

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

Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012

Agenda Item 12: Biodiversity and development

Summary

WWF urges COP11 to support the recommendation of Working Group on Review of Implementation as outlined in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/33, and in particular to “endorse” the Dehradun Recommendations.

As a matter of urgency WWF urges COP11 to call on the processes and institutions that are currently developing the post-2015 Framework (the Millennium Development Goals beyond 2015) and the Sustainable Development Goals to integrate and build on the Aichi Targets in their work.

In accordance with the Dehradun Recommendations, **WWF urges Parties international agencies and organizations to:**

- *integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes, including within development cooperation strategies, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and multilateral and bilateral country assistance strategies.*
- *identify and promote conservation and/or development policies, activities, projects and mechanisms which empower women, indigenous and local communities and the poor, marginalized and vulnerable, who depend directly on biodiversity and ecosystem services for their livelihoods.*

Suggested text changes to the recommendation are outlined in the Annex.

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

Rationale

Many biologically rich and threatened places around the world are also home to some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. In these areas, the poor are often the stewards of globally important biodiversity and key actors in sustaining the capacity of these resources to provide critical environmental services. WWF believes that maintaining the richness of these natural environments and sustaining conservation successes can only be achieved through addressing the poverty in these places. From decades of work around the world, WWF has learned that lasting success in conservation and natural resource management is only possible when it is sustained by, and benefits, local people.

WWF also recognizes that conserving and managing natural resources is essential in the fight against poverty and that conservation will only be successful in the long term if it addresses the development needs and aspirations of local communities.

In many instances, particularly where poverty levels are high and people are heavily dependent on natural resources for their wellbeing, WWF will take a pro-active position, embracing a pro-poor approach to conservation, and making special efforts to enable local people to play a key part in crafting solutions for sustainable development.

WWF welcomes the initiative of the CBD to integrate biodiversity into poverty eradication and development and commends the work of the first meeting of the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development, held in Dehradun, India, from 12 to 15 December 2011.

As the Dehradun Recommendations recognize, all three objectives of the Convention as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets have the potential to significantly contribute to addressing specific dimensions of poverty such as lack of income, lack of participation in decision making, lack of access to education and lack of access to capacity building initiatives. WWF welcomes the recognition of clear linkages between gender equity, poverty alleviation and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Recommendations.

WWF welcomes the Working Group on Review of Implementation recommendation as outlined in **UNEP/CBD/COP/11/33** and encourages:

- 'all partners and stakeholders involved in biodiversity related programmes to protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices (paragraph 5)
- 'Parties and relevant stakeholders to make available through the clearing house mechanisms best practices on integrating biodiversity into poverty eradication and development (paragraph 7)

WWF welcomes the Dehradun Recommendations especially the request that Parties international agencies and organizations:

- *integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes, including within development cooperation strategies, including United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and multilateral and bilateral country assistance strategies (paragraph 1)*
- *identify and promote conservation and/or development policies, activities, projects and mechanisms which empower women, indigenous and local communities and the poor, marginalized and vulnerable, who depend directly on biodiversity and ecosystem services for their livelihoods (paragraph 8)*

Annex

Suggested text changes to recommendation (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/33)

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

The Working Group recommended that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Calls upon* Parties and encourages all partners and stakeholders involved in biodiversity and development processes and programmes to take into account the executive summary of *The Root Causes of, and Inter-linkages between, Biodiversity Loss and Poverty* (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/5, annex II) and *The Proceedings from the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development and the Expert Group Analysis of the Root Causes of, and Interlinkages between, Biodiversity Loss and Poverty* (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/11) in their related plans, policies and actions and in implementation of related programmes;²
2. ~~*Takes note of*~~ **Endorses** the “Dehradun Recommendations” taking into account the submissions by Parties, discussions at the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation and the Rio+20 outcomes;
3. *Decides* that the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development continues its work and submits a report before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of funding, to move towards a road map for the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
4. *Encourages* all partners and stakeholders involved in biodiversity-related programmes to consider different perspectives and priorities in all biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation processes;
5. **Encourages all partners and stakeholders involved in biodiversity-related programmes in the context of poverty eradication and development to protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements;**
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to transmit a report on the progress of the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development for consideration at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
7. **Invites Parties, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant organizations to make available through the clearing-house mechanism, as appropriate, best practices on integrating biodiversity into poverty eradication and development.**

7 bis Noting the ongoing processes to develop global development goals including the post-2015 Framework (the Millennium Development Goals beyond 2015) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including the post-2015 National and Thematic Consultations led by UNDP and the Open Working Group on SDGs set up by the UN General Assembly and the urgency of integrating biodiversity and the Aichi targets into these processes.

7 ter Requests the Executive Secretary to write to UNDP and the UN General Assembly to:

(a) highlight the importance of biodiversity to development and to request that they integrate and build on the Aichi Targets the development of the SDGs and post-2015 Framework.

(b) request that they engage CBD Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development in the development of the SDGs and post-2015 Framework

7 quater Requests the Executive Secretary to engage in Thematic Consultations led by UNDP and the Open Working Group on SDGs, to communicate the ways and means for CBD national Focal Points to engage in these processes at national, regional and global level, to monitor the integration of biodiversity and the Aichi targets in these processes and report on progress to the next session of the Working Group on Review of Implementation.

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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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