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CEEweb position on 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)

Introduction

The SBSTTA document points out, that targets within the revised SP shall serve as political commitments, as well as facilitate understanding and support for the objectives of the Convention. Thus targets must very clearly include all essential changes of the root causes that lead to biodiversity loss. Therefore it is a great step forward that the targets follow a logical framework deriving from the Driver-Pressure-State-Impact/Benefit-Response framework.

However, the current SBSTTA document only partly covers these changes in the Targets (and in the Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goals). 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 attribute of the environment** (abundance of natural resources, spatial structure and quality of the environment) to the other. Moreover, at the level of the Strategic Plan the Goals and Targets should give very clear and unambiguous guidance to all levels of its implementation. Therefore, there are a few important elements that need to be added to the revised SP.

Drivers generate the environmental pressures in a complex way, thus without reducing all driving forces it is impossible to reduce environmental pressure and halt biodiversity loss. Thus it is essential to state in the mission of the CBS to reduce the drivers of biodiversity loss.

Therefore, CEEweb's proposed change in mission statement is: *"By 2020, to **reduce the drivers 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."*

CEEweb welcomes the formulation of the *Strategic Goal A. Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society*. However, we are still missing some important elements under this Goal.

In order to address effectively the indirect drivers, 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 land use limits according to the carrying capacity of Earth is defined 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.*

Detailed proposals

CEEweb appreciates the efforts in awareness raising stated in the *Target 1. By 2020, everyone is aware of the value of biodiversity and the steps they can take to protect it.* However, we believe that beyond awareness raising **the current values of the society must change** in order to better respect 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 Target 1. and in its milestones 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 nature and 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.

CEEweb highly welcomes *Target 3. By 2020, subsidies harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied* and *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.* However, the outlined tools are insufficient to achieve these interconnected targets.

Therefore, CEEweb calls for economic and legal instruments that address **the underlying drivers behind biodiversity loss**, and thus achieve *Target 3. and 4.* of the Strategic Plan.

It is not enough to assess the footprint and develop plans to reduce it at sector or company level, as the document suggests. Even, the implementation of independent sectoral footprint goals cannot lead to overall footprint reduction, as their effect can be eliminated by the growing overall footprint. Also, the achievement of footprint goals should not be the responsibility of individual sectors, businesses or governments alone. Thus, the development of subsequent targets at country, sector and company levels is only effective, once these sectoral targets contribute to the achievement of an overall one. Thus, CEEweb calls for working out and adopting an **overall, global footprint target** in order to stay within ecological limits globally.

CEEweb's proposed change in the milestones of Target 4. is adding the milestone: By 2012, Parties to the CBD have set concrete targets to reduce their footprint globally.

Furthermore, in order to stay within planetary boundaries, CEEweb calls for setting **limit on natural resource and thus energy use**, which limit then could be reached gradually.

CEEweb's proposed change in the technical rationale of Target 3. is adding: **Limiting the use of energy** through economic measures would not only substantially reduce environmental pressure, but also provide competitive advantage to human labour.

CEEweb's proposed changes for limiting natural resource use in the milestones of Target 4. are adding the milestones:

- By 2015 Governments have **formulated legal and economic instruments for limiting natural resource use**; (which limits could be reached by 2% natural resource use reduction per year);
- By 2016 Governments have **started to implement the instruments** for limiting natural resource use

Since the current rate of growing energy demand can not be satisfied without seriously degrading the world's natural heritage; an absolute limit to energy use should be set. This means that the system should be regulated already on the input side (energy use) on contrary to the current output side regulation (emissions). Through this initiative independency from fossil fuel can also be achieved and thus global climate challenges can be tackled.

In addition, *Target 4.* must include land use beside natural resource use in order to limit total environmental pressure on all three attributes of the environment. These 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. Thus it is necessary to include the total limitation of land use into the targets of the CBD SP. 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 land 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 land** within ecological limits.*

CEEweb's proposed changes for limiting land use in the milestones of Target 4. are adding the milestones:

- By 2015 Governments have **formulated legal and economic instruments for limiting the use of land**; (which limits could be reached by annual rehabilitation of natural surface cover on 2% of man-dominated land);
- By 2016 Governments have **started to implement the instruments** for limiting land use



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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.