



CBD COP-12

## BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

WWF Coordination on CBD, September 2014

TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
6 - 17 October 2014 - Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea

### AGENDA ITEM 25: BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

#### WWF key messages

WWF welcomes the draft decision as set out in UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Add.2. In particular, WWF calls on COP-12 to adopt the following recommendations in its final decision on this issue.

1. The IPCC report (AR5 2014) states that “most assessments of adaptation have been restricted to impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation planning, with very few assessing the processes of implementation or the effects of adaptation actions.” In order to promote best practices and lessons learned on ecosystem-based adaptation, WWF calls on COP-12 to *request* the Executive Secretary to compile documentation and information of biodiversity-related climate adaptation strategies that have been successfully implemented, and share this information among Parties to the CBD and UNFCCC (see Para 3 of the draft decision).
2. In order to maximize biodiversity related benefits of REDD+ activities WWF calls on COP 12 to *request* the Executive Secretary to compile an assessment how the guidance on non-carbon benefits and REDD+ monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) can best contribute to the objectives of the CBD (see Para 7 of the draft decision).
3. WWF also calls on COP-12 to request the Joint Liaison Group of the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD to develop guidance on the prevention of maladaptation that has adverse consequences on biodiversity conservation (see Para 8 amended).
4. Finally, WWF calls on removing brackets from paragraphs as indicated below in order to strengthen the link between climate change mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity conservation.

WWF welcomes the draft decision as set out in UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Add.2 and calls on COP-12 to consider for inclusion the following proposed text changes in its final decisions.

New text proposed by WWF is in bold and underlined. Text that WWF recommends to delete is highlighted with ~~strike through~~.

## **Item 25. Biodiversity and climate change**

---

*The following is taken from recommendation XVIII/10 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (Biodiversity and climate change), except for paragraph 5 which comprises paragraph 3 of the draft decision contained in WGRI recommendation 5/7.*

---

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Acknowledging* that while biodiversity and ecosystems are vulnerable to climate change, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and restoration of ecosystems play a significant role for climate change mitigation and adaptation, combating desertification and disaster risk reduction,

*Recalling* the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity, contained in the annex to decision VI/22, and in particular Programme Element 1, Goal 2, Objective 3, to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity,

*Also recalling* decisions IX/16, X/33, XI/19, XI/20 and XI/21,

1. *Takes note* of Resolution LP.4(8) on the amendment to the London Protocol (1996) to regulate the placement of matter for ocean fertilization and other marine geoengineering activities, adopted in October 2013, and invites Parties to the London Protocol to ratify this amendment and other governments to apply measures in line with this, as appropriate;

2. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments to integrate ecosystem-based approaches into their national policies and programmes related to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the context the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution A/Res/60/195 and its revised Framework to be adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to promote ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, taking advantage of opportunities presented by relevant processes and forums; **and to compile documentation and information of biodiversity-related climate adaptation strategies that have been successfully implemented, and share this information among Parties to the CBD and UNFCCC.**

4. {*Welcomes* the Warsaw Framework for REDD plus,<sup>1</sup> agreed at the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2013, and the methodological guidance on the implementation of REDD+ activities that it provides};

***WWF calls to remove the brackets in para 4, because the agreed methodological guidance is relevant to achieve biodiversity related benefits through REDD+.***

5. Concerned about the findings and conclusions of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its Fifth Assessment Report,<sup>2</sup> urges Parties and encourages other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, to take steps to address all biodiversity-related impacts of climate change, strengthen synergies with relevant work under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change {and apply advice agreed at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2012, on the application of social and

---

<sup>1</sup> REDD plus is used as a shorthand for “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”, consistent with paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The acronym REDD+ is used for convenience only, without any attempt to pre-empt ongoing or future negotiations under the UNFCCC.

<sup>2</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. (available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2>).

environmental safeguards, including biodiversity, to maximize the biodiversity-related benefits of their REDD+ activities;—[and invites Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to continue and strengthen their efforts to promote the contribution of REDD+<sup>3</sup> activities to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;]

*WWF calls to remove the brackets in para 5, because it's crucial that climate change and REDD+ activities contribute to CBD's objectives and that social and environmental safeguards are applied.*

6. [Encourages Parties and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to promote and implement ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction];

*WWF calls to remove the brackets in para 6, because ecosystem-based approaches will contribute to both approaches.*

7. [Requests the Executive Secretary:]

(a) [To develop advice including from pilot experiences, on how Parties can be best encouraged to maximize biodiversity related benefits of REDD+ activities, **in particular from REDD+ monitoring, reporting and valuation (MRV)**, and prepare a draft recommendation for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting prior to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties;]

(b) [To provide an assessment report on whether and, if so, what kind of additional guidance is requested by REDD+ as well as donor countries and organizations, and, depending on the outcome of the assessment, to prepare a draft recommendation for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a future meeting prior the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties;]

(c) [To promote non-market based approaches as an alternative mechanism to strengthen multiple components in forests and as a holistic strategy for sustainable use of biodiversity thereby contributing to the consolidation of joint mechanisms for climate change mitigation and adaptation.]

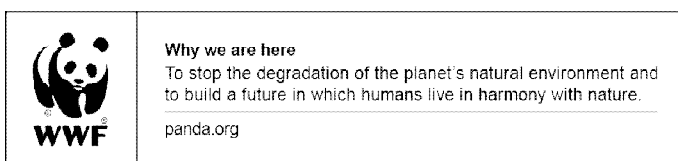
*WWF calls to remove the brackets in para 7, because more scientific evidence is needed to guide REDD+ activities to maximize biodiversity benefits.*

**8. request the Joint Liaison Group of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to develop guidance on the prevention of maladaptation that has adverse consequences on biodiversity conservation**

For further information contact:

Günter Mitlacher  
Director International Biodiversity Policy  
WWF Germany  
[guenter.mitlacher@wwf.de](mailto:guenter.mitlacher@wwf.de)  
mobile: +49 30 311 777 200

Dao Nguyen  
Coordinator, Biodiversity Policy  
WWF International  
[dnguyen@wwfint.org](mailto:dnguyen@wwfint.org)



<sup>3</sup> REDD+ is used as a shorthand for “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”, consistent with paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The acronym REDD+ is used for convenience only, without any attempt to pre-empt ongoing or future negotiations under the UNFCCC.