



# Item 08 – Proposed public comment questions for the re-exposure draft of Disclosure 304-7 Access and benefit-sharing of the GRI Topic Standard Project for Biodiversity

## For GSSB information

<b>Date</b>	6 July 2023
<b>Meeting</b>	20 July 2023
<b>Project</b>	GRI Topic Standard Project for Biodiversity
<b>Description</b>	<p>This document contains draft public comment questions for the re-exposure draft of the Disclosure on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) of the Biodiversity Standard that has been submitted to the GSSB for information at the upcoming meeting.</p> <p>Subject to approval, a public comment period will commence end of July 2023 for a duration of 6 weeks and an open questionnaire will be set up online to collect public feedback.</p> <p>This document sets out the proposed questions to be included in the feedback form. GSSB members are welcome to provide any feedback by 24 July 2023.</p>

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# Questions for the exposure draft of Disclosure 304-7 Access and benefit-sharing of Biodiversity Standard

## Question 1

*Disclosure 304-7 Access and benefit-sharing and the exposure draft of the GRI Biodiversity Standard includes two requirements about how the organization respects and manages processes and actions to comply with access and benefit-sharing (ABS) requirements and voluntary actions.*

*Each disclosure contains requirements accompanied by guidance. Guidance includes background information, explanations, and examples to help the organization better understand the requirements. Guidance also includes recommendations. These are cases where a particular course of action is encouraged but not required. The word 'should' indicates a recommendation, and the word 'can' indicates a possibility or option. The organization is not required to comply with guidance.*

1.1 Are the requirements and associated guidance clear and understandable? If not, please explain why not, and suggest any wording revisions or guidance. Please provide the line number(s) that your comment relates to.

1.2 Are there any elements in the disclosure that you would find challenging to report? If so, please explain what these are, provide a rationale for your comments, and suggest any wording revisions or guidance. Please provide the line number(s) that your comment relates to.

## Question 2

*This disclosure makes a distinction between three situations: 1) where national ABS regulations and measures are applicable to the organization; 2) where ABS regulations and measures are applicable to the organization and organizations take actions additional to legal compliance; 3) where no ABS regulations and measures are in place and organizations take only voluntary actions. Requirement 304-7-a is intended for situation 1). Requirement 304-7-b is intended for situations 2) and 3).*

2.1 Is this distinction clear? If not, please explain why not and how this can be improved.

*Under requirement 304-7-a organizations will describe a process. Under requirement 304-7-b organizations will describe actions.*

2.2 Is it clear what the difference is between the expected reported information under 304-7-a and 304-7-b? If not, please explain why not and how this can be improved.

## Question 3

*This draft exposure disclosure is closely interconnected with disclosures in GRI 2: General Disclosure 2021 as it explicitly asks for a description of the due diligence process. It refers directly to disclosure 2-24 Embedding policy commitments and disclosure 2-27 Compliance with laws and regulations.*

3. Is the connection between the disclosures clear? If not, please explain what could be improved.

3.b. Does the disclosure need specific information on the due diligence process for ABS? What specific information would you advise?

## Question 4

4. Do you have any other comments or suggestions related to the exposure draft of Disclosure 304-7 Access and benefit-sharing of GRI 304: Biodiversity 2016?

*For any additional comments use the form below, indicating the line numbers. Consider feedback on clarity, feasibility, and relevance of the draft content.*