

CANADA'S INTERVENTION FOR GOAL B
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2013

Thank you Chair,

- **Canada recognizes that much progress has been made in the development of scientific and technical guidance as well as policy support tools and methodologies to support the implementation of the targets under Goal B.**

TARGET 5

- **With regards to Target 5, Canada supports the proposed indicators**, and agrees with the adequacy of observations, and data systems for monitoring progress toward this target.
- **We also support the need to develop remote sensing tools that can be applied at small scales to measure habitat change, and the sharing of successful approaches among Parties.**
- **Canada would suggest that the CBD Secretariat examine the proposed *FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Forest Monitoring* and their relevance to the Aichi targets.** The Guidelines present a framework and tools for planning and implementing a multi-purpose national forest monitoring system that is grounded in nationally-appropriate and scientifically-sound practice. The Guidelines support CBD efforts to develop tools to measure habitat change and to share successful approaches.
- **Furthermore, there is a need to agree on definitions for key terms such as degradation, natural habitats, and fragmentation. We would note the recent publication on forest degradation in “*Ecology and Society*, 2013, volume 18, number 2” which provides a method for quantifying and defining forest degradation.** The INF/19 note from COP 11 also provides a definition of these terms. **In future documentation, it should be clearer that forest fragmentation is a form of degradation.**
- Finally we would suggest treating marine and terrestrial habitats separately when analyzing observations, data systems and indicators.

TARGET 6

- **With regards to Target 6, Canada agrees that there is a great deal of scientific and technical guidance globally to support this target, and considers that the primary challenge lies in the implementation of such guidance. An area that could be further explored is the definition of “safe ecological limits” at the ecosystem level, particularly for determining if some types of pressures are within these safe ecological limits.** There is agreement on the need to take an

ecosystem approach, and within fisheries, FAO has led, along with many parties, efforts to develop and test tools to operationalize the concept. FAO guidance on the ecosystem approach to fisheries addresses fisheries as a pressure, but there is incomplete and in some cases scarce information on pressures from other activities and on the cumulative effects from all activities

- **Similarly, with regards to policy support tools, Canada does not see major gaps at the international level. We agree that the overarching international policy framework has been established and as is noted in the document prepared by the Secretariat, that “if these instruments were fully and effectively implemented then sustainability and conservation of biodiversity would largely be achieved”** (paragraph 33). Some the gaps identified in the document (paragraph 43: a and d) are related more to shortcomings in implementation of existing policy instruments and in use of existing mechanisms for coordination of policies across sectors. States are in the early stages of developing tools to apply an ecosystem approach to fisheries and identify ecosystem and biodiversity objectives for fisheries and it should not be overlooked that there is a large gap between the international instruments and the resources to implement an ecosystem based approach. Resources need to be aligned for implementation to be successful.
- Canada does note that in the document prepared by the Secretariat reference is not made to the annual UNGA Sustainable Fisheries Resolution. This is a very important policy tool to identify priorities for fisheries management and should be recognized as such.
- Canada continues domestic implementation of this target through our Sustainable Fisheries Framework, which is an overarching policy framework that translates modern sustainability principles into operational direction for fisheries.
- **Canada generally agrees with the indicators proposed for this target. We caution the use of indicator (d) “Trends in catch per unit effort”. This indicator could be particularly vulnerable to problems of interpretation and it should be an indicator of later (if not last) resort. Given the complexity of directly monitoring marine biodiversity, Canada recognizes that there needs to be a place in the reporting framework for pressure indicators and for indicators on how policy and management measures are being applied for conservation.**
- Canada also suggests that the interpretation of indicator (e) “Trends in fishing effort capacity” should be clarified. It is not clear if it means trends in fishing effort (how much effort on the water) or trends in fishing capacity (how much effort the existing fleets could actually apply, if fully deployed). Both are informative, but they are very different, and they are managed by quite different measures. Reducing capacity almost always requires displacing fishers and has employment and poverty implications. Reducing effort may (but not always) be achieved by redistributing

fishing opportunity to allow everyone to stay employed, but just reducing time at sea (which in the medium term might not equate to reduced catches and income, if the reduced effort allows stocks to increase).

- Canada's Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) identify indicators that Canada will use to measure progress towards Target 6, which could be useful to other Parties. These include, "status of major fish stocks" and "sustainable fish harvest" indicators.
- **Canada considers that there is a need for better monitoring of pressures on aquatic species and ecosystems from fisheries and other activities and recognizes the importance of developing more cost-effective means of monitoring.**

TARGET 7

- **Canada recognizes the importance of biodiversity conservation in the sustainable management of areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry.** The realities of the working landscape, including production and economic factors, are key considerations for the sustainable management of areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry. Canada encourages the CBD to continue to identify and support sustainability efforts at national and sub-national levels, by the private sector, and international partners in these fields as these policy tools are critical pieces to achieving Target 7.
- **Canada agrees with the identified limitation that there are no agreed upon global sustainability criteria that could be used to measure progress against this target. Canada believes that Parties should be able to use criteria that consider internationally agreed elements of sustainability, where such elements exist, that are consistent with national priorities and conditions, that are comparable, and that support desired biodiversity outcomes.**
- **As there is no single good indicator of sustainability, Canada recommends using a small number of globally consistent indicators that work across ecosystems to provide an overview, and also flexible, ecosystem-specific indicators that reflect local circumstances for greater depth of understanding. For globally consistent indicators, Canada suggests that the Secretariat work with the FAO and other international organizations to obtain the required data.** Canada encourages the CBD to recognize the progress made by the FAO and regional Criteria and Indicator processes for Sustainable Forest Management such as the Montreal Process, Forest Europe, ITTO and others to reduce the burden of reporting on forests while increasing the consistency of information. Their collaborative efforts have helped harmonize data collection requirements and schedules between multiple reporting requirements. Data being collected now for

the 2015 Global Forest Resource Assessment will be an important source of global data on forests relevant to target 7.

- **There is a need to ensure that current sustainable practices are recognized, that indicators should reflect the area sustainably managed and not just the area certified, and that any certification schemes in support of desired biodiversity outcomes do not create barriers to trade.**
- Similarly, on the aquaculture field, the FAO has prepared an overview of the various aquaculture standards and certification schemes (of which there are at least 30) and 8 key international agreements relevant to aquaculture certification. These should be considered <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/ai388e/AI388E08.htm>

TARGET 8

- Canada has a strong, comprehensive approach to ensure clean water for all Canadians and a number of concrete and measurable actions have been taken to implement this approach over the past few years. These efforts and others are detailed in Canada's Federal Sustainable Development Strategy.
- In addition, there are provincial initiatives being undertaken across Canada to improve water management in order to protect water quality and manage water use, including agricultural impacts on water quality and availability.
- Canada acknowledges the important role that cooperation between jurisdictions play in managing water pollution, particularly nutrients. For solutions to be most effective, it has been found that all governments in a watershed should be engaged in framing problems, sharing data and developing solutions.

TARGET 9

- Canada has an Invasive Alien Species Strategy that aims to minimize the risk of invasive alien species to the environment, economy and society as well as targeted plans to address specific subsets of invasive species, such as aquatic invasive species. As well, Canada is currently completing a publication Understanding Invasive Alien Terrestrial Animal Species: A Canadian Perspective.
- Canada agrees that the focus should remain on prevention of introductions, as efforts to eradicate are often very costly and difficult, if at all possible, to achieve.

Canada will submit its intervention and additional comments in writing to the Secretariat.

Thank you Madam Chair.