

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

Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012

***Agenda Item 8: Island Biodiversity: in-depth review of the
implementation of the programme work.***

Summary

WWF commends the work of Parties and support provided by the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA) in implementing the programme of work on island biodiversity (PoWIB).

WWF urges COP11 to support the suggested recommendation XI/3 of SBSTTA 16 (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/3), in particular to urge Parties to:

- Promote and support island “Challenges” and other large-scale island initiatives
- Develop and strengthen regional and local collaboration to address invasive species issues within and across jurisdictions
- Develop innovative financial arrangements supplementary to Article 21 of the Convention to support long-term implementation of the program of work on island biodiversity
- Engage in public-private partnerships and participatory approaches to sustainably manage natural resources
- Ensure continued focus on all six priority areas for implementing the PoWIB as identified by decision IX/21

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

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

Background and Rationale

WWF recognizes the importance of the CBD PoWIB which has stimulated island leadership and action to protect, manage and sustainably use the unique, diverse and threatened natural resources found on islands.

WWF congratulates Island Parties and Parties with islands on their progress in implementing the PoWIB and especially *welcomes* the continued strong commitment and progress achieved under the voluntary regional and multi-country island “challenges” and initiatives.

WWF acknowledges the important role of the Global Islands Partnership as a mechanism for implementation of the CBD.

WWF welcomes the work of the CBD Secretariat in preparing the in-depth review of the PoWIB and supports the SBSTTA 16 recommendations for COP 11 in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/3, in particular:

- promoting support for island “Challenges” and other large-scale island initiatives
- strengthening governance and collaboration across countries and sectors to address invasive species and climate change impacts
- promoting mechanisms to strengthen local capacity
- investing in innovative and sustainable funding mechanisms
- engaging in public-private partnerships and participatory approaches to sustainably manage natural resources

While there has been progress in the six priority areas for implementing the PoWIB as identified by decision IX/21, WWF believes that more effort is required across all priorities if the PoW goals are to be achieved. And while invasive alien species and climate change are among the most important drivers of biodiversity loss on islands, there are many other urgent drivers and issues that need to be addressed. Therefore WWF believes that Parties should continue to focus on all six priority areas as identified by decision IX/21.

The review of PoWPIB implementation identified lack of legislation and/or *enforcement is an obstacle in 82% of the Parties*. WWF therefore urges COP to call on governments to strengthen efforts to put in place and enforce legislation and request the Executive Secretary to provide capacity building support for governments for monitoring of compliance and enforcement of existing laws and the development of new legislation.

While WWF supports The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study as a very useful tool for promoting understanding of the value of biodiversity among all sectors of government, business and the general public we are concerned that it may promote a focus only on economic rather than the many other non-economic values of biodiversity. Therefore WWF encourages the promotion of ‘valuation tools’ rather than only ‘economic valuation tools’ to support decision-making.

WWF also believes that identifying the linkages between the Aichi targets and the PoWIB support from the CBD Secretariat can support implementation of both sets of targets.

Annex

Suggested text changes to SBSTTA 16 recommendation XVI/3 (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/3. Island biodiversity: in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. Welcomes the proposed initiative of island States and those Parties managing islands for research and conservation to organize an island summit in the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to highlight island leadership, progress and new commitments in implementing the programme of work on island biodiversity.

2. Recommend that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

“The Conference of the Parties

Alarmed by the continued and ongoing loss of island biodiversity and the irreversible impacts of this loss for island peoples and the world, and *acknowledging* that 80 per cent of species extinctions have occurred on islands and that more than 40 per cent of vertebrates currently threatened with extinction are island species,⁵

Acknowledging progress made in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans by Small Island developing States and least developed countries with islands and the support for this process provided by the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility enabling activity project.

Noting that additional efforts and support are needed in order to fully engage relevant sectors of government and society, in particular indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations, for implementing and mainstreaming the programme of work on island biodiversity across all these sectors with a view to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity targets of the Strategic plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Aware that invasive alien species and climate change, and unsustainable development including unsustainable tourism are among the major drivers of biodiversity loss on islands with complex linkages that are best addressed by collaborative and integrated action with other sectors,

Also aware that biodiversity loss is not restricted to islands with human populations, but is also of major concern in many uninhabited or seasonally inhabited islands,

Also aware that sustainable management of marine, freshwater and terrestrial resources in islands is critically important to food security, climate change adaptation, public health and livelihoods,

Respecting the traditional/cultural knowledge, skills and management measures that have helped island populations use and manage their environment and resources over many centuries, and, in that context, recognizing that the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and

the Fair and equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization provides an important instrument to ensure that islands benefit from the use of their genetic resources.

⁵http://www.issg.org/pdf/publications/Island_Invasives/pdfHQprint/1Keitt.pdf.

Appreciating the continued strong commitment and progress archived by Parties and their partners committed to voluntary island "challenges", especially the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge initiative, the Coral Triangle Initiative and the Phoenix Island Protected Area, which in turn inspired the development of the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge and the Far West Africa Challenge, and the development of the Charter on the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological Diversity on European Islands⁶ under the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitat and recognizing the value of high-level events and summits under these initiatives to galvanize political will and new funding arrangements and partnerships,

Recognizing the significant progress on sustainable financing mechanisms developed in island regions for climate change and biodiversity, including: the Micronesia Conservation Trust; the Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund in Papua New Guinea; the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund; the European Parliament's Preparatory Action for a Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST); and emerging "debt for adaptation to climate change" swaps in islands,

Taking note with appreciation the activities of the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) as a mechanism for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and a partnership under the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development,

Reiterating the need for increased international and national support for islands, in particular small island developing States, to implement the programme of work and strengthen local capacity by providing new and additional financial resources and incentives,

1. *Urges* Parties, and invite other Governments, financial institutions and other relevant organizations to strengthen the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity and to build on successful island approaches by:

(a) Promoting and supporting high-level regional commitments, such as the island challenges referred to above and other large-scale efforts that have demonstrated success in rapidly increasing marine protected areas and other Aichi biodiversity Targets relevant to the programme of work on island biodiversity;

(b) Adapting and expanding proven, cost-effective mechanisms to strengthen local capacity, particularly peer-learning networks, learning exchanges, transfer of technologies, sharing of lessons learned and best practices, communication and information exchange tools, targeted technical assistance, formal training and education;

(c) Consider developing innovative financial arrangements supplementary to Article 21 of the Convention to support long-term implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity, including trust funds, debt for adaptation to climate change swaps, payments for ecosystem services, and fees on tourism or natural resource use dedicated to effective conservation;

(d) Maintaining and supporting key databases and information portals such as the Global Islands Database, the Threatened Island biodiversity Database, the Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications, the Global Invasive Species Database, the Island Biodiversity and

Invasive Species database, and SIDSNet1 to enable effective invasive species monitoring and eradication prioritization on islands, as valuable tools in support of the implementation of the programme of work;

2. *Calls on Parties* to continue to focus international attention and action on the six priorities included in decision IX/21 as they affect livelihood and island economies: the management and eradication of invasive alien species, climate-change adaptation and mitigation activities, establishment and management of marine protected areas, capacity-building, access to, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and poverty alleviation, with particular attention to:

(a) Developing and strengthening regional and local collaboration to manage invasive alien species within and across jurisdictions, including the diversity of successful approaches to prevention, control and eradication where feasible, and to adopt a biosecurity approach that addresses the full range of invasive threats; and

(b) Mainstreaming ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, ecosystem restoration and invasive species management for human health and well-being into all island development and conservation plans and projects and build capacity in their application;

3. *Also calls on Parties to :*

(a) Accord priority to the management of terrestrial protected areas, including inland waters;

(b) Enhance regional and international cooperation with a view to addressing transboundary pollution that has significant impacts on island ecosystems, including through mitigating discharges from land-based sources, particularly areas with excess nutrient inputs;

(c) Support subnational implementation of the Convention in islands, by engaging subnational and local authorities through the Plan of Action for Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, adopted in decision X/722, and as informed by the assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity (the “Cities and biodiversity Outlook);

4. *Encourages Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to enter into partnership across sectors to:*

(a) Develop and disseminate appropriate tools and processes to apply finding of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study and other valuation tools to support decision-making at island level;

(b) Use the opportunity of revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans to further mainstream biodiversity conservation with other key sectors (e.g., mining, agriculture, fisheries, health, energy, tourism, integrated marine/coastal management, education and development), **as well as to effectively integrate climate change into NBSAPs,** and to determine specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound national targets, and related indicators, in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, at the island level and within the context of domestic priorities;

(c) Coordinate these efforts with the process led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) to assess implementation of the Barbados Program

⁶ Respectively <http://gid.unep-wcmc.org/> and <http://www.sidsnet.org/>

- (d) me of Action and its associated Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;
- (e) **Engage** ~~Explore possibilities of engaging~~ national and local leadership in public-private partnerships **committed to and encourage participatory approaches** for the sustainable management of natural resources, **especially restoring fishery stocks to sustainable levels;**

4 bis Encourages Parties to adopt adequate legislation to address conservation issues on islands territory as well as measures to enforce it

5. *Invites* Parties to recognize and support the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) as an effective partner to support implementation of the programme of work;

6. *Takes note* of the “ Small Islands, Big Difference” campaign coordinated by Island conservation on invasive alien species launched at the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body and *invites* Parties, other Government and relevant organization to engage with the campaign;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to cooperate with international and regional organizations as well as relevant convention secretariats with a view to promoting coherent and harmonized national information systems related to the reporting needs of the biodiversity-related conventions, and for joint reporting as appropriate for small island developing States and least developed countries with islands;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funding, to enable regional and global technical support networks to help the ongoing review, updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in small island developing States and least developed countries with islands, in particular for developing national targets and for mainstreaming national biodiversity strategies and action plans into broader national plans, programmes and policies to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

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