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POSITION PAPER
19 September 2012

**Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Eleventh meeting (COP11)**

Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012

Agenda Item 7: Article 8(j) and Related Provisions

Summary

WWF welcomes the outcomes of the Seventh Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Inter Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (the Working Group) as outlined in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/07.

WWF calls on COP 11 to support the recommendations of the Working Group and in particular to:

- Support documentation of the traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples relevant for conservation when any party is carrying out activities in traditional lands/territories.
- Support the development of community protocols, to ensure protection of traditional knowledge, in the context of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.
- Endorse the recommendation to develop a Plan of Action on customary sustainable use (Article 10(c)), as a new major component of the revised programme of work for Article 8(j) and related provisions.
- Encourage representation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making for all initiatives and programs related to the use, exploitation and protection of biodiversity in their traditional lands and/ or territories.
- Seek and secure the free, prior, informed consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples and local communities for any project or initiative to be conducted in their lands territories.
- Ensure that fair benefit-sharing mechanisms, that include recognition and respect of traditional knowledge and practices, are developed in relation to the use of traditional knowledge.
- Ensure that appropriate capacity building and educational opportunities and resources are allocated to strengthen innovation and resilience of indigenous peoples and local communities in the face of climate change.
- Ensure that adequate resources and mechanisms are in place to support the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention.
- Support the full and effective integration of Aichi Target 18 into the work of the convention and NBSAPs.

Background and Rationale

WWF believes that respect for traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of Indigenous peoples and local communities is an essential component of good governance of natural resources. Traditional knowledge is also a key component of maintaining sustainable conservation landscapes, developing better land and resource use plans, and supporting livelihood systems, especially for those people who possess customary rights to, directly manage, and greatly depend on natural resources for their livelihoods and cultures.

WWF believes that the protection and integration of traditional knowledge into the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can make an important and tangible contribution to the wellbeing and livelihood security of indigenous peoples and local communities as well as contributing to sustainable use and equitable development at national levels and to global biodiversity conservation.

WWF further believes that because *sui generis* systems are based on the recognition that traditional knowledge and related resources are the property of indigenous peoples and local communities they can provide safeguards against claims by third parties of intellectual property rights over traditional knowledge.

In 2007, WWF re-issued our *Statement of Principles on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation* to include new developments in international standards, align our conservation work with the UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples (2007) and reaffirm our commitment to respecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples in WWF's conservation work.

WWF is also signatory to the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (CIHR) that recognizes our responsibility and accountability concerning the social effects of conservation work and the importance of respecting and contributing to the fulfillment of human rights as they relate to conservation.

WWF is working in partnership with indigenous peoples in many regions of the world to develop and strengthen the rights and role of indigenous peoples and local communities in REDD+, green economies, biodiversity conservation, and governance of natural assets. Through this work WWF aims to increase social and economic benefits from conservation and ensure that these benefits accrue to the right beneficiaries including indigenous peoples and local communities whose practices, knowledge and services contribute to the sustainability of natural resources and landscapes.

WWF urges COP11 to support the suggested recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Inter Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/07), and in particular to ensure:

1. Support the documentation of traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples relevant to conservation when any party is carrying out land-use planning, surveys, assessments, and implementing projects in traditional lands/territories.
2. Support the development of community protocols in the context of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS to respect and recognize intellectual property rights appropriate to the shared and collective nature of these rights in traditional and indigenous communities.
3. Endorse the recommendation for the Plan of Action on customary sustainable use

(Article 10(c)), as a new major component of the revised programme of work for Article 8(j) and related provisions, including the development of appropriate indicators, with the consideration that the revised programme of work will contribute to sustainable land use planning at large scale as well as the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals in the post 2015 agenda.

4. The development of local *sui generis* systems for the protection, preservation and promotion of traditional knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, including through the development of community protocols (Recommendation 7/5).
5. Encourage representation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the decision-making for all initiatives and programs related to the use, exploitation and protection of biodiversity in their traditional lands and on which they depend on for their livelihoods.
6. Seek and secure the free, prior, informed consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples and local communities for any project or initiative to be conducted in their lands/territories.
7. Ensure that fair benefit-sharing mechanisms, that include recognition and respect of traditional knowledge and practices, are put in place in relation to the use of traditional knowledge by any project, including by REDD+ and PES schemes, and others.
8. Ensure that appropriate capacity building and educational opportunities and resources are allocated to strengthen innovation and resilience of indigenous peoples and local communities in the face of climate change as well as to promote sustainable development.
9. Ensure that adequate resources and mechanisms are in place to support the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention and in national implementation.
10. Encourage governments to secure appropriate technological measures to support information exchange, communication, collaboration and initiatives by indigenous peoples and local communities.
11. Support the full and effective integration of Target 18 into the work of the Convention and national implementation plans.

A full set of WWF position papers is available on www.panda.org/cop11

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Why we are here.

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and
to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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