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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA17)

Montreal, Canada, 14-18 October 2013

WWF Key Messages and Comments on Specific Targets

WWF acknowledges the assessment of scientific and technical requirements for achieving the Aichi Targets. The analysis shows that there are many sources of scientific information and data, and that tools, standards, international guidelines and technical means are already available, that could already be used for effectively implementing the Aichi Targets. Hence, the main focus should be on the active use of such tools.

By 2014, Parties should demonstrate substantial progress on achieving the full range of Aichi Targets, therefore, WWF urges all Parties towards better implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets through the following steps:

- Immediate use of existing tools and more efficient channelling of existing scientific and technical resources.
- Fully utilize existing technical and policy guidance, with relevant tools, methodologies, data and information to enhance the implementation of the Aichi Targets.
- Enhance communication and cooperation between the international, national and local levels in dispersing and dispatching the tools and coordinating the implementation of the Aichi Targets
- Strengthen capacity building processes and cooperation among Parties for the use and implementation of the tools and methodologies.
- Increase commitment and harness political will to better allocate technical resources to implement the Aichi targets at the national and international level.
- Achieve progress on the targets through measures that can be taken to promote better collaboration on scientific and technical means. For example, Target 6 (Sustainable Fisheries) where implementation requires an increase in communication and cooperation between the fisheries sector, the environment sector and other sectors.
- Urgently mobilize existing and available resources to revise Parties' NBSAP. National development planning processes should be used intensively as opportunities to integrate NBSAP and strategize for broad and timely implementation of the Aichi Targets.
- Especially, to take up immediate measures (including ecosystem approaches, MPAs, fisheries closures in vulnerable and resilient areas) to implement Target 10 (Vulnerable ecosystem) in connection with Target 6 (Sustainable fisheries) to prevent from irreversible biodiversity losses. The recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC) and the International Programme on the State of the Ocean (IPSO) confirm the unprecedented effects of climate change, including ocean acidification on marine ecosystems, which need time to evolve and adapt.

- Implement ecosystem-based management through Integrated Ocean Management as the policy, operational and institutional framework that will actually deliver the needed depth of greater cooperation and coordination among sectors (Targets 6. Sustainable fisheries, 10. Vulnerable ecosystems and 11. Protected areas).

WWF COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC TARGETS

WWF acknowledges the efforts of the CBD Secretariat for the new approach to the SBSTTA deliberations and for the preparatory analyses and background documents. WWF's comments on Aichi Targets addressed in SBSTTA 17 documents are summarized below.

Strategic Goal A: UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.1

Target 2: Integration of biodiversity values

WWF notes that several processes have been initiated to provide knowledge and means to identify values of biodiversity and ecosystem services that could be integrated into strategies and planning processes on different scales. However, the analysis provided by the CBD Secretariat does not identify clearly enough how effectively Parties have used such information and tools to show progress in implementation of Target 2.

WWF believes that further development and promotion of tools to facilitate the inclusion of biodiversity values into national planning processes, policy instruments and national accounting and reporting systems are strongly needed. In addition, Parties need to accelerate the uptake of such tools.

Target 3: Incentives

WWF notes that several relevant policy tools and associated guidance material have been developed for this process-oriented target. The set of actions that need to be taken to attain this target are identified in the target itself and well known. However, the analysis states that relatively little progress has been made on both eliminating, phasing-out or reforming biodiversity harmful incentives and implementing positive incentives for biodiversity conservation.

Hence, WWF observes that incentives harmful to biodiversity continue to be a major underlying cause of biodiversity decline and their removal need to be prioritized by Parties.

There is an urgent need to eliminate harmful subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing and fisheries overcapacity, as agreed in the Rio+20 outcome document (Para. 173) and other policy instruments, including the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

In addition, WWF calls for special guidance on identifying harmful incentives and subsidies to support Parties to eliminate, phase out or reform subsidies that have negative impacts on biodiversity should be developed with priority. Coordination within countries across ministries and other relevant authorities that might have competing interests is essential to improve better understanding and to mobilize more political will for transformational change.

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Strategic Goal B: UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.2

Target 5: Habitat loss

WWF recognizes that there are a large number of tools and approaches related to reducing or preventing habitat loss as well as degradation and fragmentation of habitats. A range of guidance has been developed for spatial planning (land-use planning and ecological and economic zoning) which should be used effectively by Parties to avoid or resolve conflicts. The general set of technical and political actions that need to be taken to achieve this target are known. Where strong political actions have been taken, they have had a significant positive effect on reducing the rate of habitat loss, like some countries have shown to reduce forest loss in the last few years.

However, WWF calls on Parties to immediately take effective actions to tackle underlying drivers of habitat loss. This should be a priority in order to make progress in achieving this target.

Target 6: Sustainable fisheries

WWF notes that there is a need for enhanced communication, coordination and cooperation not only between the environmental sector and fisheries sector, but also among other industry sectors and the fisheries sector to avoid conflict of use and to reduce cumulative impacts on areas of high conservation value.

WWF strongly agrees with the fact that there is a need to implement the ecosystem approach to fisheries management including the precautionary principle to advance implementation of Target 6. More political will to shift from a single stock management approach to a multi-species approach is needed. Given the gaps in scientific information and capacity in certain regions of the world to fully implement the ecosystem approach, more targeted capacity building and technology transfer from developed to developing countries should be put in place.

With the unprecedented effects of climate change, there is a pressing need to apply adaptation measures including ecosystem based adaptation approaches, better designed MPAs guided by vulnerability assessment, fisheries closures in vulnerable areas and increase the resilience of the marine ecosystems. These urgently need to be implemented to allow marine ecosystems to evolve and adapt to these rapid environmental changes. It is important to reduce the pressures on an already over-saturated ecosystem.

WWF urges Parties as well as regional fisheries management organizations to incorporate relevant climate change effects into their scientific assessments and respective conservation and management measures. It is important to take into account the inter-linkages between Target 10, Target 11 and Target 6.

In addition WWF calls on Parties to take immediate measures to combat IUU fishing based on coordinated regional approaches for its serious negative impacts on fish stocks, marine ecosystems, coastal economies and food security.

Target 10: Vulnerable ecosystem

WWF urges countries to take up immediate measures to implement Target 10 in connection with Targets 6 and 11 to prevent further irreversible biodiversity losses. The recent reports of the IPCC and IPSO confirm the unprecedented effects of climate change, including ocean acidification on marine ecosystems, which need time to evolve and adapt to this more acidic environment. For example, one of the first and most immediate adaptation measures that countries can take to increase ecosystem's resilience is the establishment of marine protected area networks. Another important measure is the utilization of comprehensive individual and cumulative impact assessments so as to better inform the appropriate conservation and management response.



WWF urges Parties, other governments and competent organizations to fully implement the CBD Revised Voluntary Guidelines for the Consideration of Biodiversity in Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments in Marine and Coastal Areas, which was adopted at CBD COP 11 under Decision XI/18 (B). In this respect, the CBD process to describe areas that meet the ecologically or biologically significant area (EBSA) criteria is of utmost importance.

WWF commends the CBD for the establishment of a process to describe areas that meet the EBSA criteria during COP 10. Since then, several areas that meet the EBSA criteria have been described under the CBD EBSA process. WWF urges Parties, other governments and competent organizations to adopt appropriate measures to protect these areas, through, *inter alia*, comprehensive impact assessments and adoption of corresponding conservation and management measures, including the establishment of marine protected areas, fisheries closures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from bottom fishing impacts, minimization of by-catch and discards, and pollution prevention, in accordance with the ecosystem approach and the precautionary principle.

Strategic Goal C: UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.3

Target 11: Protected Areas

WWF acknowledges the good analysis of the scientific and technical needs for the attainment of Target 11.

- There is a need for adaptation and wide application of existing tools for protected area management effectiveness (PAME) for indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs), private PAs as well as marine PAs.
- There is a need to ensure that PA goods and ecosystem services are well understood, documented and communicated. Valuation of full spectrum of biodiversity assets, as well as of the resulting ecosystem services should be incorporated into national, regional and local policies and practices and their contribution for the national economy. Therefore, PAs should receive adequate funding from public and private sources to improve their management.
- Additionally, there is a need to identify successful approaches and tools that practically help rights holders and decision-makers in integrating PAs into broader land and seascapes, especially within national action plans of poverty alleviation.
- There are several references to climate change challenges and scenarios. There is a real need to adequately highlight the gap in tools and approaches and support the analysis of the role of PAs play in resilience, adaptation and mitigation. WWF with the support of the European Union is developing a comprehensive PA climate adaptation methodology (field tested in 3 countries) that would be useful for this.
- WWF strongly supports the request to develop tools to evaluate pressures on PAs (especially related to extractive industries) and explore options to minimise the threats. WWF is particularly interested in the role of PAs as deforestation and forest degradation fronts. WWF and Greenpeace are partnering to develop Protection feasibility framework – a comprehensive tool that would help decision makers to analyse preconditions, criteria for success, necessary actions to ensure right land-use decisions including protection options. This tool will be particularly helpful in supporting strategies and decisions for High Conservation Value Areas and Intact Forest Landscapes.
- There is a high level of interest and support for ICCAs and other effective conservation measures. There is a need to support development of standards, reporting and monitoring procedures for these efforts so that these area-based conservation measures are delivering high-level conservation impact and are legally recognised.

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- There are opportunities to support the achievement of Target 11 through the implementation of regional PA initiatives, where WWF has provided technical support (Decision COP 10 X.31) such as: the Micronesian Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge, marine conventions, the Dinaric Arc Initiative, the Amazonian Initiative, the Coral Triangle Initiative, among others.

Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

- WWF calls on Parties to urgently demonstrate their political will towards the implementation of target 11, through the establishment of effectively managed and ecologically coherent MPA networks. Moreover, the designation of MPAs is an immediate measure that countries can take to implement Target 10, to increase ecosystems' resilience to the effects of climate change.
- WWF recommends the incorporation of biodiversity values into MPAs and MPA network plans and design, making use of the TEEB methodology and similar generally accepted standards and methodologies to better inform decision-making processes with respect to the establishment of MPAs.
- WWF strongly supports the requirements for areas conserved and described as PAs to meet several relevant criteria (set out in paragraph 8, UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.3), such as the EBSA criteria, representative areas, among others, as a means to fulfil the scientific information gaps about areas of high conservation value.
- WWF calls for the urgent negotiation of a new treaty on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction in the form of an implementing agreement to the UN Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in accordance to the UN General Assembly Resolution 66/231 and Paragraph 162 of the Future We Want. There is currently no coordination mechanism for the establishment of comprehensive MPA networks or an authority to analyze cumulative environmental impact assessments in open and deep sea areas beyond national jurisdiction.

WWF proposes the specific additional text to the document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.3) Para. 8.

f) Be well financed – although Target 20 refers to the financing of the overall implementation of the Strategic Plan, the crucial role of sufficient and adequate financing of Protected Areas should be highlighted, as this is a necessary condition to ensure protected areas deliver.

Para19.

- (c) Address the growing challenge of increasing proposal to degazette, downgrade or downsize PAs (PADDD).
- (d) Communication and awareness raising for broader support to PAs and to really mainstream them into economic development

WWF's tools that should be listed for Target 11

- RAPPAM - The Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Areas Management
[http://wwf.panda.org/what we do/how we work/conservation/forests/tools/rappam/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/forests/tools/rappam/)
- METT - Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (in partnership with the World Bank)
http://wwf.panda.org/what we do/how we work/conservation/forests/tools/tracking_tool/
- Arguments for Protection series and Benefits Assessment Tool (PA BAT) and link to download the tool
<http://wwf.panda.org/what we do/how we work/protected areas/arguments for protection/>
[http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/pa bat final english.pdf](http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/pa_bat_final_english.pdf)
- WWF has developed a website to map the protected areas downgrading, downsizing and degazettement (PADDDtracker - <http://www.padddtracker.org/>).

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Target 12: Prevent extinction

WWF believes that available tools and data sets may not be adequate in all cases. However, this is not the main impediment to the effective delivery of this target, strong political will to allocate resources to address the threats are more important to achieve this target.

Specific comments on the paragraphs in the document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.3)

On Para. 39. There is no discussion on the adequacy of national legislations, whether the list of species protected by a given legislation reflects current conservation needs, how well 'protection' is defined and what it consists of in the different country contexts and whether or not stipulated penalties provide adequate deterrence.

On Para. 41. The tools, although useful, are inadequate because for the most part they only cover vertebrates and vascular plants. Similar and/or comparable tools for the other components of biodiversity are lacking.

On Para . 42. This section lists available tools but does not identify gaps or areas for further work.

On Para . 54. As part of the measures to reduce pressures on populations, there is also need for proper spatial planning, integrated land-use planning, infrastructure planning and the effective use and application of SEAs, ESAs etc. to prevent habitat and population fragmentation.

On Para . 57. The statement in paragraph 57: 'As a result the majority of issues addressed by this target are covered by existing tools and guidance' is rather sweeping.

On Para . 58. In view of the rather accelerated change and increasing species loss, some of the assessments on the threatened species are long outdated.

Essentially, the document does not adequately address the gaps in tools and data sources available for the achievement and measurement of Target 12. The lists the document provides are piecemeal and then the paper quickly concludes that these are largely sufficient. A well thought out gap analysis and identification of priority actions including the challenges in the uptake of the existing tools would be very useful.

Strategic Goal D: UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.4

Target 14: Essential Ecosystem Services

While we all depend on natural services and resources, the poor usually rely on them most directly for their livelihoods and are most vulnerable to environmental degradation and natural disasters. Rural and coastal livelihoods are directly affected by the loss of ecosystems services and biodiversity. Urban poor are among the most exposed to risks from polluted water and air, and natural hazards. It is well known that ecosystem services are degrading, with the natural resources critical for livelihood security for the world's poorest in rapid decline. The fact that the regions with vast forested areas, extended coral reefs, and high biodiversity are also parts of developing countries and emerging economies where poverty has not been fully eradicated is a key reminder of the importance of ensuring that environmental sustainability and good governance of natural resources be fully integrated at all levels and into every part of the new development framework.

- Conduct economic valuation of ecosystem goods and services especially in relation to the livelihood security of vulnerable groups, women and Indigenous Peoples most dependent on those goods and services (food and water security)
- Promote natural capital accounting at national and sub-national levels for public, corporate and financial actors

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- Recognize the principle that environmental security and resilience are a foundation of prosperity and well-being, and promote its integration in relevant economic and fiscal policies
- Encourage reform of tenure and natural resource and ecosystem service good governance by promoting the rights of local and Indigenous communities most directly dependent on ecosystem services to stewardship and sustainable management of those services
- Promote and protect traditional knowledge systems linked to customary use and management of landscapes and seascapes, and the related ecosystem services.

Target 15: Ecosystem Resilience

The analysis states that the available guidance appears to provide an adequate basis for Target 15 to be implemented and to support actions to be undertaken at the appropriate scales. Hence, it is WWF's view that it should be possible to have a broad assessment of progress towards this target.

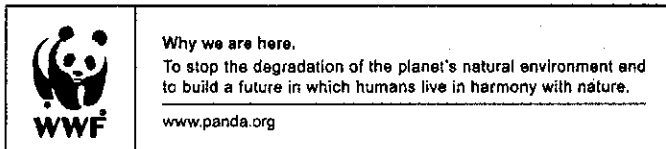
Therefore, WWF calls on Parties to further develop tools to systematically assess the potential for ecosystem restoration and map further restoration opportunities, including the location and extent of degraded ecosystems. In addition, the CBD Secretariat should support countries to assess their potential blue carbon by providing technical guidance.

WWF invites Parties to join the Bonn Challenge Initiative to restore 150 million hectares of degraded habitats – with a strong focus on forests - by 2020, which is a collaborative approach to support the implementation of Target 15 in time.

At national level, Parties should integrate actions to mitigate climate change impacts and desertification into the national development strategic plans. New innovative strategies should be developed with concrete actions supported by substantial funding to restore degraded ecosystems.

Some useful WWF's publications for this target:

- The Living Forests Report. Chapter 3, Forests & Climate documents the link between forests, climate change, and ecosystem resilience. It lays out four future scenarios for stopping climate change and forest degradation. Link for the report:
http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/living_forests_chapter_3_1.pdf
- The report Blue Carbon – A new concept for reducing the impacts of climate change by conserving coastal ecosystems in the Coral Triangle, also includes useful information. Link to the report
http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_bluecarbon_report_coraltriangle.pdf



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