



CBD COP-12

ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

WWF Coordination on CBD, 04 September 2014

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
6 - 17 October 2014 - Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea

Agenda Item 26: Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration

WWF key messages

WWF welcomes the initiative of the Republic of Korea on forest and ecosystem restoration to support Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to achieve Aichi Targets 5, 11 and 15 in an integrated manner.

The global protected areas network is the most effective tool for delivering biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, providing both protection of critical sites and an existing management structure and capacity to ensure ecosystem services are efficiently delivered. WWF therefore welcomes the progress towards the achievement of Aichi Target 11 globally to increase protected area coverage of terrestrial and inland waters, as well as the continuing expansion of marine protected areas. However, much work remains to be done, especially on improving the management, enforcement and financing of protected areas.

WWF believes conservation of ecosystems can be best achieved through protected areas and should also be integrated with other spatial and management measures such as land-use and marine spatial planning, and national resource use policies.

WWF *calls on* COP-12 to urge Parties to:

- Expand the protection of areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of terrestrial and inland water protected areas, and coastal and marine protected areas, including particularly in coastal systems with high dependency of local livelihoods and importance for food security;
- Ensure that areas that meet the criteria for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) are being afforded appropriate conservation and management measures;
- Engage all relevant stakeholders in the process of designing, establishing and managing protected areas including indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector and civil society;
- Ensure existing protected areas are well managed and systematically assessed against achieving their targets.

- Ensure sufficient financing for protected area systems and develop sustainable financing plans.
- Develop climate adaptation plans and implement adaptation measures to build resilience of protected areas and support vulnerable indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Integrate protected areas networks into broader management frameworks including comprehensive land-use and marine spatial planning;
- Recognise that protection and restoration of ecosystems needs to be part of national development programmes to regain ecosystem services and as an economically viable source of income for indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Promote the understanding of the values of ecosystem goods and services, including the intrinsic values of biodiversity, and incorporate these values in policy planning and management decisions in line with the Aichi Target 2;
- Develop mechanisms that involve and encourage indigenous peoples and local communities to reduce degradation and promote conservation and restoration of ecosystems
- Build a robust and publicly available system to monitor degradation of ecosystems and guide future policies and actions;
- To promote public policies at national and subnational levels for land use planning and management, that promotes ecosystem conservation and restoration and/or to avoid ecosystem degradation, through financial incentives and other means according to Aichi targets.
- Identify and promote large-scale transnational restoration activities, and restore natural corridors to establish or re-establish connectivity for critical species and key habitats;
- Promote both species and genetic diversity while avoiding the introduction and spread of non-native, exotic and invasive species; and
- Promote a better linkage in ecological representativeness and good connectivity of "areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services" with UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Ramsar Sites and Biosphere Reserves, promoting the creation and development of transboundary protected areas and biological corridors.

WWF welcomes draft decision as set out in Document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Add.2 and calls on COP-12 to consider for inclusion the following proposed text changes in its final decisions.

New text proposed by WWF is in bold and underlined. Text that WWF recommends to delete is highlighted with ~~strike through~~.

Item 26. Ecosystem conservation and restoration

The following is taken from recommendation XVIII/11 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (Ecosystem conservation and restoration).

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions IX/5, 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 services, to sustainable development and poverty eradication;
2. *Recognizes* the contribution of private protected areas in the conservation of biodiversity, and *encourages* the private sector to continue its efforts to protect areas for the conservation of biodiversity;
3. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant organizations:

- (a) To develop comprehensive land-use **and marine spatial** planning approaches to help to reduce habitat loss **and degradation** and to **implement** ~~promote~~ restoration;
- (b) To promote cross-sectoral approaches, and cooperation including with the private sector and civil society, to develop a coherent framework for ecosystem conservation and restoration;
- (c) Taking into consideration that priority should be given, ~~where~~ **whenever** possible, to avoiding or reducing ecosystem losses, **to improve and consolidate ecologically representative networks of protected areas, especially where quality and coverage gaps are still significant;** to promote large-scale restoration activities that can contribute to biodiversity conservation, climate-change adaptation and mitigation, reducing desertification, and the conservation and sustainable use of aquatic resources and other ecosystem services in the context of sustainable development;
- (d) To support indigenous and local communities in their efforts to conserve biodiversity via mechanisms such as inter alia indigenous and local community conserved areas (ICCAs) **or tools like the Strategy for the Holistic Management of Indigenous Territories developed by the Amazon Basin Indigenous Peoples Coordinator (COICA) and others** with a view to contributing to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11, 13, 14, 16 and 18 **as well as the realization of the Article 7 of the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169), and Article 29 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;**
- (e) 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.
- (f) **To build a robust and publicly available system to monitor degradation of ecosystems and guide future policies and actions;**
- (g) **To promote public policies at national and sub-national levels for land use planning and management, that promotes ecosystem conservation and restoration and/or to avoid ecosystem degradation, through financial incentives and other means according to Aichi targets;**
- (h) **To ensure existing protected areas are well managed and systematically assessed against achieving their targets;**
- (i) **To ensure sufficient financing for protected area systems and develop sustainable financing plans; and**
- (j) **To develop climate adaptation plans and implement adaptation measures to build resilience of protected areas and support vulnerable local communities.**

4. Urges Parties, and invites other Governments and competent organizations to take urgent measures and develop long-term plans, that by 2015, that multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning (Target 10).

5. *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 a voiding duplication of work, to share all relevant information and results with the Platform, **particularly providing information on studies related to ecosystem values and restoration and to ensure access to available tools and guidance,** 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.

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