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## **CEEWEB POSITION ON THE ANNEX I AND II OF THE WGRI-03-03 DOCUMENT (DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2011-2020 AND INDICATIVE FRAMEWORK OF TARGETS, ACTIVITIES AND INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING)**

### **Introduction**

Despite the efforts made in the framework of the current Strategic Plan (SP), the 2010 biodiversity target will not be achieved. The diversity of genes, species and ecosystems continues to decline, as the pressures on biodiversity remain constant or increase in intensity as a result of human actions. In order not to cross planetary thresholds, what would have drastic consequences for all life on Earth, fundamental change in global biodiversity policies must be applied urgently.

The WGRI document points out, that the purpose of the draft Strategic Plan 2011-2020 is to promote effective implementation of the Convention. Besides, the draft SP 2011-2020 gives a well-based platform for all stakeholders to contribute to achieve the Convention's three objectives.

However, it is very clear that the draft SP 2011-2020 should deal also with the lessons learnt and avoid the short-comings of the current SP. The main reason of the failure of delivery is that the current SP lacks approaches clearly addressing the underlying causes (indirect drivers) that lead to biodiversity loss. Therefore it is a great step forward that the Strategic Goals of the draft SP 2011-2020 follow a logical framework deriving from the Driver-Pressure-State-Impact/Benefit-Response framework and initiate actions to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss.

However, the new SP 2011-2020 only partly covers all the necessary steps in its Targets (and in the Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goals) towards tackling all the underlying causes of biodiversity loss. In order that the new SP 2011-2020 would do so, fundamental change in biodiversity policies is required. Therefore, CEEweb urges Parties to apply holistic approach and to give very clear guidance for implementation while finalizing the draft SP 2011-2020.

From holistic point of view it is crucial **to tackle all the root causes of a problem at the same time in order to avoid shifting of pressure from one of the three attributes of the environment** (abundance of natural resources, spatial structure and quality of the environment) to the other. Moreover, Goals and Targets of the SP 2011-2020 should give **well-designed and unambiguous guidance to all levels of its implementation** with very clear commitments for relevant stakeholders.

## Detailed proposals

Drivers generate the environmental pressures in a complex way, thus without reducing all driving forces at the very same time, it is impossible to reduce environmental pressure and halt biodiversity loss. Thus it is essential to state in the mission of the SP 2011-2020 to reduce the underlying causes (indirect drivers) of biodiversity loss.

Therefore, CEEweb's proposed change in mission statement is: *"By 2020, to: **tackle the underlying causes of biodiversity loss**; prevent extinctions; restore ecosystems; and enhance ecosystem services, while equitably sharing the benefits, thus contributing to human well-being and poverty eradication, and to have provided the means for all Parties to do so."*

### Strategic Goal A. Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

CEEweb welcomes the formulation of the *Strategic Goal A*. However, we are still missing some important elements under this Goal.

In order to address effectively the indirect drivers (underlying causes), more concrete and more ambitious Goal, Targets and milestones need to be set. The suggested measures under Goal A. (communication, education and public awareness, appropriate pricing and incentives, and the broader use of tools such as strategic environmental assessment) have not proved so far to be productive in changing the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss. All the already listed measures can only significantly contribute to the achievement of this Goal, if resource and space use limits are defined according to the carrying capacity of Earth and implemented. Therefore, CEEweb's proposed change in *Goal A*. is: *Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by **returning to ecologically safe levels of resource use** and mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.*

### Target 1. By 2020, everyone is aware of the value of biodiversity and the steps they can take to protect it

CEEweb appreciates the efforts in awareness raising stated in *Target 1*. However, we believe that beyond awareness raising **the current values of the society must change** in order to respect better nature, health, family, communities and other non-material values of our societies and environment as opposed to material wealth only.

CEEweb's proposed changes, in Annex I in *Target 1*. and in Annex II in the milestones of *Target 1*., are:

- *Target 1. By 2020, **biodiversity is an integral part of the values of the society** and everyone is aware of the steps they can take to protect it;*
- Milestone: By 2011, basic public awareness campaigns about biodiversity and the **necessary change of the current values** of the society and steps people can take to protect biodiversity are initiated;
- Milestone: By 2020 the current **values of the society are balanced between material and non-material values** including biodiversity.

Setting the right balance in the value system would also benefit the poor, whose livelihood depends on the local natural environment and thus this target would contribute to the achievement of MDGs on poverty.

**Target 4. By 2020, Governments and stakeholders, at all levels, have formulated, and begun to implement, sustainability plans to keep the use of resources within ecological limits.**

CEEweb highly welcomes *Target 4.*, however, we think that the outlined means and milestones of the Annex II are insufficient to achieve these interconnected targets. Therefore, CEEweb calls for additional economic and legal instruments that address **the indirect drivers (underlying causes) behind biodiversity loss**, and thus achieve the *Targets* of the Strategic Plan.

Since the current rate of growing energy demand cannot be satisfied without seriously degrading the world's natural heritage; an absolute limit to natural resource use should be set. This means that the system should be **regulated already on the input side (natural resource use)** on contrary to the current output side regulation (emissions). Through this initiative independency from fossil fuel can also be achieved, thus global climate challenges can be tackled, and crossing also other planetary boundaries avoided. Therefore, CEEweb calls for setting **limits on natural resource and thus energy use**, which limit could be introduced gradually. This would not only substantially reduce total environmental pressure, but also provide competitive advantage to human labour, which would contribute to poverty alleviation.

CEEweb's proposed changes for limiting natural resource use in Annex II under *Target 4.*, are adding the milestones:

- By 2015 Governments have **formulated legal and economic instruments for limiting natural resource use**;
- By 2016 Governments have **started to implement the instruments** for limiting natural resource use.

Furthermore, the SP should apply holistic approach to avoid shifting of pressure of one of the three attributes of the environment to the other. (The three attributes are the abundance of natural resources on genetic, species and ecosystem level; the spatial structure, reflecting on the coherence and connectivity among ecosystems; and the quality of environment, determined by pollution, the spreading of IAS and GMOs.) Therefore, although CEEweb welcomes Target 8, 9, and 10., we think that also the total **limitation of space use** should be addressed in the framework of Target 4. Furthermore, in order to formulate and implement adequately sustainability plans, CEEweb calls for the completion of ecological corridors and networks as well as for the **rehabilitation of natural surface cover**.

CEEweb's proposed change, for limiting space use in Target 4., is: *By 2020, Governments and stakeholders, at all levels, have formulated, and begun to implement, sustainability plans to keep the use of resources and **the use of space** within ecological limits.*

CEEweb's proposed changes, for limiting use of space in Annex II in the milestones of Target 4., are adding the milestones:

- By 2015 Governments have **formulated legal and economic instruments for limiting the use of space**;
- By 2016 Governments have **started to implement the instruments** for limiting space use

Furthermore, regarding a milestone of Target 4., CEEweb thinks that it is not enough to assess the footprint and develop plans for its reduction at sectoral or company level. Even the implementation of independent sectoral footprint goals does not necessarily lead to overall footprint reduction, if their effect is eliminated by growing environmental pressures in other sectors. Thus the development of targets at country, sector and company levels is only effective, once a global target is also set and respected. Therefore, CEEweb calls for working out and adopting an **overall, global footprint target** in order to stay within ecological limits. However, the above mentioned proposals on natural resource and space use could have significant contribution to achieve the global footprint target.



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**CEEweb for Biodiversity is a network of non-governmental organizations in the Central and Eastern European region. Our mission is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.**