

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

Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012

Agenda Item 13. 8: Biofuels and biodiversity

Summary

WWF **urges COP 11 to adopt** recommendation XVI/13 from document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/3 WWF and particularly to:

- *Call on Parties* to undertake continued monitoring of existing and new types of applications and new generations of biofuels in order to ensure that the negative impacts of biofuel production on biodiversity is minimised
- *Request* the Executive Secretary to compile and / or develop definitions, based on ongoing efforts, of key issues relating to biofuels for consideration such as "high biodiversity or conservation areas", "degraded lands" and "waste and by-products"
- *Re-iterate the invitation to Parties* to develop national inventories of areas of high biodiversity value, critical ecosystems and areas important to indigenous and local communities in order to identify areas inappropriate for biofuel feedstock production
- *Call* for relevant financial and technical support to be provided to implement mapping and zoning exercises related to national inventories
- *Invite the CBD Executive Secretary* to ensure the integration of issues related to biofuels into all relevant programmes of work of the convention and effective collaboration with other relevant conventions (including but not limited to the Ramsar Convention) so as to promote synergies and avoid duplication of work.

Specific text changes are outlined in the Annex to this position paper.

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Background and Rationale

Biofuels are likely to play an important role in the future energy mix. Certain sectors, such as aviation, shipping, long haul trucks and some high heat industrial applications are likely to use large volumes of bioenergy in the form of liquid or gaseous biofuels or solid biomass if we are to decarbonize our energy sector.

Next to the existing uses of biomass for food, feed and fibre, the growing deployment of bioenergy will have implications on agricultural and forest land. Achieving sustainability, preferably on a global scale and in all sectors, will require robust policy measures and the constructive involvement of the private sector.

In WWF's view, an approach combining regulatory frameworks and private standards, supported technically and financially by key consumer and producer countries, will ensure that the most important risks are avoided. WWF highlights that bioenergy developments are likely to have significant adverse land use, water and social impacts if developments are not steered towards sustainable pathways. The recently published WWF Living Forests Report: '*Forests and Energy*' highlighted that bioenergy is likely to drive deforestation, forest degradation and the expansion of fast growing tree plantations¹.

WWF believes that in order to ensure the sustainable development of biofuels governments should:

- *Ensure* support and incentives for credible, transparent land use planning processes and robust implementation of land use policies.
- *Link* national support schemes to the environmental and social performance of biofuels.
- *Ensure* government agencies and legislatures responsible for mandating biofuel production to incorporate biodiversity considerations in their rule-making.
- *Maintain* their efforts in developing and implementing robust policy frameworks aiming to maximize benefits and minimize environmental and social impacts.
- *Work* with relevant stakeholders to adequately address some of the concerns which have received less attention, most importantly - water implications of bioenergy developments.
- Develop definitions and inventories of "no-go areas" areas according to the High Conservation Value Area Framework in order to avoid biofuels developments with negative consequences and promote sustainable biofuels such as those from degraded, underused lands.
- *Build* and *provide* support and incentives for the ongoing, credible multi-stakeholder processes such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels or other credible commodity specific schemes.
- *Provide* financial and technical expertise for the implementation of the above measures.

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http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/forests/publications/living_forests_report/

Annex

Suggested text changes to SBSTTA 16 recommendation XVI/13 (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/3)

(Text that WWF feels is important is **in bold** and new text proposed by WWF is **in bold and underlined.**)

XVI/13. Biofuels and biodiversity

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommend that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

Recalling decision IX/2 and X/37, in which the Conference of the Parties decided, *inter alia*, to consider ways and means to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity, **and encourages continuing efforts in these regards including continued monitoring of existing new types of applications and new generations of biofuels;** [Rationale: In light of the rapid development of new technologies the precautionary approach requires such monitoring.];

Acknowledging concerns that deployment of biofuels technologies may result in increased demand for biomass and aggravate drivers of biodiversity loss, such as land-use change, introduction of invasive alien species, bearing in mind paragraph 6 of decision X/38 of the Conference of the Parties, and resource over-consumption,

Also acknowledging the potential for biofuels technologies to make a positive contribution to mitigating climate change, another of the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and generating additional income, especially in rural areas,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

Further recognizing that the consideration of the issues covered by decision X/37, paragraph 2, are important to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of many Parties, relevant organizations and initiatives in developing and applying tools and approaches to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of biofuels on biodiversity and impacts on biodiversity that affect positively or negatively related socio-economic conditions, including food and energy security, as well as the consideration of land tenure and resource rights, including water, and *encourages* continuing efforts in these regards;

2. *Invites* Parties:

(a) To consider relevant biofuels matters, when and if appropriate, when updating and implementing their national and subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other relevant policies;

(b) To consider the use of various relevant voluntary tools regarding the impact of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity, such as in strategic environment and socio-economic assessment and integrated land-use planning in accordance with national circumstances; and

(c) To recall the invitation to Parties, acknowledging different national conditions, other governments and relevant organizations in decision X/37, paragraph 7;

3. *Welcomes* the current work being undertaken regarding decision X/37, paragraph 7 and *encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue this work

4. *Invites* Parties, and other Governments, to make information on progress in responding to paragraphs 2 (a), (b) and (c), above, widely available, and *invites* Parties to also report on this in their fifth national reports where feasible;

4 bis Re-iterating the invitation to Parties according to COP Dec. X/37 to develop national inventories so as to identify areas of high biodiversity value, critical ecosystems and areas important to indigenous and local communities so as to assist policy makers in applying appropriate conservation measures and identifying areas deemed inappropriate for biofuel feedstock production requests Parties to report on progress, inter alia through the fifth national reports.

4 ter Requests the Parties to ensure that relevant financial and technical support is provided to implement mapping and zoning exercises related to national inventories; [Rationale: mapping and zoning efforts require resources that some of the producer countries might not have available.]

5. *Recognizing* that some incentive measures can be significant drivers of biofuels expansion, in certain circumstances, *invites* Parties and other Governments to evaluate these measures using the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in the context of the Convention's cross-cutting issue on incentive measures, taking into account national socio-economic conditions;

6. Also *recognizing* the rapidly developing technology associated with biofuels, *urges* Parties and other Governments to monitor these developments, and *recalls* decision IX/2, paragraph 3 (c) (i), which urged Parties and invited other Governments, *inter alia*, to apply the precautionary approach in accordance with the preamble of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

7. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Executive Secretary, on his work in response to decision X/37, submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/14), and *requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to compile information, *inter alia*, on gaps in available standards and methodologies identified in the work undertaken in paragraph 11 of decision X/37;

8. Takes note:

(a) Of gaps in our scientific knowledge of biofuels and in relevant tools and approaches, and remaining uncertainties, in particular the inherent difficulty of measuring and addressing indirect impacts of biofuels on biodiversity; and

(b) That many technical and scientific issues with biofuels are difficult to assess and that they are relevant to many programmes of work of the Convention, in particular the Ecosystem Approach, and that these may be addressed in a broader context;

9. ***Requests the Executive Secretary, as part of his ongoing work in regard to decision X/37, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, and considering ongoing work, to:***

(a) **Compile information on relevant definitions of relevant key terms (including 'degraded lands' and similar terminology; 'waste products'; 'high biodiversity or conservation value'; and 'critical ecosystems')** to enable Parties to implement decisions IX/2 and X/37, and to report on progress to a meeting of the

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Where definitions are contradictory or do not exist, develop definitions, inter alia by an electronic consultation of Parties, other governments and relevant organisations, mindful of the three objectives of the Convention

(c) Ensure the integration of issues related to biofuels into all relevant programmes of work of the convention and effective collaboration with other relevant conventions (including but not limited to the Ramsar Convention) so as to promote synergies and avoid duplication of work.

10. *Decides* to review progress on the implementation of decisions IX/2 and X/37 at its twelfth meeting.

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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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