

Key messages for UNFCCC CoP-20

20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, Lima, Peru, 1-12 December 2014

Executive Summary

Recognizing that the negotiations at Lima represent a critical opportunity and a crucial milestone in the context of (a) the development of a new global climate agreement in 2015, (b) the preparation and submission of intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) by Parties for inclusion in the 2015 agreement, and (c) the need for enhancing pre-2020 climate action:

IUCN CALLS on all Parties to:

- Raise their levels of both pre-2020 and post-2020 mitigation ambition, especially in light of the findings of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, which stresses the need for substantial and sustained reductions in GHG emissions across all major sectors
- Include, within both the post-2020 INDCs and the pre-2020 actions and commitments that they develop, specific and ambitious targets on ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation, noting that many of these are high potential no-regret options that, when implemented properly, can yield a wide range of immediate and tangible economic, social and environmental co-benefits across multiple levels. Such options include, *inter alia*:
 - Joining international efforts launched under the *New York Declaration on Forests* to halve global natural forest loss by 2020, and end it by 2030
 - Contributing towards the restoration of 150 million hectares of degraded landscapes and forestlands by 2020 through the *Bonn Challenge*, and the restoration of an additional 200 million hectares by 2030
 - Expanding the existing coverage of terrestrial, coastal and marine protected areas consistent with *Aichi Biodiversity Target 11*
 - Ensuring the conservation of other natural carbon reservoirs such as wetland systems, even if they are not accounted for within existing mechanisms
- Provide adequate information that can facilitate the clarity, transparency and understanding of their pre-2020 and post-2020 contributions and actions.
- Ensure that the draft negotiating text of the 2015 agreement recognises the value and enables the implementation of ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation approaches. These should be done in a manner that safeguards biodiversity, is socially equitable and gender sensitive, and fully takes into account local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and the needs of the most vulnerable communities

With a view to facilitate a successful outcome from these negotiations, **IUCN** furthermore:

- URGES all Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to ratify and implement the Doha Amendment
- CALLS for the enhanced and continued capitalization of the Green Climate Fund
- CALLS on all Parties to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and expand renewable and other low-carbon energy options in a manner that promotes human and ecosystem well-being
- REITERATES its readiness to support Parties in the domestic preparation of their INDCs, particularly in relation to the specific options identified above, and in other relevant areas of its expertise

Addition details on IUCN's positions, including on ecosystem-based mitigation (including REDD plus and LULUCF), ecosystem-based adaptation, loss and damage, gender and oceans are provided in the sections that follow.

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I. General IUCN position on broader issues and developments framing the CoP-20 negotiations

IUCN, WELCOMES the findings of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which underscores the need for substantial and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to limit climate change, and the urgency of collective meaningful action on both climate mitigation and adaptation.

FURTHER LOOKS FORWARD to the outcome of the 2013-2015 review on the adequacy of the long-term 2°C global goal, and the possibility of strengthening it, including in relation to a global average temperature rise of 1.5°C.

REMAINS DEEPLY CONCERNED about the significant gap between the aggregate effect of mitigation pledges made by Parties to the Convention in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

WELCOMES the progress made so far by the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP), both on the development of the 2015 agreement and on the workplan to enhance pre-2020 mitigation ambition.

URGES all Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to ratify and implement the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol as a matter of urgency, and ENCOURAGES Parties included in Annex I to increase the ambition of their inscribed quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments under its agreed second commitment period.

CALLS on all Parties, particularly in light of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, to heighten their efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels, decarbonize energy systems, enhance energy efficiency and conservation, and expand the use of renewable and other low-carbon sources of energy in a manner that ensures human and ecosystem well-being.

WELCOMES the steps taken by Parties to operationalize the Green Climate Fund, and CALLS for its enhanced and continued capitalization to enable the necessary provision of support to developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation efforts.

ALSO WELCOMES the various announcements aimed at mobilizing enhanced action and ambition on climate change that were made at and subsequent to the Climate Summit convened by the UN Secretary General on 23 September 2014 in New York, including the *New York Declaration on Forests* and the US-China joint announcement on post-2020 actions on 12 November 2014.

PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZES that while components of biodiversity and ecosystems remain vulnerable to climate change, their conservation, restoration and sustainable use, including through protected areas as highlighted by the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, can play a substantial role in climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

CALLS on all Parties to recognise the value, and promote the early and enhanced implementation, of nature-based solutions to climate change through ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation, including at sub-national, national, regional and international levels. This should be done in a manner that safeguards biodiversity, is socially-equitable and gender-sensitive, and fully takes into account local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

DRAWS ATTENTION TO the recent decision on *Biodiversity and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction* adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at its Twelfth Meeting in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea on 21 October 2014 that calls for the promotion and implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction, in both terrestrial and marine environments, in cooperation with relevant organizations, including the UNFCCC.

ENCOURAGES greater synergies among the three Rio Conventions, the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, and other relevant international agreements such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to ensure maximum policy coherence between efforts to achieve sustainable development, address climate change, reduce disaster risks and protect fragile ecosystems, threatened species and vulnerable communities.

II. IUCN position on specific high-level decisions expected at CoP-20

A. With reference to the negotiating text of the 2015 agreement:

IUCN, CALLS on Parties to include within the draft negotiating text of the 2015 agreement specific elements that recognise the value of, and can enable the enhanced and balanced implementation of, ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation approaches, building on existing decisions and work done under the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus and the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change, among others.

B. With reference to the preparation and submission of INDCs:

IUCN, CALLS on the INDCs to be prepared by Parties for inclusion in the 2015 agreement to be based on robust science and include comparable and transparent quantification of expected emission reductions, where possible by sector, with particular attention to land use, using the latest available and accepted methodologies.

WELCOMES, in this regard, the adoption by the IPCC of the *2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands*, and ENCOURAGES Parties to start using these guidelines in their national GHG accounting and INDC preparation, where appropriate, to ensure more comprehensive coverage.

URGES Parties to consider within the INDCs that they prepare and communicate in the lead up to, and beyond, March 2015, specific options that:

- i) contribute to the immediate slowing and eventual ending of natural forest loss globally by 2030 at the latest, along with ongoing efforts to avoid and reduce forest degradation
- ii) enable the restoration of at least 350 million hectares of degraded landscapes and forestlands by 2030, following appropriate ecological and social safeguards
- iii) advance the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of other natural carbon reservoirs, such as wetlands (peatlands, mangroves, tidal marshes, etc.), when not already included above
- iv) continue the expansion of existing terrestrial, coastal and marine protected

areas in a manner that enhances greater connectivity and resilience of the overall landscape, as a proven means of stabilising and storing biotic carbon and providing adaptation and other co-benefits, beyond 2020

- v) reduce dependence on fossil fuels, enhance energy efficiency and conservation, and expand renewable energy options.

REMINDS Parties that inclusion of mitigation from the land use sector in the draft INDCs to be communicated by March 2015 is possible with existing guidance and methodologies.

FURTHER CALLS on Parties to continue meeting their obligations under Articles 4 and 12 of the Convention by including mitigation from the land use sector and incorporating it, where relevant, within the information that they provide while communicating their INDCs.

REITERATES its readiness to support Parties in the domestic preparation of their INDCs, particularly in relation to the specific ecosystem-based options identified above, and in other relevant areas of its expertise.

ALSO CALLS on Parties, where appropriate, to consider the inclusion of additional specific contributions related to adaptation, means of implementation and other relevant components, within their INDCs, including suitable indicators that can enable their monitoring over time.

C. With reference to enhancing pre-2020 ambition:

IUCN, URGES Parties to consider the following options to enhance their pre-2020 mitigation ambition, noting that these high mitigation potential activities also have significant adaptation, sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and disaster risk-reduction co-benefits:

- i) Join ongoing efforts to at least halve the rate of loss of natural forests globally by 2020 and continue efforts to avoid and reduce forest degradation
- ii) Contribute towards the restoration of 150 million hectares of degraded landscapes and forestlands by 2020 through the Bonn Challenge
- iii) Adhere with the agreed Aichi Biodiversity Targets set under the CBD, particularly targets 5, 11 and 15

- iv) Actively undertake other complementary measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the land use, energy and other sectors, as appropriate.

ALSO ENCOURAGES Parties to incorporate the above within their pre-2020 national and sub-national policies, plans and strategies, noting that these could potentially also be integrated within and contribute to the implementation of the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals.

D. In addition:

IUCN, ALSO CALLS on Parties to integrate gender considerations and local, indigenous and traditional knowledge, as appropriate, within both the 2015 agreement and the pre-2020 workplan to effectively advance gender-sensitive and socially inclusive and equitable climate policy and action across all levels.

CALLS on Parties to consider and minimise potential adverse effects of mitigation and adaptation actions, including from land use changes and infrastructure development, among others, on ecosystems, biodiversity and the services they deliver.

III. IUCN position on specific thematic issues

A. Ecosystem-based Mitigation including REDD-plus and LULUCF

IUCN, CONGRATULATES Parties on progress made at COP-19 on the adoption of the seven decisions of the Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus and at subsequent technical expert meetings.

CALLS on Parties to ensure that national REDD-plus, forest-climate or low-carbon development strategies consider the full scope of the activities outlined in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, and recognise the benefits and synergies of implementing them in an integrated manner under a landscape approach.

ENCOURAGES Parties to consider including disaggregated statistics on the full and effective participation of stakeholders, including particularly women, indigenous peoples and local communities, in their national reports for providing information on

how the designated safeguards are being both addressed and respected to ensure that national REDD-plus strategies enjoy broad support and are therefore credible and implementable.

ALSO URGES Parties to expedite and enhance provision of financial resources, investment and capacity building support to enable the early implementation of all ecosystem-based mitigation measures. This should prioritize those activities that:

- i) Are framed within the context of national REDD-plus strategies and national biodiversity strategy and action plans (NBSAPs)
- ii) Already developed and submitted as NAMAs seeking external support
- iii) Provide for equitable and efficient distribution and benefit-sharing mechanisms
- iv) Optimize mitigation, adaptation, livelihood, biodiversity and other co-benefits while promoting the application of the safeguards.

B. Ecosystem-based Adaptation

IUCN, EMPHASIZES that ecosystem-based adaptation is a means of adaptation that is readily available especially to the poor, in both rural and urban areas, and can generate significant social, economic, cultural and mitigation co-benefits by building on the local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices of both women and men.

CALLS for the provision of appropriate guidelines, methodologies and tools that can help Parties integrate ecosystem and community-based approaches to adaptation within their National Adaptation Plans.

WELCOMES the decision taken at SBSTA-40 to develop case studies in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee, the LDC Expert Group, and Nairobi Work Programme partners to highlight good practices and lessons learnt in relation to adaptation planning processes, including with respect to ecosystems and water resources, and ENCOURAGES Parties to actively contribute to this process.

CALLS for the Adaptation Committee, in collaboration with the Nairobi Work Programme, to work with relevant organisations to identify linkages and synergies between adaptation and

mitigation, and adaptation and disaster risk reduction, among others, to maximise the on-ground impact in terms of reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing the resilience of both ecosystems and communities.

CALLS for all adaptation projects to be regularly screened for their potential adverse impacts on local ecosystems and biodiversity, to avoid maladaptation and ensure long-term human and ecosystem well-being.

C. Loss and Damage

IUCN, RECOGNISES the need for better understanding of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather and slow onset events, including the threats posed by sea level rise and ocean acidification.

SUGGESTS that future loss and damage can be reduced through timely and proactive investment in the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, in a manner that reduces risk and builds human and ecosystem resilience against climate change.

CALLS for the loss and damage work programme to include the role of ecosystems in its deliberations and decision-making processes while developing its two year workplan, noting that early and proactive investments in conserving and restoring ecosystems can positively contribute towards avoiding future loss and damages in the backdrop of increased climate-related risks.

D. Gender

IUCN, **CALLS** on Parties to consider further ways to strengthen gender balance, gender-sensitive climate policy and effective participation of women in the work of bodies under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, including in the thematic areas of mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity-building.

WELCOMES the steps taken by Parties to ensure a gender-sensitive Green Climate Fund, and **CALLS** for the early approval of its Gender Policy and the development of its Plan of Action.

SUPPORTS the provision of a mandate to develop a comprehensive framework, including a two-year work programme, for developing and implementing gender-sensitive and responsive climate policy and action at the sub-national, national, regional and international levels.

OFFERS to support Parties in implementing the above, through its Global Gender Office.

E. Oceans

IUCN, **WELCOMES** the increasing knowledge and awareness being generated, including by the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, on the risks posed by ocean acidification, particularly to coastal and marine ecosystems and to local communities and economies dependent on them.

CALLS on Parties to support further research and observation of ocean systems to fully assess the risk posed by ocean acidification, including on the implications it might have for their pre- and post-2020 mitigation and adaptation efforts.