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WWF Main Asks at CBD COP 10

Position Paper

10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 10),

18 – 29 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan

CBD Parties must fully take advantage of 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity

2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, offers a once in a decade opportunity to strengthen the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) work on achieving its three objectives.

While 2010 will not be the year that biodiversity loss was halted, it needs to be the year in which governments get real about biodiversity and the real benefits it delivers to the wellbeing of people, society and the economy. Natural habitats and species underpin the global economy and support billions of people who rely on forests, fisheries and wetlands for their livelihoods.

COP 10 will be a crucial meeting for the CBD. If Parties adopt a Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, an ambitious Strategic Plan up to 2020 and a robust Resource Mobilization Strategy, then the Convention will be strengthened as the international instrument to tackle biodiversity loss over the coming decade.

WWF calls on Parties secure the following outcomes at COP 10:

- 1 a new Strategic Plan with a mission to halt biodiversity loss** by 2020 and an **ambitious set of goals and targets for the next decade** which will focus on reducing key threats to biodiversity loss, increasing sustainable use practices, enhancing benefit sharing implementation, integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into key sectors, and building adequate capacity for its implementation.
- 2 a Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)** that ensures the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- 3 an ambitious Resource Mobilization Strategy** to increase financing for biodiversity by developing innovative financing mechanisms, establishing clear targets and mechanisms for funding from governments, and eliminating harmful subsidies.
- 4 strengthened thematic programmes of work** on protected areas and marine and coastal biological diversity.
- 5 a Joint Programme of Work on Biodiversity and Climate Change** which will improve linkages and explore co-benefits between the CBD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), set governance principles, and ensure biodiversity is not adversely affected by initiatives to mitigate and adapt to climate change under the UNFCCC.

WWF's Main Asks at COP 10:

1. COP 10 adopts a new Strategic Plan with SMART targets for the period 2011 to 2020.

WWF calls on Parties to adopt a Strategic Plan with ambitious targets for 2020 that are supported by a robust set of indicators and milestones.

WWF urges Parties to ensure the following Mission and Targets are included in the Strategic Plan:

Mission: By 2020, biodiversity loss is halted, ecosystem services and biodiversity are restored and their benefits are fully integrated into all aspects of development. Humanity's ecological footprint falls below its 2000 level.

Targets: By 2020,

- **Natural capital accounting is in use by all governments (ref to CBD Target 2)**
Natural capital accounting is an essential step in mainstreaming biodiversity into national budgeting. This provides a baseline on which to measure gains and loss to the national economy, data to inform decision makers, and a basis for appropriate indicators (see [TEEB for Policy Makers Report Chapter 2](#)).
- **Zero Net Deforestation and forest Degradation (ZNDD) is achieved (ref to CBD Target 5):**
At COP 9, 67 ministers signed WWF's petition for achieving Zero Net Deforestation by 2020; however, deforestation and forest degradation continues at an alarming rate – 13 million hectares (or 36 football fields a minute) are lost per year. Deforestation and degradation of forests, particularly in the tropics, have dire consequences for the global climate, biodiversity and people.
- **Loss and degradation of natural habitats is halted (ref. to CBD Target 5):**
Habitat loss is the most important factor driving biodiversity loss. While uncontrolled demographic, economic and social pressures leads to unsustainable land use change the conversion or degradation of natural habitats must be halted. Emphasis should be on preventing primary forests and other high-biodiversity value habitat loss.
- **Over-abstraction of water and fragmentation of freshwater systems is halted (ref. to CBD Target 5):**
Freshwater ecosystems are crucial, yet poorly protected and highly sensitive to fragmentation. The rate of habitat decline or loss has more than quadrupled over the last 10 years, while drivers of freshwater biodiversity loss and decline are escalating. Biodiversity loss in inland waters is the fastest among biomes.
- **Biodiversity harmful subsidies are eliminated (ref to CBD Target 3):**
Subsidies harmful to biodiversity are one of the most important drivers of biodiversity loss. Taking into account the findings of the [TEEB for Policy Makers Report](#), fishery, agriculture and energy subsidy reforms are the most urgent.



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- **Humanity's global Ecological Footprint falls below its 2000 level (ref. to CBD Target 4):**
The over consumption of natural resources by developed countries is the major underlying cause of biodiversity loss. To reduce the pressure on biodiversity, it is important that the Ecological Footprint is significantly reduced, primarily through a focus on the provision of energy and food. Progress on reducing the Ecological Footprint should be reported on by CBD.
- **Overfishing and destructive fishing practices are eliminated (ref to CBD Target 6):**
Overexploitation of marine fisheries globally is one of the main pressures on marine biodiversity and ecosystems. WWF demands the elimination of overfishing by commercial fleets, including the indiscriminate capture of non-target organisms.
- **Representative Protected Areas covering at least 20% of land, coast and high seas areas respectively (ref to CBD Target 11):**
The current CBD target of 10% protection for each ecological region has only been achieved in approximately 55% of all terrestrial ecoregions. Some 13% of terrestrial areas and 5% of coastal areas are protected, while very little (approximately 1%) of the open oceans is protected. Governments need to accelerate their efforts to meet the current 10% target in all terrestrial and marine ecoregions. However, to better secure ecosystem services, protect biodiversity, and ensure resilience and adaptation to climate change, governments must now commit to a 20% target for 2020.

Particular emphasis is needed on the areas beyond national jurisdictions (ABNJ), especially as governments have agreed under the Programme of Work on Protected Areas that this should be accomplished by 2012.
- **CBD objectives are integrated into all relevant multi-lateral agreements.**
Biodiversity should be integrated into all relevant multi-lateral agreements to maximize the success in achieving the 2020 biodiversity targets of the Strategic Plan. Linking CBD objectives to other agreements can effectively contribute *inter alia* in tackling poverty alleviation, climate change, and trade implications.
- **Cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity is achieved**
While the Convention has promoted the integration of biodiversity into other sectors of government through the Ecosystem Approach – its “primary framework for implementation” as well as many specific decisions over the years, it has not been effective in cross-sectional integration. To better integrate biodiversity into other sectors appropriate efforts, such as “cross-sectoral cabinet committees” lead by heads of state, should be established to ensure effective coordination between government portfolios.

2. COP 10 adopts a Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

WWF calls on COP 10 to adopt a legally binding protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization. COP 9 mandated that an ABS regime was to be finalized at COP10.

A protocol is long overdue that recognizes the interests of the biodiversity-rich countries and ensures the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. It would benefit both providers and users of biodiversity and genetic resources, and supply additional funding for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.



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3. COP 10 adopts an ambitious Resource Mobilization Strategy

WWF calls on Parties to adopt a robust strategy for resource mobilization to effectively support the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The strategy must identify firm commitments from Parties to mobilize additional financial resources, both international and domestic, increase traditional funding (e.g. from governments and international development assistance) and develop new and innovative financing mechanisms. The role of new and innovative financial mechanisms should be to complement NOT to replace traditional funding sources.

4. COP 10 adopts strengthened thematic programmes of work

WWF calls on Parties to intensify their efforts to implement the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) over the next decade. A strengthened PoWPA must identify the central role of protected areas in economics and livelihoods by protecting key ecosystem services and supporting climate change mitigation, ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience to climate change.

By 2012, the identification of sites for a representative network of marine and coastal protected areas, including areas beyond national jurisdiction, must be completed.

5. COP 10 adopts a Joint Programme of Work on Biodiversity and Climate Change

WWF calls on Parties to develop a Joint Work Programme between CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD to foster linkages and explore co-benefits between the conventions, set governance principles, and ensure biodiversity is protected through safeguards in relation to a regime on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change.

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