development TraBio product classification](#)
- Supply chain stages: to address sustainability considerations (mainly, ecosystems, production, and trade stages).
- Sustainability criteria based on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), based on environmental, social, economic and policy (transversal) dimensions.

Supply chain stages



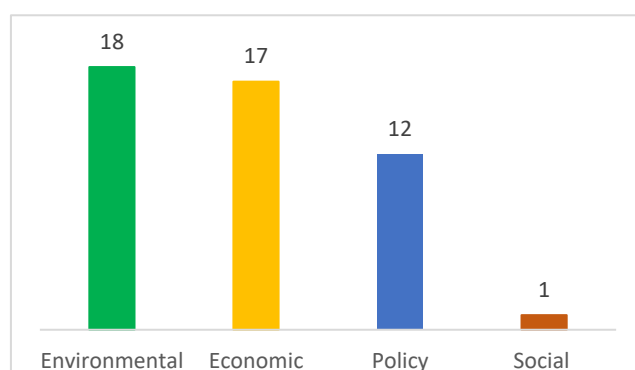
On 24 April, the [third meeting](#) of the iWG focused on learning from experts in the field on current initiatives developing indicators covering the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, as well as policy. This led to the identification of three workstreams:



On 5 July, at a [fourth meeting](#), indicators capturing sustainability aspects of trade and biodiversity were discussed, starting from metrics of the [Global Indicator Framework of the Sustainable Development Goals](#), the [Monitoring Framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), and indicators developed by iWG members.

Indicators were pre-screened in terms of their relevance to trade and biodiversity and scored based on 8 criteria, of which two of them, availability and interoperability, weighted 70 per cent together. The top 25 per cent of indicators, classified based on four sustainability dimensions, are presented in the chart. The results highlight the need to identify available and interoperable indicators capturing social aspects in the supply of biodiversity-based products.

On 25 September, at the [fifth meeting](#), UN Trade and Development presented an outline of a Working Paper proposing a draft framework for enhanced trade and biodiversity statistics, based on the work of the iWG.



First shortlisted indicators, by sustainability dimension

Work ahead

iWG members will continue meeting to discuss the draft Working Paper, current initiatives on trade and biodiversity statistics, and the development of data on sustainability aspects of trade in biodiversity-based products.

As of October 2024, **85 experts** are part of the iWG and represent **over 50 institutions** and **18 member States**. The iWG membership is open to further include interested experts working with biodiversity, trade and statistics from both developing and developed countries.

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