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WWF's recommendations for the Global Public Goods and Challenges programme

WWF welcomes the European Commission's proposal for a Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) programme in the new Development Cooperation Instrument and its strong focus on tackling environmental and climate challenges. This programme should help Europe to engage internationally and proactively in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss not only to deliver on its international commitments but also to boost efforts for the implementation of key multilateral environmental agreements. We believe that the GPGC will be a valuable tool to tackle major global challenges through the proposed cross-cutting, multi-stakeholder and global approaches. It is also a potentially important vehicle to pursue environmental and development objectives in an integrated way in a new post 2015 development framework.

OVERALL STRATEGY

WWF supports the European Commission's ambition that at least 50% of the funds will serve for environment-related and climate objectives. The GPGC programme should aim to achieve sustainable development, thus reflecting the importance of a healthy environment, sustainable management and equitable access to natural resources for long term poverty reduction. It should be designed to support the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and be fit to deliver on the post-2015 framework.

The GPGC programme should support a future in which human activities are adequately managed across sectors to reduce competition and conflict over natural resources. Good governance, multistakeholder involvement and integrated approaches are essential to achieve this objective. In this respect WWF strongly supports the adoption of holistic approaches addressing the interconnection between sectors and threats. The Commission's proposal to develop flagship programmes seems to reflect such approaches.

The GPGC programme should contribute to:

- Enabling the development of appropriate policy frameworks and governance systems for sustainable development.
- Making better choices to move towards green and equitable economies.
- Delivering on international commitments on biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, desertification.
- Addressing environment, development and human rights challenges in an integrated way in a post 2015 global framework

KEY PRINCIPLES

We emphasise the **overarching principle** to use the GPGC programme to complement national and regional geographic programmes and not to replace funding for these critical sustainable development issues at national level, in particular where they are identified as priorities by governments and CSOs in the partner countries. The GPGC programme should be a complementary tool to address multi-country and cross-regional approaches, to tackle diverse drivers of environmental degradation, encourage south-south cooperation and to share approaches from different regions and stakeholders. The GPGC should have a broad geographic scope in order to tackle threats and drivers in an integrated manner.

In addition:

- The participation of civil society actors in political dialogue, programming, implementation and monitoring at country, regional, global and European levels should be valued and strengthened.
- We encourage the EC to ensure coordination with other EU donors and invest in mechanisms and organisations which maximize the EC's global reach and presence.
- We encourage the EC to build synergies between different projects, as well as the lesson sharing and learning. The programming process should be based on a proper assessment and on lessons learnt from past experience, and monitoring and evaluation. The Switch Asia facility and the GCCA programme, have been very valuable in that respect and such programmes should be continued within the GPGC programme.
- The GPGC programme is in an excellent position to make a real difference by using north-south, south-south and global networks to bring together ideas and work in different ways. It can be shaped by a multiplicity of actors working at local to global/global to local.

KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

WWF invites the European Commission to take note of the following global environmental challenges in its GPGC programme. All of these issues are directly related to global and national development objectives and long term poverty reduction and wellbeing. The issues and approaches described below could also be considered for other planned EC programmes such as the Partnership Instrument, the Pan-African programme and regional programmes.

Key areas of work for the GPGC:

- ✓ Protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- ✓ Integrated management of fisheries, coastal and marine resources
- ✓ Integrated Water Resources Management
- ✓ Sustainable agriculture through healthy ecosystems
- ✓ Land-use planning
- ✓ Law enforcement and Trade
- ✓ Sustainable energy
- ✓ Climate adaptation and mitigation
- ✓ Responsible extractive industries
- ✓ Green economies

Promotion of biodiversity and ecosystem services

We believe that investment in biodiversity and healthy ecosystems underpins many other sectoral development issues including climate resilience, food security and sustainable agriculture.

The GPGC can be used to increase resilience to crises including food crises and natural disaster crisis through the maintenance or restoration of ecosystem services and through promotion of sustainable management of natural resources. These in turn provide multiple benefits such as contributing to availability of food and clean water, climate regulation and climate adaptation options, disaster risk reduction, health and recreational benefits and options for green economic development. Maintenance of ecosystem services is one of the benefits of protected areas and therefore support for strong protected area networks is one of the ways in which the EU can contribute to global biodiversity targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Integrated management of fisheries, coastal and marine resources and ocean governance

Oceans deliver many different services and benefits: regulators of weather and climate systems, providers of nutrients on which many different species depend, local and global fisheries, cultural and recreational asset. Integrated management of fisheries and marine ecosystems is needed to ensure the sustainability of our oceans and good governance implies the involvement of all sectors such as fisheries sector, maritime transport, coastal infrastructure and mining.

The EU should continue developing and actively promoting best practices inside and outside EU, in the different fora where the EU is a member (e.g. UNCLOS and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations) towards sustainable use of marine resources, the conservation and restoration of fish stocks and conservation of the marine environment. The GPGC programme could provide one mechanism to support and promote examples of good governance and the links with food security and biodiversity conservation.

Integrated Water Resources Management

Access to clean water and a healthy environment are the basis for sustainable livelihoods and food security but water stress and water scarcity are increasing problems in many regions, on top of other demands for water resources for industry, intensive agriculture and multiple hydropower schemes. For example the floodplains of the Mekong River, support rice cultivation and fisheries – the staple diet of the majority of Cambodians. However, the supply of fish for consumption is particularly vulnerable to hydropower developments along the transboundary river because the extensive floodplains are largely dependent on upstream flows for their productivity. To replace the lost animal protein through alternative livestock production, Cambodia would need between 3,751 and 8,317 km² of additional pastureland.

Improved governance in the water sector will lead to a more equitable share of water resources including for domestic use, micro-hydro and small scale agriculture. The GPGC programme should encourage Integrated Water Resources Management through multistakeholder and, importantly, through transboundary approaches. It should seek to allow the equitable allocation of water between all users in order to prevent or mitigate conflicts. Many donors are neglecting governance and transboundary issues in their support for the water sector whereas the EC is currently the single largest multilateral supporter of transboundary water management in Africa and is thus already filling an important gap.

GPGC support for integrated water resources management should include water stewardship by the private sector in order to reduce its water footprint, particularly in the agriculture and energy sectors.

Sustainable agriculture through healthy and productive ecosystems

The Agenda for Change gives priority to sustainable agriculture as one of the focal sectors. WWF believes that sustainable management of natural resources and maintenance of ecosystem health are foundation stones to ensure food security, long term agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods. EU development cooperation should support an ecosystem based, low carbon and climate resilient agriculture to ensure sustainability and thus support livelihoods as the food and provisions needed for fast growing urban populations.

In this context, the GPGC could also include efforts towards supporting measures to prevent land degradation – thus contributing to commitments under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, to the agreed outcomes of Rio+20 and to improved resilience to climate and disasters. At present, 12 million hectares of land are affected by desertification and drought every year, 1.5 billion people are directly impacted and 75 billion tons of soil are lost forever. These 12 million hectares have the potential to produce 20 million tons of grain.

Land-use planning

Effective zoning and land-use planning is the cornerstone of successful strategies to reduce environmental damage from human activities as well as to maximize opportunities for “green” economic development. For example, currently in the countries of the Congo Basin, there is a lack of coherence in the laws and policies governing natural resource exploitation and management. New mining licences overlap with networks of protected areas and concessions for sustainable forest management and there is no overview of how the different layers overlap each other or existing land use practices, paving the way for competing land use claim and conflict. Planning should include protecting areas of high biodiversity, indigenous territories and areas that are important for the maintenance of ecosystem functions while identifying areas most appropriate for infrastructure development, housing, agriculture, logging, energy production, mineral extraction and mining. Land-use planning should be done in a transparent manner, ensuring local and multistakeholder participation, incorporating a legislative framework of land tenure and guaranteeing certain environmental and social safeguards.

Law enforcement and trade

The GPGC programme could support good governance and law enforcement in natural resources and biodiversity. This might involve supporting governments, institutions and jurisdictions in charge of implementation as well as supporting the development of national, regional and global environmental laws and regulation. Critically it also implies supporting civil society organisations and networks in monitoring the implementation of policies and laws and holding their governments to account.

In particular, the EU has a role to play in fighting against illegal trade, against illegal, underreported and unregulated fishing and promoting sustainable trade for commodities for EU consumers and markets. The EU should continue its support to the implementation of Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade and could consider extending the concept to other commodities – for example fisheries and seafood.

There is growing recognition of the economic, security and development impacts of wildlife trafficking as a serious transnational organised crime, the fourth biggest after narcotics, counterfeiting and human trafficking. In fact the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has recently taken the issue to a special session of the UN Security Council¹: “Poaching and its potential linkages to other criminal, even terrorist activities constitute a grave menace to sustainable peace and security”. The world is dealing with an unprecedented spike in illegal wildlife trade estimated at nearly 20 billion Euros per year, causing economic loss to countries and communities as well as threatening to overturn decades of conservation gains.

Sustainable energy

With nearly 3 billion people globally lacking access to clean, safe and reliable energy, the accent on sustainable energy in the GPGC programme is particularly welcome. Access to energy will facilitate other development objectives, for instance in education, health and jobs. Although sustainable energy is identified as one of the focal sectors for EU development cooperation in Agenda for Change, the definition of “sustainable” is left unanswered. In our view, the EU should support measures to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy technologies, access to sustainable energy for all and the promotion of energy efficiency. This implies support for the creation of a conducive and enabling framework for renewable energy and access to energy - for instance, education, information, appropriate institutional architecture, policy and financial frameworks and systems of accountability. The GPGC programme could in particular be used for supporting the development of energy vision at regional and cross-border level. In the field of energy access, the support to decentralized solutions is particularly important for ensuring access of poorest and most remote populations.

Climate adaptation and mitigation

The GPGC is an opportunity to build upon the successes and experience of the Global Climate Change Alliance, promoting models of nationally and locally appropriate adaptation plans and ways to work across borders and between countries to address climate impacts. In particular, future climate action programmes in the GPGC could encourage the sharing and upscaling of CSO experience in integrating community and ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation.

¹ Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and on the Lord's Resistance Army affected areas

Responsible extractive industries

Striking a balance between development needs, conserving natural resources and avoiding environmental degradation is a major challenge. Mining can have a very negative impact on the environment, including on the marine environment, which have to be weighed against the short to medium term economic gains. Initiatives like the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative are one part of the solution but there are other steps that can be explored, with stakeholders, to improve the governance of extractive industries and reduce the negative impacts on communities and the environment. The EU should monitor responsible mining practices especially from EU companies in developing countries, should look at the links between impacts and resource demand and consumption in the EU, seek to support governments in improved strategic environmental assessment practice, the establishment of legally-based environmental and social standards for foreign direct investment and support to civil society organisations to hold both private sector and governments accountable.

Green economies

In order to move towards greener economies the EU should support greening practices for businesses and consumers. The Switch Asia programme has proven to be successful to accompany SMEs and larger private sector players in greening their practices. The EC should consider the extension of this programme to other continents building on successful models to date. Influencing market transformation means working both with suppliers and consumers, including public procurement agencies and encouraging the adoption of sector wide certification schemes for commodities and natural resources.

Furthermore the GPGC could also support the work at policy level to develop green economy development path ways in developing countries where they are identified and developed in a multistakeholder way. For example the EC could work with the AU, NEPAD and the African Ministerial Conference of Environment Ministers (AMCEN) where the development and implementation of regional green economy plans has been identified as a practical follow up to Rio+20.

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