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Agenda item 26

ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group II

The Conference of the Parties,

Acknowledging with appreciation the support of the Executive Secretary, partner organizations, donors and host governments for organizing the subregional workshops on ecosystem conservation and restoration held in 2014 and 2015,

Reaffirming the need for enhanced support and cooperation to promote the ecosystem restoration efforts of developing countries towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

Recalling decisions IX/5, IX/18, X/31, XI/16, and XI/24,

1. *Notes*, in the context of the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, the contribution of ecosystem conservation and restoration, and related ecosystem functions and services, to sustainable development and poverty eradication;
2. *Recognizes* the contribution of private protected areas, in addition to public and indigenous and local community conserved areas, in the conservation of biodiversity, and *encourages* the private sector to continue its efforts to protect and sustainably manage ecosystems for the conservation of biodiversity;
3. *Notes with concern* that, according to the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, not enough progress has been made towards most elements of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 14 and 15;
4. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant organizations:
 - (a) Taking into account the ecosystem approach, to develop spatial planning approaches at the landscape and seascape level, to help to reduce habitat loss and to promote restoration;
 - (b) To promote, where appropriate, holistic and integrated planning for ecosystem conservation and restoration in indigenous and local community conserved areas, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, taking into account customary use and management approaches;
 - (c) To promote cross-sectoral approaches, including with the public sector, private sector and civil society, to develop a coherent framework for ecosystem conservation and restoration;

(d) Taking into consideration that priority should be given, where possible, to avoiding or reducing ecosystem losses, to promote restoration activities, in particular large-scale restoration activities, noting also the cumulative benefits of small-scale restoration activities that collectively can contribute to biodiversity conservation, climate-change adaptation and mitigation, and reducing desertification, in the context of sustainable development;

(e) To provide appropriate incentives to promote, in line with national circumstances, sustainable management and best practices in the conservation and restoration of ecosystems at the national and subnational levels, in the public and private sectors;

(f) To provide support and incentives, in line with national circumstances, to indigenous and local communities in their efforts to conserve biodiversity in indigenous and local community conserved areas with a view to contributing to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 18;

(g) To develop and strengthen monitoring of ecosystem degradation and restoration, with a view to supporting adaptive management and reporting on progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity targets, in particular targets 5, 14 and 15;

(h) To give due attention to both native species and genetic diversity in conservation and restoration activities, while avoiding the introduction and preventing the spread of invasive alien species;

5. *Welcomes* the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative¹ developed by the Republic of Korea in cooperation with the Executive Secretary, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other partners as well as the Forest Landscape Restoration Mechanism of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to support ecosystem restoration activities under the Convention in line with decision XI/16 and other relevant decisions, and other relevant initiatives thereby contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Targets 5, 14 and 15;

6. *Emphasizing* the critical importance of coastal wetlands for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, in particular for migratory bird species, sustainable livelihoods, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, *invites* Parties to give due attention to the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, and, in this context, *welcomes* the work of the Ramsar Convention and initiatives that support the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, including options to build a “Caring for Coasts” Initiative, as part of a global movement to restore coastal wetlands;

7. *Reaffirming* the importance of public awareness of the role of protected areas and indigenous and local community conserved areas in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and other relevant targets, *proposes* to declare 27 February² as “World National Parks and Protected Areas Day”, and *invites* the United Nations General Assembly to consider declaring 27 February as “World National Parks and Protected Areas Day”;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consideration of the proposed thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration of the Intergovernmental Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and with a view to strengthening synergies and avoiding duplication of work, to share all relevant information and results with the Platform, to cooperate in the development of next steps, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting to be held prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

¹ See UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/19.

² The date that the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its seventh meeting adopted the programme of work on protected areas.