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AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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COMPILATION OF VIEWS ON THE DRAFT OUTCOME-ORIENTED TARGETS INTO THE FOREST WORK PROGRAMME

The present note contains the views and comments on the draft outcome-oriented targets for the forest work programme as proposed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Review of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity at its second meeting, the report of which is contained in document UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-FBD.REV/3/INF/1. The draft document was posted on the Convention's forest web portal (<https://www.biodiv.org/programmes/areas/forest/portal/targets.aspx>), from 5 May to 3 June 2005 and specifically requested proposals for indicators to measure progress in achieving the targets. The comments are organized according to the structure of the draft document. Comments were provided by the United Kingdom, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Forest Peoples Programme, and members of the AHTEG.

I. PROPOSED INDICATORS

Target 1.1. At least 10 % of each of the world's forest types effectively conserved in protected areas

1. The following indicators were proposed for target 1.1:

- (i) Number of countries having developed policy and legislation to respect the rights of indigenous and local communities and to ensure their full and effective participation in the establishment and management of forest protected areas;
- (ii) Area of forest area protected through indigenous and community conserved areas;
- (iii) Area under sustainable forest management and conservation.

* UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-FBD.REV/3/1.

Target 2.1. Restore or maintain populations, or reduce substantially the decline of populations of forest species of selected taxonomic groups

2. The following indicators were proposed for target 1.2:

- (i) Number of endangered and threatened forest species;
- (ii) Changes in abundance and natural range of these species;
- (iii) Changes in the abundance of forest species in populations of selected taxonomic groups;
- (iv) Management plans for restoration of declining forest species populations, developed and implemented.

Target 2.2. Conservation status of threatened and endangered forest species substantially improved

3. The following indicators were proposed for target 2.2:

- (i) Number of endangered and threatened species effectively conserved ex situ in genebanks;
- (ii) Number of staff trained and appropriate equipment to undertake effective conservation;
- (iii) Management guidelines and best practice protocols on harvesting affected taxa and *in situ* conservation;
- (iv) Abundance and distribution of threatened and endangered forest species in various forest types; (v) management plans for the conservation of threatened and endangered forest species developed and implemented.

Target 3.1. Genetic diversity of major socio-economically valuable forest species assessed, conserved and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained

4. The following indicators were proposed for target 3.1:

- (i) Publications on ethnobotany of local plants are a good indicator of indigenous knowledge of plants within specific localities and regions;
- (ii) Amount and number of species collected and conserved in local genebanks;
- (iii) Size of degraded areas restored and rehabilitated;
- (iv) Number and area of genetic reserves (in-situ conservation territories) for every assessed and conserved forest species;
- (v) Number and area of *ex-situ* conservation territories for every assessed and conserved forest species;
- (vi) National or regional assessments of both information and information gaps, regarding the genetic and reproductive status of species or forest cover types (e.g., ecologically representative, late-successional forest types) of interest, in decline, or at risk;
- (vii) Information systems on the genetic structure and composition of major socio-economic forest species, developed;

- (viii) Participation of indigenous and local communities in the conservation of valuable forest species, promoted.

Target 4.1. Forest goods and services are derived from sources managed according to the principles of sustainable forest management including conservation of biological diversity

5. It was suggested that for current indicator (iii) “quality” and “value” should be added so that it reads, "quality, quantity and value of products". The following new indicators were proposed:

- (i) Area and proportion of productive area of forests under SFM;
- (ii) Quantity of forest products and proportion of forest products from forests under SFM (note: certified forests are only the part of forests under SFM);
- (iii) Quantity of products derived from forests sustainably managed, including conservation of biological diversity.

Target 4.2. No species of forest flora or fauna endangered by international trade

6. The following indicators were proposed for target 4.2:

- (i) Number of forest species threatened by international trade;
- (ii) Number of countries possessing forest laws that address international trade of forest flora and fauna species;
- (iii) Level of enforcement of national forest laws in addressing international trade of endangered species.

Target 5.1. The current forest loss, degradation, and conversion to other land uses are substantially reduced

7. The following indicators were proposed for target 5.1:

- (i) Presence of policy and legislation to mitigate policy loss;
- (ii) Assess forest degradation, using, for example, such indicator as ratio between areas of primary forests/secondary forests/forest plantations;
- (iii) Area of forest lost in an irreversible way (converted to buildings, infrastructure, urbanization);
- (iv) Area of forest converted to other land uses (agriculture, pasture and other) where forest may recover the land.

Target 6.1. Pathways for potential invasive alien species affecting forest ecosystems controlled

8. The following indicators were proposed for target 6.1:

- (i) Native species affected by invasive alien species and their status in the changing ecological dynamics;
- (ii) Changes in number of invasive alien species;

- (iii) Presence of scientific knowledge at national level on the ecology and reproductive biology of potential invasive species and their impacts on forest ecosystems.

Target 6.2. Management plans developed and implemented for all invasive alien species that threaten forest ecosystems, habitats or species

9. The following indicator was proposed for target 6.2: Number of active management programmes and practical cases of containment and/or eradication to control invasive alien species.

Target 7.1. Implement practices and activities that maintain the capacity of forest ecosystems and its species to adapt to climate change

10. The following indicators were proposed for target 7.1:

- (i) National awareness on climate change and its consequences;
- (ii) Changes in population of indicator species on nutrient status of soils;
- (iii) Existence of policies on pollution;
- (iv) Management plans including practices and activities that maintain the adaptive capacity and enhance resilience of forest ecosystems of native species, implemented;
- (v) Number of complementary native tree species in plantations in a given area;
- (vi) Number of forest fragments and total area between them in a given forest ecosystem.

Target 7.2. Practices are implemented to reduce substantially the adverse impact of long range and localized pollution on forest biodiversity

11. The following indicators were proposed for target 7.2:

- (i) Changes in deposition of air pollutants;
- (ii) Changes in forest area losses due to mining and localized pollution;
- (iii) Presence of national laws to control industrial and mining activities in forest areas;
- (iv) Impact assessments at national level on long range and localized pollution on forest biodiversity, implemented;
- (v) Management plans which tackle the problem of various pollutants affecting forest ecosystems.

Target 7.3. The impact on forest biodiversity of human-induced uncontrolled/unwanted forest fires substantially reduced

12. The following indicators were proposed for target 7.3:

- (i) Changes in the number of forest fires per year;
- (ii) Awareness programmes to educate local populations on forest fires, developed and implemented.

Target 8.1. Maintain or improve the capacity of forest ecosystems to deliver goods and services and to support sustainable livelihoods, local food security, and health care, especially for people living in poverty

13. The following indicators were proposed for target 8.1:

- (i) Percentage of forest managed according to management plans;
- (ii) Lever of capital or yield of different products that may be harvested and the type, quantity and quality that can be extracted sustainably;
- (iii) Percent of population employed in the forest sector;
- (iv) Sustainable forest management plans applying the ecosystem approach, implemented;
- (v) Percentage of forest area where the ecosystem approach is applied.

Target 9.1. Measures to protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices associated with forest biological diversity are implemented, and the participation of indigenous and local communities in activities aimed at this are promoted and facilitated

14. The following indicators were proposed for target 9.1:

- (i) Extent of documentation and in-corporation of relevant indigenous knowledge and indigenous technology in forest management;
- (ii) Existence of administrative policy and legal framework for the effective participation of local communities in forest policy formulations and monitoring;
- (iii) Such measures are fixed in forest management plans and their implementation is recorded;
- (iv) Existence of appropriate measures to enhance the capacity of indigenous and local communities to protect their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices regarding forest biological diversity;
- (v) Organization of local and indigenous communities to ensure their involvement in decision making, co-management and benefit sharing arising out of the use of genetic resources.

Target 10.1. All access to genetic resources derived from forest biological diversity is in line with the relevant provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and other applicable agreements

15. The following indicators were proposed for target 10.1:

- (i) Number of forest based economic activities where local communities, women and youth participate;
- (ii) Number of partnerships involving local communities, women, youth and their roles;
- (iii) Share of the forest sector in GDP;

- (iv) Degree to which social, cultural and spiritual needs are met;
- (v) Existence of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit sharing on the use, commercial and other utilization of genetic resources derived from forest biological diversity;
- (vi) Verification mechanisms developed at national level to ensure compliance with the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and national legal instruments of the country of origin providing the genetic resources;
- (vii) National capacity-building to guarantee the effective negotiation and implementation on access and benefit sharing arrangements, developed.

Target 10.2. Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources derived from forest biodiversity are shared with the countries providing such resources

16. The following indicators were proposed for target 10.2:

- (i) Percent increase in level of funding;
- (ii) Number of projects implemented;
- (iii) Increased capacity;
- (iv) Changes in incomes (per unit of goods or services of every kind of genetic resource) for countries providing such resources;
- (v) Existence of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit sharing on the use, commercial and other utilization of genetic resources derived from forest biological diversity;
- (vi) Verification mechanisms developed at national level to ensure compliance with the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and national legal instruments of the country of origin providing the genetic resources;
- (vii) National capacity-building to guarantee the effective negotiation and implementation on access and benefit-sharing arrangements, developed.

Target 11.1. New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20

17. The following indicators were proposed for target 11.1:

- (i) Level of funds received annually;
- (ii) Technologies adopted in forest management, product processing or innovative methodology and resulting benefit;
- (iii) Adequacy of technology used in rehabilitation, protection, harvesting, processing and utilization;

- (iv) Agreements between developed countries and developing countries on transfer of financial resources under the Convention on Biological Diversity, implemented;
- (v) Scientific and technical capacity at national level to monitor the effective implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity under the Convention, developed.

Target 11.2. Environmentally sound technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4, and Article 16

18. The following indicators were proposed for target 11.2:

- (i) Influence of technology on policy;
- (ii) Quantity of financial resources transferred to developing country Parties;
- (iii) Quantity of environmentally sound technologies (and their value) transferred to developing country Parties;
- (iv) Agreements between developed countries and developing countries on transfer of financial resources under the Convention on Biological Diversity, implemented;
- (v) Scientific and technical capacity at national level to monitor the effective implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity under the Convention, developed.

II. COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED TARGETS AND THEIR TECHNICAL RATIONALES

General

19. The following general comments were made on the proposed targets and their technical rationales:

(a) There is a need to clarify if we adopt the new Goals identified in the report of the Expert Group. Are we refining the Work Programme which already contains slightly different goals? In some places the Group have made some read across to the work programme but the links are not clear.

(b) Given the line we take along with other Parties on the reporting burden are we adding to this by developing 20 targets?. Accepting that technically they are all feasible, is obtaining the necessary information realistic? Is it possible to prioritize the key targets, which will reflect forests contribution to the overall biodiversity target?

(c) In relation to the paragraphs above, how would these contribute to demonstrating progress on the work programme?

(d) The reference to the criteria and indicators developed by the various regional forestry processes is welcomed and the suggestion that existing indicators be used where possible. However there are limited biological diversity indicators in these processes and if we are develop new indicators we should work with these processes to develop shared indicators.

(e) Through the technical rationale the Expert Group makes the case for each target. At this stage rather than challenge the individual rationales we should try to identify priorities and select those where we have a reasonable chance of getting the necessary information.

Target 1.1

20. The following comments were made on target 1.1:

(a) The two following items should be taken into consideration and incorporated into the rationale and indicators: A) programme element 2 of the programme of work on protected areas (on governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing) particularly, among other elements: - Goal 2.2 To enhance and secure involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders. Target: Full and effective participation by 2008, of indigenous and local communities, in full respect of their rights and recognition of their responsibilities, consistent with national law and applicable international obligations, and the participation of relevant stakeholders, in the management of existing, and the establishment of new, protected areas.

- By 2006, conduct participatory national reviews of existing and potential forms of conservation including innovative types of governance for Pas ... including indigenous and local community conserved areas. [activity 1.1.4]- Engage indigenous and local communities in participatory planning, recalling the principles of the ecosystem approach [2.1.5]- Implement plans to effectively involve indigenous and local communities, with respect for their rights consistent with national legislation and applicable international obligations, at all levels of PA planning, establishment, governance and management [2.2.2]
- -Ensure that any resettlement of indigenous and local communities as a consequence of the establishment or management of PAs will only take place with their prior informed consent that may be given according to national legislation and applicable international obligations” [activity 2.2.5]

(b) Objective 3 (b) in goal 3 of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity: “Establish (in accordance with Article 8(j)) with the full participation and with respect for the rights of indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders, comprehensive, adequate, biologically and geographically representative and effective networks of protected areas”.

(c) It is difficult if not impossible to measure the level of effectiveness of the protection. Furthermore, protected areas can be used as benchmarks only for “ecological” sustainability not for “overall” sustainability of forest management.

(d) The term area of forest “under protection” is unclear. In this case it refers to area of forest which is designated as a protected area. The same wording problem appears in the indicators. Area of forest protected is not necessarily equal to area of forest in protected area - and probably has problems in translation.

(e) The target and the proposed indicators are misleading. It is difficult to measure the actual level of effectiveness of protected areas in many developing countries, including the important forest countries. If there is no management at all it is reasonable to infer that the area is not effectively protected but beyond that it becomes quite subtle and difficult. Perhaps one could note that the proposed indicators are problematical and that it will take work to devise reliable indicators for this target.

Target 1.2

21. With regard to target 1.2, it was stated that as per target 1.1 (see paras. 38 (a) and (b) above), programme element 2 of the programme of work on protected areas (on governance, participation, equity

and benefit sharing) and objective 3 (b) under goal 3 of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity must be taken into consideration.

Target 2.1

22. The following comment was made on target 2.1: One should expect to achieve all the benefits listed by all types of restoration of populations of forest species of specific taxonomic groups. (reintroduction of forest fauna is likely to lead to erosion control and may actually make matters worse just to take one example.). It would be wise to include a statement that such efforts should be undertaken within a wider framework of landscape restoration and should include a environmental impact assessment before being undertaken.

Target 3.1

23. With regard to target 3.1, it was suggested that a paragraph concerning “associated indigenous and local knowledge” should be added in the rationale, given that this is part of the target’s text, and that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) should be asked to develop appropriate indicators in this regard.

Target 4.1

24. The following comments were made on target 4.1:

(a) Suggest to delete “and not just sustainable use” (2nd paragraph of technical rationale).

(b) Third paragraph of technical rationale. The abstract of this study clearly states the following: The results indicate that 89 percent of forests in industrialized countries are currently being managed “according to a formal or informal management plan” or have been designated as areas where no active management should take place. National information is missing for many developing countries. Preliminary data indicate that at least 255 million hectares, or about 12 percent of the total forest area of developing countries, were covered by a “formal, nationally approved forest management plan covering a period of at least five years” as of the end of 2002. Information gaps and the use of different definitions prevent a direct comparison of the situation in industrialized and developing countries and the calculation of a global total. Inconsistent interpretation of the definitions used was also noted, suggesting a need for further refinement and consistency of approaches in future reporting on this indicator. It is suggested that this paragraph be modified accordingly.

(c) Not clear how the “area of forest under community-based adaptive management systems” can be an indicator for this target. Not necessarily directly linked to this target (goods and services derived from sources managed according to the principles of sustainable forest management).

Target 5.1

25. The following comments were made on target 5.1:

(a) The “definition” of forest degradation (any combination of loss of soil fertility, absence of forest cover, lack of natural function, soil compaction, and salinization, that either impedes or retards unassisted forest recovery through secondary succession) could be improved. It could include reduction of crown cover/density (within a given forest i.e. through overexploitation) rather than absence of forest cover.

(b) Second paragraph of technical rationale: “(iii) for all forest biomes considered, a high proportion of residual forest also means a lesser degree of fragmentation”. This last fact suggests that

deforestation rates are also likely to indicate fragmentation rates. Yet we do not necessarily see a deforestation rate which is directly related to the proportion of residual forest. It is suggested to remove this sentence.

(c) There are no indicators for forest degradation. This is not surprising as it is very difficult to monitor, but should perhaps be mentioned.

(d) The rationale should include a deeper analysis of the underlying and direct causes of forest loss and degradation, including work carried out by other bodies/processes such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests's Intersessional "Global Workshop on Addressing the Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation" held in January 1999 in San Jose, Costa Rica. The indicators should be developed to address the identified causes.

Target 6.1

26. With regard to target 6.1, it was suggested that the word "major" be added to "potential invasive species" (as in the overall target).

Target 7.1

27. With regard to target 7.1, it was suggested that, in the last sentence of the first paragraph of the rationale in which the attributes of ecosystem resilience are discussed, it may be useful to add a statement/phrase that refers specifically to the idea that the inherent genetic diversity of species within an ecosystem is a major determinant of the resilience of that ecosystem/those species to respond effectively to environmental challenges or changes. This is especially true for sessile organisms such as trees. In the following paragraph there is an explicit reference to the relationship between target 3.1 and 7.1.

Target 8.1

28. The following comments were made on target 8.1:

(a) It is suggested to separate the two targets that have been combined here. While the Human Development Index of forest-dependent people might be used as an indicator for the target related to sustainable livelihoods it is not very relevant to the target of maintain/improve the capacity of forest ecosystems to deliver goods and services.

(b) Sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially for people living in poverty are directly linked to local people's tenurial security over land and resources. For example, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment's Board Statement (March 2005) asserted: "Measures to conserve natural resources are more likely to succeed if local communities are given ownership of them, share the benefits, and are involved in decisions". This should be recognized in the rationale and possible indicators should include the extent to which indigenous and local communities' land and resource tenure is recognized and secured.

Target 9.2

29. It was suggested that the text concerning the application of target 9.2 to forests (above in title) should reflect the language of the overall target, which says "Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities...", and that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) should be asked to elaborate an interpretation of the term "rights".
