

Civil Society statement on Cluster Goals 13, 14 and 15 at the 3rd meeting of the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDGs indicators in Mexico city from 30 March to 1st April, 2016.

Delivered by Elaine Geyer-Allely, WWF International - Thursday, 31st March, 2016.

Good afternoon Co-chairs and colleagues. I am pleased to make this statement on behalf of my own organisation, WWF, and a number of other CSOs.

I will address key points for indicators under goal 14 and 15, and we have included additional comments in our written statement.

We note generally that an important number of indicators under the three goals in this cluster are in the Tier 3 category. We look forward to learning more on the Expert Group's plan for a participatory work programme for developing these indicators on a timeline that will allow us to have a balanced vision of progress across the SDGs from the beginning of the review process.

In addition, we urge involvement of international agencies already active in biodiversity indicator mobilisation, such as the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of UNEP, which serves as the Secretariat for the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership in measuring progress towards the Aichi Targets of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

Under Goal 14

Target 14.1 : We appreciated the inclusion of indicators on plastic pollution and marine eutrophication under target 14.1, as these are both important measures of marine pollution, although marine eutrophication alone does not allow disaggregation of different sources of nutrient pollution across a watershed. So we support the comments by UNEP that we need to track drivers of eutrophication, such as nutrient pollution, and would support more explicit reference to this in the framework. We would also support the change from plastic pollution to beach litter or other appropriate HELCOM indicators.

For Target 14.2 The number of fisheries certified as sustainable or fisheries with improvement plans could be included in the list of possible indicators in the metadata document. This information is already available. Fishbase platform has information on ecosystems (e.g., Medium trophic level, information for each ecosystem) that could also be used. As methodologies are being developed for this target, this represent a great opportunity for collecting information on human dimensions (e.g., cooperation, role of women) and ecosystems.

On indicator 14.5.1 (Tier I), the wording of the indicator has become slightly muddled: it should be "Coverage of protected areas in relation to important marine areas for biodiversity" rather than the current "Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas". This is important to reflect the great geographic variation in the need for protected areas, and is consistent with the metadata provided, and with indicators used in other processes such as towards Aichi Target 11. It would be ideal to start including an indicator of

MPAs (no-take areas) effectiveness. Several efforts have been developed to measure effectiveness such as « How is your MPA doing ? »

On Target 14.6. We note that the metadata for indicator 14.6.1 refers exclusively to aquaculture and are unclear how this matches with the indicator statement. We also believe this target should include an indicator on the subsidies that lead to overfishing, overcapacity and IUU fishing to more fully reflect the target. These types of subsidies have been identified (e.g., fuel, fishing boats, etc) and could be measured.

On Target 14a. Indicator 14.a.1 is the total research budget allocated to research in the field of management and technology. We note that there is no metadata received for this indicator. We recommend that the indicator reflects the development and use of research. One indicator that could be added to the list is the number of fisheries with stock assessments. Information is already available. In addition, International initiatives such as Too Big to Ignore (TBTI), Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) are compiling worldwide efforts on science (including citizen science) and technology. Those efforts could be taken into account and could capture the progress on scientific knowledge, research and capacities.

Target 14b focuses on access to marine resources and markets for small-scale fishers. Indicator 14b.1 only reflects access to marine resources. Markets should be accounted for. TBTI is applying an assessment on market opportunities that could be explored.

Under Goal 15

Target 15.2 : The timeline for Target 15.2 is 2020, four short years from now. We appreciate the methodological challenges with aggregating the four sub-indicators proposed by the FAO to define « sustainable forest management ». We would strongly encourage not to aim for such aggregation and to report on these indicators separately, which would also increase the value of the information given. This will also enable this suite of indicators to move to Tier 1. We believe certification is an important element in this suite. Forest certification is applicable in all countries, and with supporting action from governments, business and civil society it can spread more widely. Certification is also an important asset for mobilizing consumers.

Target 15.7 : We continue to advocate for a suite of indicators for this target : the CITES based indicator but also the Red List and Living Planet index for species in trade. This suite would give a more accurate view as the CITES indicator alone will underestimate illegal wildlife trade.

Finally,

Target 15.8 : We would support the comments by IUCN and Sweden on the opportunity to use the existing BIP indicators for Aichi target 9 on invasive species. This would also allow this set of indicators to move to Tier 1.

Thank You.