**Ecological Networks - Mapping of Standardization Needs**

**Table of Contents (proposed)**

1. ***Scope***

This document assesses the current state and identifies terminologies, standardization needs and best - practices for the identification, planning, designation, management, monitoring, and reporting of Ecological Networks which maintain, enhance, and restore the structural and functional connectivity of ecosystems and their biodiversity. This document includes benchmarking geared towards obtaining inputs and is expected to assess the standardization needs, inclusion of ecological networks in science, policy and practice around the world, integrating indigenous knowledge and best standardization practices for conserving biodiversity.

1. ***What are ecological networks: Terms and Definitions***

This section would focus on synthesizing the available and relevant terms and definitions on ecological networks and connectivity from published reports and other publications.

1. ***Ecological networks across ecosystems: A review of literature***

3.1 Terrestrial

3.2 Freshwater

3.3 Marine

3.4 Aerial

3.5 Freshwater-Marine Interface: While all ecosystem interfaces are important, this subsection would specifically focus on the freshwater-marine interface given the particular significance of this interface for biological communities and the society, especially the indigenous and local communities living within.

This section would focus on providing a short synthesis of the concepts and processes related to ecological networks and connectivity within each ecosystem/realm type.

1. ***Role of ecological networks in socio-ecological systems***

This section would focus on synthesizing the role and contribution of ecological networks in the functioning and maintenance of socio-ecological systems, namely ecological, sociological and economic benefits and reasons to conserve networks - flood erosion, soil erosion, pollination, rich fisheries, etc. (ecosystems services approach) and those that align with the blue economy, in addition to socio-cultural significance e.g. traditional practices.

1. ***Threats to ecological networks***

This section would include a discussion of the key current and emerging threats to structure and functioning of ecological networks across realms.

1. ***Ecological networks in science, policy and practice: status, knowledge gaps and conservation/implementation needs with a focus on indigenous communities***

This section would focus on synthesizing information generated through the help of the questionnaire survey (as mentioned in section 1) on the extent of inclusion of ecological network considerations across science, policy and conservation practice and gaps therein keeping perspectives of indigenous communities into relevant context (from the view of developing a standard).

1. ***Interlinkages between conserving ecological networks and national/global conservation commitments***

This section would focus on exploring how ecological networks considerations play a role in contribution to the goals of several relevant conservation conventions/entities (as opposed to focusing on a single most relevant convention/entity).

1. ***Best Practices in maintaining ecological networks: Case studies*** (3-5 covering all/diff realms; 1-2 pages each) This section would focus on compiling relevant case studies (from literature and the questionnaire survey) demonstrating best practices around the globe on conservation and monitoring of ecological networks that can provide better insights into the standardization needs.
2. ***First step towards standardization: enabling conditions, priority areas and implications***

This section would include a discussion on the relevant parameters required for developing a standard for ecological networks. These include the presence of enabling conditions such as existing indicators/tools/methods, data protocols, policy levers, defining priority areas for implementation of a standard and clarifying implications of standardization for relevant sectors.

1. ***Key takeaways and the way forward***

This section would focus on drawing conclusions and carving a way forward based on the information provided in the preceding sections.

 ***Appendices*** (questionnaire survey [under development])