



WWF

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HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT: GANGWON DECLARATION ON BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WWF key messages to High Level Segment

The **High Level Segment** is an important opportunity for Parties to **reaffirm the political commitments** by Heads of State and Ministerial Levels to **fully implement** the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to **deliver** the **Aichi Targets** through more **intensive** and **urgent measures**.

It also provides an **ideal opportunity** for the Parties of the CBD and stakeholders to **take into account** the **Outcome Document** of the **Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) and to **provide a clear and strong message** to the **United Nations General Assembly** and the international community **in advance of the final discussions** on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda that **emphasises**:

- the importance of **links** between **biodiversity & ecosystem services** for **poverty eradication**,
- the **necessity of meeting** the Aichi Targets to **achieve the SDGs**, and
- the **need to integrate biodiversity** and **ecosystem services** across **all the SDGs**.
- the **likely linkage** between the **shape of the SDGs** and the **ability to mobilise resources for biodiversity**; and
- the SDG process should **formalise** the role of the CBD **in monitoring and reporting** on the SDGs, **using national biodiversity strategies and action plans** (NBSAPs) as **indicators**.

WWF welcomes the draft Gangwon Declaration on Biodiversity and Sustainable Development and calls on the High Level Segment to consider for inclusion the following proposed text changes in its final Declaration. New text proposed by WWF is **in bold and underlined**. Text that WWF recommends to delete is highlighted with ~~strike through~~.

GANGWON DECLARATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We, the Ministers and other heads of delegation, having met in Pyeongchang, Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea, on 15 to 16 October 2014, on the occasion of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Recalling the three main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and their crucial importance to sustainable development;

Recalling the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting, held in Nagoya, in October 2010, and its 2050 Vision: "Living in Harmony with Nature" where "By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet, and delivering benefits essential for all people";

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("Rio+20", Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012), entitled "The future we want" which, inter alia, (1) reaffirmed the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational, and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being; (2) recognized the severity of the global loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems; (3) emphasized that these undermine global development, affecting food security and nutrition, the provision of and access to water and the health of the rural poor and of people worldwide, including present and future generations; and (4) affirmed the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

Acknowledging that biodiversity, the variety of life on Earth, contributes directly to human well-being in many ways, and is also a critical foundation of the Earth's life support system on which the welfare of present and future generations depends;

Acknowledging the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals - Outcome Document and the upcoming intergovernmental process to deliver a post-2015 development agenda in September 2015, and welcoming UN General Assembly resolution A/68/309 supporting the SDG Outcome Document to be the main basis of the post-2015 development agenda;

Recognizing that many economic sectors depend on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including the **finance, trade**, water supply, agriculture, fishery, forestry, health, education, nutrition, energy, transport and tourism sectors, and that biodiversity is the basis for sustainable livelihoods and traditional knowledge, which are especially important to poor and vulnerable groups;

Noting that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the restoration of ecosystems ~~can~~ **are essential to** improve ecosystem functioning and resilience and thereby contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, ~~guarantee~~ **safeguard** the

provision of clean and secure supplies of water, protect coasts and watersheds, and reduce vulnerability to disasters;

Further noting that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the restoration of ecosystems ~~can~~ support livelihoods, create new jobs, and provide important contribution to a creative economy;

Recognizing that mainstreaming biodiversity into ~~wider~~ **all** sectoral policies, through the integration of conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity into various sectors, is ~~critical~~ **of utmost importance** to the advancement of sustainable development;

Fully supportive of ~~Aware of and wishing to contribute~~ **making contributions** to the ongoing discussions within the United Nations on a post-2015 development agenda and the elaboration of sustainable development goals;

1. *Welcome* the progress made by Parties to the Convention and governments in developing national biodiversity strategies and action plans for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
2. *Note **with concern***, however, the conclusions of the fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook that current progress is not sufficient to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and that biodiversity loss is continuing **at an unprecedented rate** with adverse impacts on human well-being;

2b. Also notes with concern that biodiversity conservation and restoration is not yet fully integrated into the proposed Sustainable Development Goals and that natural wealth and ecosystem services are not adequately included in targets to deliver on these Goals;

3. *Reaffirm* our commitment and determination to fully implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, recognizing that this requires a range of **urgent and more effective** measures, **integration** and policy coherence across government departments and sectors of society and the economy;
4. *Reaffirm* our commitment to provide financial resources and incentives in accordance with our respective obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account Article 20 of the Convention, in order to expedite implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan at the national or sub-national level;
5. *Welcome* the Pyeongchang Roadmap 2020 for the enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity targets (hereinafter Pyeongchang Roadmap 2020), **and calls on Parties to the CBD and other governments and stakeholders to accelerate demonstrable progress;**
6. *Recognize* the need for enhanced technical and scientific cooperation among countries to implement the objectives of the Convention, **and in particular the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;**
7. *Welcome* the initiatives of the Republic of Korea in support of the Pyeongchang Roadmap 2020 the BioBridge Initiative to enhance technical and scientific cooperation, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative as well as the support for the ocean capacity building program and support these and other initiatives and partnerships for the accelerated implementation of the Pyeongchang Roadmap 2020;

8. *Emphasize* the relevance and key **essential** contribution of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Vision for 2050 to the post-2015 **sustainable** development agenda **and particularly that the post-2015 sustainable development agenda will require the Aichi Targets to be met if it is to be successful.**
- 8b.** and *Request* the United Nations General Assembly to ~~consider~~ ~~appropriately integrating~~ **integrate** elements of the objectives of the Convention, the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets in the post-2015 development agenda, and in particular, ~~to consider~~;
- a. Including in the final outcomes a goal focussed on the conservation, **restoration** and sustainable use of terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems, ~~and~~ **as well as** a goal on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems;
 - b. **Ensure the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services** ~~Further integrating biodiversity considerations~~ into goals relating to poverty eradication, food security and nutrition, water, and health, energy, sustainable economic growth, infrastructure, cities and other relevant goals, including through the use of relevant **targets and** indicators;
 - c. Adopting an agreed, transparent, and inclusive mechanism to translate the universal goals into national-level actions, taking into account the different circumstances and needs of different countries; and
 - d. Linking the outcomes into other processes relevant to implementation, such as the UN Development Assistance Framework process, **the UN Financing for Development Process**, and the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;
- 9 *Call on* all Parties to integrate implementation of the Strategic Plan and Aichi Biodiversity Targets with the implementation of the SDGs and post-2015 agenda and other relevant policy and planning measures;
- 10 *Recognize* the role of access and benefit-sharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication, and environmental sustainability and, in this connection, welcome the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity as an important instrument to pursue implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and invite Parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Protocol;
- 11 *Further note* the creative economy approach which prioritizes economies that value the sensible use of natural resources for development and recognizes that creative ideas and technology evolved through observation of natural environment and traditional knowledge can safeguard biodiversity and forge a more sustainable and creative path for economic growth and development; and
- 12 *Recognize* the importance of transboundary and international cooperation to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and also to symbolize peace among nations in the Transboundary Protected Areas, and welcome efforts by the Republic of Korea to promote the peace and conservation of biodiversity in Korea's Demilitarized Zone. /End