

**Development Co-operation Directorate
Development Assistance Committee**

DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics

**REVIEW OF THE DEFINITION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE RIO
MARKER FOR BIODIVERSITY**

This note presents a proposal for revised instructions for reporting biodiversity-related development finance, using the Rio marker for biodiversity.

The proposal was developed in consultation with the informal “Rio Marker Expert Group”, constituted by experts from the WP-STAT and ENVIRONET.

The definition and eligibility criteria of the Rio Marker for biodiversity were reviewed and the group concluded that no change was needed for the definition of the marker, but agreed on selected amendments to the eligibility criteria. The proposal is presented at forthcoming ENVIRONET and WP-STAT meetings:

For COMMENT at the ENVIRONET 15 May 2018 meeting;

For DISCUSSION and APPROVAL at the WP-STAT 13-15 June 2018 meeting.

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JT03431236

1. Review of the definition and eligibility criteria for the Rio marker for biodiversity

1.1. Background

1. This note presents a proposal for revised instructions for reporting for biodiversity-related development finance, using the Rio marker for biodiversity. The proposal was developed in consultation with the informal “Rio Marker Expert Group” (RMXG) constituted by experts from the WP-STAT and ENVIRONET.
2. The mandate for this work dates back to 2013 when a joint ENVIRONET and WP-STAT Task Team on Rio Marker, Environment and Development Finance Statistics was established with the goal of ensuring that “DAC methodologies and data remain the reference for the international community in measuring Official Development Assistance (ODA) and non-export credit Other Official Flows (OOF) related to climate change, biodiversity, desertification and other environmental concerns”¹. In response to work by the task team, the 2016 Converged Statistical Reporting Directives for the Creditor Reporting System² included a revised definition of climate change adaptation, and an indicative table to guide Rio marking on climate change adaptation and mitigation³.
3. A similar process has been carried out through the RMXG in 2016-2018 to review the Rio markers for biodiversity and desertification, and to develop an indicative table for biodiversity.
4. The objectives of this process is threefold:
 - To maintain the definition and eligibility criteria closely aligned to the Convention of Biological Diversity Convention (CBD) and to the decisions by the Conference of the Parties (COP).
 - To improve the quality of reporting, by providing more specific and concrete guidance. This reduces the room for interpretation, and ultimately provides greater harmonisation of reporting practices across DAC members.
 - To facilitate reporting on biodiversity-related development finance to the DAC by providing user-friendly guidance and meaningful examples.
5. Through a series of conference calls and one informal in-person meeting, members of the RMXG agreed that no change should be made to the definition of the Rio marker for biodiversity but that some adjustments should be made to the eligibility criteria. Further, the Secretariat has produced an indicative table to guide members’ scoring of activities with a biodiversity objective, presented in a separate document⁴.
6. Members are invited to review the proposals in paragraphs 7 and 9 at forthcoming ENVIRONET and WP-STAT meetings. Specifically, they are invited to consider the proposals:
 - For COMMENT at the ENVIRONET 15 May 2018 meeting;

¹ [DCD\(2013\)8/REV2](#)

² [DCD/DAC\(2016\)3/FINAL](#)

³ [DCD/DAC\(2016\)3/ADD2/FINAL](#)

⁴ [DCD/DAC/STAT\(2018\)26](#)

- For DISCUSSION and APPROVAL at the WP-STAT 13-15 June 2018 meeting.

1.2. Revision of the Biodiversity Definition

7. RMXG members reviewed the definition of the Biodiversity marker and concluded that in the absence of changes of the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), no change should be made to the definition:

“An activity should be classified as biodiversity-related (score Principal or Significant) if it promotes at least one of the three objectives of the Convention: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components (ecosystems, species or genetic resources), or fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of the utilisation of genetic resources.”

1.3. Revision of the Biodiversity Eligibility Criteria

8. The current eligibility criteria are:

“The activity contributes to:

a) protection or enhancing ecosystems, species or genetic resources through in-situ or ex-situ conservation, or remedying existing environmental damage; or

b) integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services concerns within recipient countries’ development objectives and economic decision making, through institution building, capacity development, strengthening the regulatory and policy framework, or research; or

c) developing countries’ efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention

The activity will score “principal objective” if it directly and explicitly aims to achieve one or more of the above three criteria.”

9. RMXG members convened on the necessity to expand and to better specify the eligibility criteria, in order to more precisely reflect the Aichi Targets agreed in 2010 by the CBD⁵. The new proposed eligibility criteria are as follows.

“The activity contributes to:

a) conservation or enhancement of ecosystems, species or genetic resources, and/or enhancement of the sustainability of their use, through in-situ or ex-situ measures, or the restoration of existing damages; or

b) integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services concerns within recipient countries’ development objectives, economic decision making and sectoral policies, through measures such as institution building, capacity development, strengthening the regulatory and

⁵ CBD COP 10 Decision X/2 – See: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>

policy frameworks, research, technology transfer, knowledge management and stakeholder engagement; or

c) elimination, phasing out or reform of incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity, and provision of positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; or

d) maintenance of genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species; or

e) fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to these resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, as internationally agreed; or

f) developing countries' efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention.

The activity will score “principal objective” if it directly and explicitly aims to achieve one or more of the above six criteria.”