



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

global witness

Submission to the CBD SBSTTA 14 (Nairobi, Kenya, May 10-21, 2010)

On behalf of: Pro Natura (Friends of the Earth Switzerland), Wetlands International, Humane Society International, The Wilderness Society and Global Witness

Our organisations are working together in order to strengthen and safeguard biodiversity aspects in climate change mitigation policy, with the aim to create synergies in incentives to conserve forests, wetlands, peatlands and other natural habitats. We have engaged ourselves since 2008 in the context of the UNFCCC negotiations. The CBD has an important role in addressing biodiversity aspects in the UNFCCC negotiations. We therefore wish to make joint a proposal related to these topics to the 14th SBSTTA of the CBD in Nairobi.

The papers that have been analyzed for this submission are:

- UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/6: In-depth Review of the Work on Biodiversity and Climate Change
- UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/10: Examination of the Outcome-oriented Goals and Targets (and Associated Indicators) and Consideration of Their Possible Adjustment for the Period beyond 2010
- UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/12: Agricultural Biodiversity - Biofuels and Biodiversity: Consideration of Ways and Means to Promote the Positive and Minimize the Negative Impacts of the Production and Use of Biofuels on Biodiversity
- UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/14: Forest Biodiversity: Collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, and with the Food and Agriculture Organization (Decision IX/5)

Our key demands on these documents are included below, followed by concrete text suggestions for these documents.

Key demands:

Biodiversity and climate change (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/6)

Our demands on the Suggested recommendations are:

- that priority is given to conserving natural forests and halting forest degradation in REDD and the conservation of peat soils
- That among the additional activities, priority activities include peatland restoration
- Afforestation measures must meet certain requirements and precautions in relation to the choice of site and composition of species used (no conversion of biodiversity-rich habitats, use only native species etc.)

Outcome-oriented Goals and Targets (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/10)

Our key demands are formulated for target 5, 10 and 15:

► **”Target 5: By 2020, the loss and degradation of forests and other natural habitats is halved.”**

Our demands on this target:

- The EU overall goal for deforestation under REDD- UNFCCC¹ – to reduce gross deforestation by 50% by 2020, 2030 complete stop of forest cover loss) must not only be reflected in CBD SP - but strengthened and extended:
 - Halt deforestation by 2020
 - Extend the target to halt forest degradation as well (Indicator: conversion of relatively intact natural forest to other categories of forest or land (as defined by FAO) is halted)
 - For the purposes of this target, conversion of natural forest to planted forest (plantations) should be regarded as ‘deforestation’;
 - Reference to gross deforestation should allow the inclusion of restoration of deforested areas to natural forest but exclude establishment of planted forest (plantations) to so that perverse management cannot be hidden.
- Other natural habitats should have a similarly strong target, in the effect that the loss of other natural ecosystems, such as grasslands, savannas, wetlands, peatlands, rivers, marine, arctic and alpine habitats is halted and degraded natural areas of high biodiversity and carbon conservation value or potential, especially drained peatlands and over-logged and over-cleared landscapes should be subject to appropriate restoration management
- *Suggested milestone:* By 2015, all relatively intact natural ecosystems should be protected;
- *Suggested milestone:* By 2015, forest degradation has been halted

► **”Target 10: By 2020, manage the multiple pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable species and ecosystems impacted by climate change and ocean acidification so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.”**

Our demands on this target:

- Assure the integrity, biodiversity and functioning of ecosystems impacted by climate change and ocean acidification (coral reefs, polar and mountain habitats, drylands, wetlands and coastal habitats) is maintained
- Reduce other pressures on these ecosystems

► **”Target 15: By 2020, the contribution of biodiversity to ecosystem resilience and to carbon storage and sequestration is enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded lands, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.”**

Our demands on this target:

- Biodiversity that contributes to climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies, policies and plans (e.g. forests, peatlands) is safeguarded and restored (see deforestation and degradation suggestions in Target 5).

Biofuels (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/12)

Our demands on the Suggested Recommendations:

- **No incentives for the production of biofuels from industrial monocultures!**
- In seeking to minimise adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and greenhouse gas emissions of any biofuels developments, we urge CBD COP to request to members:
 - not to convert areas of natural forests, wetlands, grasslands or other natural ecosystems to crops, including plantations for wood, palm oil or other biomass/biofuels purposes,
 - in countries with malnutrition, no areas needed for food production should be converted to agrofuel crops, including plantations for wood, palm oil or other biomass/biofuels purposes
 - to take measures to avoid indirect land use change caused by the expansion of agrofuel production
 - that the current FAO definition of ‘forest’ currently being used for their 2010 resource assessment be suitably amended to ensure that any conversion of natural forest to any form of plantation is regarded as ‘deforestation’ (see comments on (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/14)).

¹ “All Parties should collectively aim at halting forest cover loss in developing countries by 2030 at the latest and reducing gross deforestation in developing countries by at least 50 per cent by 2020 compared by current levels”

- We urge CBD COP to request Parties and other governments to develop criteria to create limits for the emissions due to production of biofuels and to urge relevant bodies to introduce the accounting of emissions and removals of biofuels under the UNFCCC.

Forest (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/14)

Our demands on the Suggested Recommendations, built forward on the commented version contained in the Vilm report²

Already contained in the Vilm suggestions:

- Ask for Collaboration with UNFF, FAO, UNFCCC and all of CPF – on definitions:
 - Forest
 - Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)
- Ask for Collaboration on Biodiversity safeguards
- Ask for Collaboration in implementing the targets concerning Forest biodiversity of the CBD Strategic plan

Additional to Vilm suggestions

- Definitions should be agreed in time before REDD becomes operative
- Assure NGO participation in the process
- Entry point for NGO submissions, including the submission on forest definitions in the Annex of this submission

Text proposals

Biodiversity and climate change (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/6)

The following suggestions are using suggestions from the Vilm report³, with additional change suggestions (**highlighted**)

Text = original SBSTTA draft

Text = suggestions to text from the Vilm report which we support

~~Text~~ = Deletions from Vilm report we support

Text = our revisions to text suggestions including those to the Vilm report proposals

~~Text~~ = our suggested Deletions

4. *Further invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations **and processes** to:

(...)

Implications of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and other ecosystem land-use-management activities on biodiversity and climate change mitigation

(i) Implement ~~a portfolio of ecosystem land-use management activities, including~~ the protection of natural forests and peatlands ~~carbon stocks, the sustainable management of forests, the use of native assemblages of forest species in reforestation activities, sustainable wetland management, restoration of degraded wetlands,~~ mangroves, saltmarshes and seagrass beds, [(Rationale: draw attention to relevance of marine and coastal ecosystems in this context.)] ~~carbon stocks,~~ **and, in addition,** a portfolio of ecosystem ~~land-use-management activities, including~~ ~~the protection of natural forests and peatland carbon stocks,~~ the sustainable management of forests, the use of native forest species and communities in reforestation activities, sustainable wetland management, restoration of degraded wetlands, ~~conservation of mangroves, saltmarshes and seagrass beds,~~ sustainable agricultural practices and soil management as a contribution to the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);

² Report of the Expert Meeting in Preparation of SBSTTA-14, March 15 - 19, 2010, Convened by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation at the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm

³ Report of the Expert Meeting in Preparation of SBSTTA-14, March 15 - 19, 2010, Convened by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation at the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm

(ii) When implementing afforestation activities for climate-change mitigation consider biodiversity **and ecosystem services** through, for example: (i) converting only degraded land of **low value for biodiversity or ecosystem services** [(Rationale: possibility of differing notions of 'degraded land', need to explicitly consider biodiversity **and ecosystem services**)] or ecosystems largely composed of ~~exotic~~ non-native [(Rationale: more common term, especially with regard to species other than trees.)] species; (ii) ~~including~~ choosing [(Rationale: 'including' is too vague.)] native tree species when selecting species for planting; (iii) taking into account the potential [(Rationale: potential effects need to be included in the consideration.)] invasiveness of non-native species; and (iv) strategically locating afforestation activities within the landscape to enhance connectivity of forest areas [(Rationale: additional clarification.);

Outcome-oriented Goals and Targets (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/10)

Our text recommendations are formulated for target 5, 10 and 15:

Target 5. By 2020, the loss, degradation and fragmentation of natural and semi natural habitats is halted and reversed via restoration. Managed forests are managed with native species so that natural forest communities typical for the site are established. All remaining natural habitats in every ecological region are effectively conserved, not used economically and accordingly designated. This target does not apply to semi-natural habitats that depend on active management for their existence.

The specific ecosystems should be reflected in the indicators and include natural forests, grasslands, savannas, wetlands, peatlands, rivers, marine, arctic and alpine habitats

*Suggested milestone: By 2014 national legislation & land- **and water** use plans or zonation maps have been reviewed.....etc. like in CBD milestone.*

Suggested milestone: to be defined for each ecosystem.

Rationale: the target reflects the need to stop the ongoing degradation and loss of natural forests and other ecosystems. The EU is asking for the inclusion of an overall target in the proposed LCA text⁴ (on REDD) under the UNFCCC to halt forest cover loss by 2030, which also should address forest degradation⁵. The CBD needs to reflect this to strengthen the inclusion of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the LCA text, but at the same time be more ambitious than stopping deforestation by 2030.

Note: Sub-targets for forests and wetlands could be added to provide additional attention to these habitats.

Decision VIII/15 reads "At least 10% of each of the world's forest types are effectively conserved." (<http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=11029>). *We seeks to extend this aim to other habitat types like wetlands, in particular peatlands, and to massively expand its ambition to reflect the scale and urgency of the problems faced for both biodiversity and terrestrial carbon conservation.*

Target 10. By 2020, the integrity and functioning of vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification has been maintained by significantly reducing the multiple pressures acting on these ecosystems.

(Vilm, alt. 2, slightly modified)

With additional milestone: by 2015, no further conversion of peatlands for land uses that require drainage

With additional mean & example of activities: Zoning in the arctic to protect vulnerable ecosystems

Target 15. By 2020, terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity that provides critical services for building ecological resilience for climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction is safeguarded and restored.

⁴ Draft Text of the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-Term cooperative action within the UNFCCC, Doc. UNFCCC/AWGLCA/2009/L.7/Add.6

⁵ "All Parties should collectively aim at halting forest cover loss in developing countries by 2030 at the latest and reducing gross deforestation in developing countries by at least 50 per cent by 2020 compared by current levels"

(Vilm, Alternative 1)

Rationale: the wording is shorter and more to the point, and the role of biodiversity is more predominant as in the Wording of SBSTTA/14/10).

We suggest the following milestones:

- By 2015, the contribution of ecosystem restoration and management, is fully taken into account in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies, policies and plans
- By 2015, the loss and degradation of carbon rich ecosystem such as forests and peatlands is halted in a manner that reduces the global greenhouse gas emissions from these ecosystems by 50%

Rationale:

The crucial role of ecosystems to attenuate the impacts of extreme weather events is often overlooked and not taken into account in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction policies, strategies and plans. Alternative hard engineer solutions often have adverse impacts on ecosystem services.

Annually, approximately 6 gigatonne carbon dioxide is emitted through deforestation and forest degradation (4.4 Gt) and peatsoil degradation (1.8); roughly 17% of all carbon dioxide emissions. The loss of these two ecosystems equals 17% of all global carbon dioxide emissions and need to be addressed as a crucial element to address climate change. In addition, these ecosystems contain many other values related to their biodiversity.

Within UNFCCC, it is proposed (by the EU) to halve these losses by 2020 and totally end carbon losses through deforestation in 2030. We think deforestation needs to be, and can be, stopped by 2020.

Biofuels (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/12):

In addition to the original text and the suggestions in Vilm, we have the following proposal:

The Conference of the Parties
(...)

Stresses that the production of biofuels may lead to strong impacts on ecosystems and their services through land and water use and to significant greenhouse gas emissions as a result of the destruction and degradation of natural forests including organic peatsoils.

Stresses that nor the emissions from biofuel use, neither the emissions from organic carbon loss caused by biofuel production are accounted for under the UNFCCC;

Requests Parties to immediately suspend all incentives for agrofuels and agroenergy from industrial monocultures. (taken from IUCN Barcelona World Conservation Congress, 5-14.10.2008, Resolution 4.083)

Urges Parties and other governments to develop criteria to prevent conversion of carbon rich ecosystems for biofuels, to create limits for the emissions due to production of biofuels and urges relevant bodies to introduce the accounting of emissions and removals of biofuels under the UNFCCC.

Forest (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/14)

The following suggestions are taken from the Vilm report⁶, with additional change suggestions (highlighted)

Cooperation with Collaborative Partnership on Forests [(Compiling CPF-related issues.)]

8. Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Following the outcome of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2009, with regard to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus), collaborate with the Secretariat of

⁶ Report of the Expert Meeting in Preparation of SBSTTA-14, March 15 - 19, 2010, Convened by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation at the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm

the United Nations Forum on Forests, the World Bank, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the other members of CPF to support the development of appropriate biodiversity **and ecosystems** safeguards, and safeguards for the rights of indigenous and local communities, including options for monitoring, verifying, and reporting on biodiversity benefits [(needs to be linked to climate change decision 5 (d).)] and benefits to indigenous and local communities of REDD-plus activities, and submit the results [(ALTERNATIVE 1: ...in a timely manner to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for appropriate consideration; ALTERNATIVE 2: ...to the Conference of Parties of the CBD; comment: making sure that information is transmitted UNFCCC in time for REDD negotiations versus allowing for review process by CBD.)]

(b) Organize a meeting of the CPF Task Force **and relevant non-governmental organizations** on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting, with the aim to clarify the definitions of forest and forest types that reflect forest biodiversity at the level appropriate for reporting and monitoring **before the REDD(+) mechanism enters into force, in view of further improving the biodiversity monitoring component of the Global Forest Resources Assessment and other relevant processes and initiatives;** [(Moved down from 7 (a).)], **noting that the soil is also part of the forest ecosystem.**

(c) Work with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests **and relevant non-governmental organizations** to develop further relevant definitions in order to operationalize criteria and indicators for sustainable management of forests in the context of biodiversity safeguards for REDD-plus and other forest-related climate change response activities **before the REDD(+) mechanism enters into force;** [(Comment: solving definition issues is vital to the success of biodiversity safeguards.)]

(d) Ensure that broad participation by parties is assured in the processes and relevant submissions will be taken into account, such as the attached submission on forest definitions

9. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to further improve coordination and collaboration at national and regional levels between national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with regard to all relevant decisions, including implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity (decisions VI/22 and IX/5) and issues related to the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of forest genetic resources; [(Moved down from para. 6 (a).)]

10. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, the members of the CPF, and other relevant organizations and processes to closely collaborate in implementing the targets concerning forest biodiversity agreed upon in the revised strategic plan of the CBD. [Comment: linking this document with the revised strategic plan and without prejudging its negotiation.]

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