



# WWF CONTRIBUTION RIO+20 ZERO DRAFT

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- 1) Introduction
- 2) Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication
  - 2.1 Food, Water and Energy Security for All
    - 2.1.1 Managing natural capital
    - 2.1.2 Water Security
    - 2.1.3 Food Security
    - 2.1.4 Renewable Energy for All
  - 2.2 Enabling conditions
    - 2.2.1 Beyond GDP
    - 2.2.2 Fiscal, Regulatory and Legal Policy
    - 2.2.3 Certification
- 3) Institutional Frameworks for Sustainable Development
  - 3.1 Governance
    - 3.1.1 Creating a Sustainable Development Council (SDC)
    - 3.1.2 Upgrading UNEP
    - 3.1.3 Greening Financial and Trade Institutions
    - 3.1.4 Improving Ocean Governance
    - 3.1.5 Strengthening the Legal Governance of Transboundary Freshwater Systems
  - 3.2 Funding for transition
    - 3.2.1 New Investment Vehicle
    - 3.2.2 New Innovative Sources of Finance
- 4) Sustainable Development Goals

# 1. INTRODUCTION

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WWF's Living Planet Report shows that humanity is already using fifty percent more natural resources than the earth can regenerate in a year. Furthermore, high income regions use five times the amount of natural resources than those of the lowest income countries. We are living beyond the Earth's means and are distributing these unsustainable proceeds inequitably: the poorest countries and communities bear a disproportionate share of the negative effects of the growing global demand for resources while industrialised nations enjoy most of the benefits. Future generations will face resource scarcities and environmental degradation not of their making that will increasingly lead to conflict and insecurity. The growing number of urban poor that will live in tomorrow's cities adds additional urgency to finding sustainable and equitable development paths.

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) 2012 presents world leaders with a stark choice: they can tinker around the edges of global development as we know it today or they can lift our ambitions by delivering a new, internationally agreed vision for development that catalyses fundamental changes in our economies towards more social and economic equity and environmental sustainability. This vision will require deliberate choices and targeted public and private investment not just to decouple development from increased natural resource use, but to actively preserve, enhance, and effectively manage the world's natural resource base and the ecosystem services on which human wellbeing depends.

It will also require purposeful investment development that enhances the capacity of the poor to move out of poverty and fulfil their rights and needs for access to resources, financial assets, energy, water, food, housing, health, and education.

Solutions towards sustainable economies should be founded on a number of key principles:

- ▶ Managing natural capital in equitable ways by rewarding those who provide ecosystem services and protect biodiversity;
- ▶ Setting up appropriate frameworks to achieve food, water and energy security for a growing global population and ensure that consumption patterns and production systems are within planetary boundaries;
- ▶ Providing economic incentives to foster environmentally and socially responsible development, notably through full cost accounting and an indicator that goes beyond GDP;
- ▶ Fostering effective governance built on inclusive processes and broad participation and with international and regional cooperation among governments and between the public and private sectors and civil society;
- ▶ Investing in human and natural capital, especially in developing countries and rural communities and promoting reform to secure equitable access to natural resources and sustainable use.

## 2. GREEN ECONOMY

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WWF seeks to promote green economies which value and effectively govern natural resources to safeguard the natural world while promoting pro-poor growth and employment. WWF believes that more equitable greener socio-economic models and instruments would promote human wellbeing, distribute the world's wealth and natural resources more equitably within planetary boundaries and provide people with clean water, energy and food for present and future generations.

### 2.1 Food, Water and Energy Security for all

The poor management and regulation of natural assets and ecosystems leads to increasingly frequent and severe regional and global crises and is a major factor behind food, water and energy insecurity. UNCS D is the opportunity to deliver a new framework to address the interlinkages between these common challenges.

#### 2.1.1 Managing natural capital

Long-term food, water and energy security are contingent on the sustainable and equitable management and conservation of the world's natural capital: forests, wetlands, grasslands, savannas, oceans and coasts, freshwater sheds, biodiversity, mineral resources. To better secure the rights to natural resources for future generations and in order to ensure adequate security for all, Parties at UNCS D should seize the opportunity to:

- ▶ Significantly strengthen and invest in government processes responsible for the allocation and sustainable management of resources, for example by land-, sea- and water-use planning within and between countries, as well as on the high seas;
- ▶ Invest in restoring the ecological and natural resource base of our economies, for example eroded soils, degraded water bodies, degraded forests and savannas, overexploited fish stocks and degraded lands;
- ▶ Preserve and protect ecosystems that provide key ecosystem services necessary to achieve food, water and energy security;
- ▶ Prioritise the rehabilitation of degraded, abandoned or underperforming lands rather than farming in new areas. This requires reversing erosion and degradation through the construction of terraces and the planting of trees and grasses, rehabilitating waterways and cleaning up pollution;
- ▶ Use sustainability and footprint criteria in public procurement;
- ▶ Promote sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in industrial and other economic processes, through research, appropriated knowledge, law and technology development;
- ▶ Strengthen government planning and management of cities as urban context offers a still largely untapped potential for radically reducing the human footprint, given that three-quarters of humanity is expected to live in cities by 2050.

A sustainable and equitable footprint necessitates promoting pro-poor conservation measures to support the diversification of rural incomes. At UNCS D governments have an opportunity to:

- ▶ Transform current unsustainable agricultural systems by closing nutrient cycles, increasing resource efficiency and eliminating unsustainable practices that harm the environment and lead to biodiversity loss;
- ▶ Promote best management practices and knowledge transfer in order to reduce impacts and expand production knowledge that helps maintain and restore healthy ecosystems;

- ▶ Invest in support to small sustainable farmers in developing countries for measures that maximise their potential contribution to food and water security, environmental protection, and climate adaptation. Measures would include access to markets, knowledge and information along with well-designed technological assistance to increase the productivity of smallholders.
- ▶ Halt and reverse forest loss: paying to keep preserve forests is a sound investment in order to sustainably provide goods (food, medicine, timber, construction materials, etc) and services (preserving watersheds, stabilising soil and preventing erosion, etc) as well as significantly contributing to greenhouse gas emission reduction. Investing in the REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC offers a unique opportunity towards greening the economy.

### 2.1.2 Water Security

Freshwater is a vital natural in all areas of sustainable development and the functions and services provided by freshwater ecosystems underpin food and energy security. To support and ensure water availability in adequate quantity, quality and timing for people and nature, in an equitable and sustainable manner and in the context of climate change and variability, Parties at UNCSO can:

- ▶ Govern and manage water on the basis of natural rather than political boundaries, and within the framework of integrated, participatory river basin management. Build responsible and capable institutions and capacity for integrated water resources management and allocation which includes consideration of the multi-level governance of freshwater resources, within and between countries, including the conservation of critical catchment areas that often coincide with high conservation value forests and wetlands;
- ▶ Reiterate a commitment to sustainable and equitable transboundary water cooperation, on the basis of a comprehensive system of international water law and adequate, well-funded joint management institutions, so as to enable the integrated, system-wide management and sustainable use of rivers, lakes and aquifers shared by two or more countries;
- ▶ Realise water-related commitments under the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including with respect to the adoption of integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans, paying special attention to water demand management, and the development and employment of more efficient water supply technologies and infrastructure;
- ▶ Fully incorporate water into the relevant national and international legislative, institutional and planning frameworks that are outside the water sector, but may have an impact on freshwater resources;
- ▶ Invest in integrated programming between freshwater conservation and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene): Well-designed and implemented WASH projects contribute to improved environmental conditions, just as the conservation and sustainable management of freshwater provides for the maintenance of key ecosystem functions and services on which millions depend for clean water supply, flood control, food, and numerous others;
- ▶ Protect and restore freshwater ecosystems, including through the maintenance and/or restoration of environmental flows and aquifer levels, so that such ecosystems can sustain biodiversity and their functions and services that are vital for human health, livelihoods, well-being and security;
- ▶ Restore and safeguard ecosystems that provide essential services related to water, including along rivers, around lakes, in mountains and steep slopes and in coastal areas, such as headwaters, floodplains, flooded forests, wetlands, aquifers' recharge zones, riparian vegetation, and mangroves, as per Target 14 of the CBD Strategic Plan;

- ▶ Protect and responsibly manage forests. The world still loses 13 million hectares of forests every year, yet many of the world's largest cities rely on drinking water from protected and well managed forests. To maintaining the benefits provided by forests for future generations requires governments should take measures to reverse the ongoing trend of forest loss;
- ▶ Mitigate cities' water footprint, increase urban resilience to climate change and variability, and reduce water risks in urban settings, including through the protection of ecosystems upstream and their functions and services, such as water regulation and filtration.
- ▶ Manage inland water ecosystems so that water availability, flows, connectivity, and quality are adequate to sustain biodiversity and ecosystem services. In order to achieve this, leaders should agree to the following objectives by 2020:
  - ❖ 20% increase in total food supply-chain efficiency; reduce losses and waste from field to fork;
  - ❖ 20% increase in water efficiency in agriculture; more nutrition and crop per drop;
  - ❖ 20% increase in water use efficiency in energy production; more kWh per drop;
  - ❖ 20% increase in the quantity of water reused;
  - ❖ 20% decrease in water pollution.

### 2.1.3 Food security

Ensuring food security requires the conservation of natural resources through comprehensive and effective frameworks. Governments can advance global food security at UNCSD by setting up the following enabling conditions:

- ▶ Increasing efficiency in the food system by reducing waste in the production and distribution of food;
- ▶ Addressing the inequitable distribution of natural resources by actively promoting changed consumption patterns, including more balanced diets, which are less rich in meat, fish and dairy, in high-income countries;
- ▶ Helping break the link between food prices and oil prices by encouraging more diversified production and consumption as well as reducing the use of synthetic fertilizers;
- ▶ Providing greater protection and support for inland water fisheries and fisheries-dependent livelihoods and investing in sustainable fishing practices and policies to prevent, control or reverse overexploitation;
- ▶ Reducing the footprint of the agriculture sector by making sustainable food production central to development and encouraging the treatment and re-use of wastewater for agricultural purposes;
- ▶ Developing frameworks to limit urban sprawl and promoting urban agriculture and sustainable waste water management to support peri-urban agriculture, thus increasing urban food security and reducing waste of land, water and nutrients
- ▶ Conserving natural habitats such as forests that harbor the genetic origins of many of today's agricultural staples and commodities, as a form of insurance against future disease resistance and as reservoirs for future breeding and crop development.

### 2.1.4 Renewable energy for all

Access to energy is a vital component of economic and human development. Yet hastily designed plans to deliver seemingly cheap energy can be wasteful and counterproductive in the longer-term. In order to deliver clean, reliable

and affordable energy to the greatest number, including in rural areas, renewable energy offers the best solution for long-term development.

To ensure access to reliable and affordable energy for all, at UNCSD leaders should:

- ▶ Increase investment by at least US\$ 35 billion worldwide in developing countries in renewable energy capacity and international cooperation on the development, transfer and dissemination of technologies designed to facilitate energy-efficient, resource-efficient, and low carbon economic development. Focus on supplying people in rural areas with greater access to reliable, affordable and sustainable energy supplies.
- ▶ Agree to introduce fiscal policy and incentives to drive increases in private investment flows towards renewable, reliable and sustainable energy supplies in developing countries;
- ▶ With aid agencies and investors, commit to provide technical and financial support in renewable energy systems and projects including community-owned ones; enhance grid policies to link the urban poor with power supply from existing sources while focusing on decentralised and mini-grid systems for the many rural poor and villages;
- ▶ Commit to invest into sustainable biomass supply such as multi-purpose agroforestry, efficient and clean cookstoves, biogas digesters and solar thermal heat supply;
- ▶ Start now to develop, fund and implement national low and zero carbon action plans, including specific plans for achieving 100% access to Energy for All from sustainable and affordable modern energy services;
- ▶ Adopt, enforce and comply with laws, regulations, policies and standards on sustainable hydropower, including with respect to biodiversity conservation, cross-sectoral integration, and public participation in decision-making, and whether they apply to the siting, design and operation of single plants, or as requirements or guidance for basin-wide planning;
- ▶ Promote economy-wide national planning, enabling the integration of large mainstream investment flows, rather than a project-by-project approach on the sidelines of core development strategies and decisions.
- ▶ At UNCSD, leaders should specifically commit to:
  - ❖ Secure access to sustainable and affordable modern energy services by 2030;
  - ❖ Develop and implement national low and zero carbon action plans, including national specific renewable energy and energy efficiency frameworks by 2030;
  - ❖ Reduce global energy intensity by 40% by 2030;
  - ❖ Have at least 30% of renewable energies in the global energy mix by 2030.

## 2.2 Enabling conditions

A green economies approach embraces the management and governance of natural capital to maintain ecosystem services as well as the equitable access to and sharing of resources within the sustainable limits of the planet without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Green economies approaches should fit within and be coherent with the three pillars of sustainability. An emphasis on green economies recognises that change needs to occur at the level of economic incentives.

### 2.2.1 Beyond GDP

Gross Domestic Product has long been considered as a general indicator of progress for countries. Although economic flows are an important facet of development, GDP fails to adequately capture a country's true performance and wealth flows as it does not take account of damage to or depletion of ecosystems and natural resources or human wellbeing.

- ▶ UNCSD represents an opportunity for Parties to move toward a standard set of metrics for an indicator to measure environmental performance alongside those already existing for the economy (GDP) and social (HDI) pillars of sustainable development;
- ▶ Such an indicator of environmental performance would aim to measure annually changes in and flows of natural capital such as air, forests, freshwater and biodiversity. UNCSD should reach agreement on a deadline to endorse common methods and practices, with a view to producing global standards so nationally defined indicators can be comparable at the international level and with appropriate tools for monitoring and assessment;
- ▶ This can build upon existing initiatives such as UNEP's TEEB initiative (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity), the UN's System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), the World Bank's Global Partnership for Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) and the Living Planet Index as well as national programmes.

### 2.2.2 Fiscal, regulatory and legal policy

Through their fiscal, regulatory and legislative powers, governments create the rules within which market forces operate and by which communities live. At UNCSD, governments have an opportunity to commit to making better use of the fiscal, regulatory and legal tools at their disposal in order to better embed the three pillars of sustainability criteria in market valuations. This will enable structural change that is inclusive, generates employment, enhances wellbeing and reduces inequities. Concrete steps include:

- ▶ Eliminating all subsidies that undermine sustainable development, particularly those underpinning fossil fuel use, unsustainable agriculture and fisheries, taking appropriate action to offset this measures' regressive impact. This process would include transparent, annual reporting and review and result in elimination by 2020 at the latest.
  - ❖ Fossil fuels: Agree to phase out all subsidies to the fossil fuel industry in a planned agenda to 2020, first aiming to eliminate all subsidies to production, then to consumption of fossil fuels. Governments should also use this opportunity to earmark this significant saving toward investments in clean renewable energy with access for all;
  - ❖ Agriculture: Agree to phase out of all subsidies that encourage unsustainable farming and deforestation and agree to phase out subsidies to damaging ranching practices. The current subsidy system is to be transformed to provide incentives for the development of, and transition to, environmentally sound agricultural practices and adequate compensation for conservation services, while providing disincentives to practices that produce ecologic damages;
  - ❖ Fisheries: Agree to put an end to all forms of subsidies that encourage destructive fishing practices, growth in fishing fleet size and fishing effort, including fossil fuel subsidies for fishing vessels and all vessels engaged in supporting fishing by 2017. By 2014, establish an institutional framework using the redirected funds to effect innovative financing mechanisms that will pay for the transition from depleted to recovered fisheries, ensuring that overall fishing effort is reduced to match sustainable fishing opportunity;

- ▶ Mandate better integration of social and environmental externalities, including environmental risk and the polluter pays principle, in standard accounting and reporting practices for both business and governments, so that these costs can be reflected in market valuations and environmental impact assessments;
- ▶ Ensure that sustainability and footprint criteria guide public procurement;
- ▶ Ensure legal frameworks and good governance for the sustainable use of natural resources such as forests;
- ▶ Use tax measures to favour the sustainable production and sourcing of goods and commodities by industry, including food crops, dairy, beef, seafood, timber, pulp, cotton, biofuels, palm oil, and soy;
- ▶ In order to use the sustainability potential of urban development all nations should develop regulations that commit and support city governments to deliver and implement ambitious plans to minimise urban area's food, water and energy footprint while improving access, inclusion and needs satisfaction for the poor.

### 2.2.3 Certification

Empowering producers to produce sustainably and providing consumers sustainable products, certification is a key component of sustainable development. Certification schemes assist with the movement to green economies by protecting ecosystems. Governments can help transition to sustainable production by:

- ▶ Expanding support for certifications that use a multi-stakeholder, science-based approach and operate with a transparent system allowing for certification and trade of goods; and further, commit to develop certifications based on these principles for goods that are currently not covered;
- ▶ Ensuring these mechanisms bring together governments, business and civil society in order to foster certification criteria clearly grounded in science;
- ▶ Ensuring that implementation, evaluation and monitoring of certification standards are open and transparent, inclusive and democratic in a way consumers and producers can trust, and develop and enforce mechanisms for supporting achievement of certification by sustainable producers, including smallholders, in the developing world.



## 3. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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The reform of institutional arrangements for sustainable development should be promoted with renewed emphasis on Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration. Transparency, access to information, public participation in decision-making, accountability and access to justice are fundamental and necessary elements for effective and legitimate governance. WWF encourages a process of wide and inclusive consultation and promote social inclusion with full participation of civil society, local communities including indigenous people and private sector that results on good understanding of local, national and regional conditions upon which development scenarios can be built.

### 3.1. Governance

The objective of any reform to the institutional frameworks for sustainable development should be deliver green economies by ensuring adequate monitoring, review and implementation of sustainable development measures. Reform should also include principles such as social inclusion, transparency, policy regulation and enforcement. WWF generally supports the focusing on the functions rather than form of any reform in institutional frameworks.

#### 3.1.1 Creating a Sustainable Development Council (SDC)

At UNCSD leaders should ensure the effective integration of the social, economic and environmental pillars and coordinate synergies with the UN agencies with sustainable development mandates across the UN system through the creation of a Sustainable Development Council (SDC). A SDC could be created either by upgrading the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) or by merging CSD with ECOSOC. The SDC would sit above and coordinate the existing sustainable development structures. The creation of a SDC would not require amending the UN Charter and has a precedent in the establishment of the Human Rights Council.

- ▶ The key functions of the SDC would include:
  - ❖ Coordinating, consolidating and advancing sustainable development objectives across the UN system;
  - ❖ Ensuring integrated discussions between new and emerging issues such as economic security, water, security, climate security, energy security, food security and natural disasters. The SDC should be granted authority to bring agenda items to the Security Council;
  - ❖ Integrating sustainable development principles in UN development policy-making and operational activities;
  - ❖ Implementing previously made commitments on sustainable development by greater emphasis on support, enforcement and monitoring of compliance through stronger accountability mechanisms for the states concerned to respect their engagements;
  - ❖ Reviewing, monitoring and promoting enforcement and compliance of Sustainable Development Goals through strong accountability mechanisms for the states concerned to respect their commitments;
  - ❖ Hosting biannual cross-sectoral ministerial committees on Sustainable Development chaired by the Head of State/Head of Government to bring together relevant ministers (ex: finance, trade, security, health, development, energy, environment, agriculture and fisheries ministries);
  - ❖ Putting in place joint action plans, establishing multi-stakeholders committees (relevant government sectors, national conventions focal points, private sector, indigenous and local communities and civil society organisations) and supporting concrete demonstration pilot projects;

- ❖ Building and sharing knowledge of inter-linkages and solutions to food, water and energy scarcity issues as well as disaster prevention and response.
- ▶ An SDC would benefit from having:
  - ❖ A decision-making process with an equal representation of major donors, recipient countries as well as civil society represented on the governing body;
  - ❖ Country representation at the highest political level of the cross-sectoral ministerial committee;
  - ❖ Membership of International Financial Institutions to increase UN system-wide coherence;
  - ❖ Stable and predictable funding through assessed contributions and processes to ensure that the policies, commitments and Sustainable Development Goals are properly resourced to meet its objectives.

### 3.1.2 Upgrading UNEP

Parties should support the upgrading of UNEP to a specialised agency (UN Environment Organisation) reporting directly to the General Assembly. This enhanced structure consolidates existing institutions and strengthens the environmental pillar by giving it equal political weight to social and economic pillars within the UN system (for example: ILO, WHO WMO).

- ▶ Key functions of an upgraded UNEP would be to:
  - ❖ Provide the UN authoritative voice on environment by defining global environment priorities;
  - ❖ Put greater emphasis on enforcement and monitoring of compliance of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) through stronger accountability mechanisms for contracting parties to respect their commitments;
  - ❖ Help cluster MEAs by providing an “umbrella organisation” that brings coherence to the proliferation of MEAs by focusing on creating synergies in governance approaches;
  - ❖ Develop and drive implementation of global environmental policies;
  - ❖ Monitor and foster UN and MEA financing, capacity building and technology transfer efforts for the environment and make recommendations for financing priorities;
  - ❖ Provide programmatic coherence at global and regional levels, and national-level implementation support. Ensure strong environment expertise within the UN country offices to assist in the identification, assessment, mainstreaming and implementation of environment issues in development, poverty reduction and economic activities;
  - ❖ Build national capacity by working with UNDP or other appropriate agencies to employ country-based environment specialist staff;
  - ❖ Spot emerging trends and identify scenarios for multilateral and institutional response.
- ▶ To be most legitimate and credible, the upgraded UNEP should have:
  - ❖ Universal membership and civil society represented on the governing body;
  - ❖ Stable and predictable funding through assessed contributions rather than voluntary donations and convene processes to ensure that the policies and commitments are properly resourced so the objectives can be met in the timeframe;
  - ❖ A decision-making process with an equal representation of major donors, recipient countries and civil society on the governing body.

### 3.1.3 Greening of Economic, Trade and Financial bodies

Existing economic, trade and financial decision-making bodies should be made to:

- ▶ Better incorporate sustainable development parameters in the existing International Financial Institutions, particularly in terms of funding, operations, strategic plans, objectives and implementation;
- ▶ Include representation of the SDC and upgraded UNEP on the governing body of each of the International Financial Institutions;
- ▶ Grant the SDC and upgraded UNEP with trade-related mandates, objectives and obligations with permanent observer status in all relevant economic and financial decision making bodies;
- ▶ Pursue further reforms to strengthen the efficiency of the Global Environment Facility.

### 3.1.4 Ocean Governance

UNCSD also represents a timely opportunity to address ocean governance, notably by:

- ▶ Convening as a matter of urgency an intergovernmental conference under United Nations auspices on strengthening high seas governance, with a clear and specific mandate to:
  - ❖ Agree to a comprehensive package of governance reforms that fulfils states' commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other relevant international agreements for the effective conservation and protection of the marine environment and marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, on a precautionary and integrated basis, including ensuring full and effective control of vessels, especially by flag states;
  - ❖ Establish a mechanism that will deliver, by 2017, the identification, designation and effective management of a fully comprehensive, adequate and representative system of high seas marine protected areas, including no-take reserves;
  - ❖ Agree to require periodic strategic environmental assessment for all sectoral uses in all regions and to require prior environmental impact assessment for each user with a view to delivering ecosystem-based integrated oceans management;
  - ❖ Ensure that a system is established for adequate assistance to enable developing states to fully and equitably participate in and implement the elements above.
- ▶ Merging the UNGA Oceans and the UNGA Fisheries Resolutions into one genuinely omnibus Ocean Resolution, to ensure all maritime sectors are regulated through this one overarching agreement with a view to avoiding sectoral isolation and to delivering integrated oceans management. Initial discussions to this end could take place within the UNGA Open Ended Working Group on Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.
- ▶ Strengthening cooperation through INTERPOL with a view to ensuring civil and criminal offences at sea, including environmental crime in all its forms, are effectively prevented and prosecuted and, where necessary, agree to ensure relevant activities are regarded as sufficiently serious offences to warrant INTERPOL's involvement in international pursuit of offenders. Of particular concern is the need to recognise: that both the wildlife and pollution aspects of environmental crime need to be broadened to explicitly include marine aspects; that marine living resources crimes are serious; that the involvement of transnational organised crime is widespread; and that poor working and living conditions amount to the serious crime of trafficking in persons.

### 3.1.5 Strengthening the legal governance of transboundary freshwater systems

UNCSD also represents an opportunity for governments to acknowledge the transboundary and global dimensions of climate change in relation to water. The UN Watercourses Convention is the only MEA adopted as a follow-up to the Earth summit 1992 that has not yet entered into force. This is increasingly problematic as water crises become increasingly recognised as a crisis of water governance at all levels.

- ▶ WWF therefore calls on all UNCSD Parties to Join and effectively implement the *UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses* (UN Watercourses Convention) as a global framework guiding and supporting transboundary water cooperation, including in the context of climate change. Entry into force of the UN Watercourses Convention is vital for enabling its integration with existing water-related MEAs, thereby facilitating their implementation.

## 3.2 Funding for transition

The financial payoffs of transitioning to green economies, though significant, may sometimes lay in the medium- and long-term and require upfront costs. Such upfront funding should be made available to help finance the transition to green economies and be an integral part of UNCSD.

### 3.2.1 New Investment Vehicle

UNCSD can setup an investment vehicle to fund the global transition to green economies. Such an investment vehicle would aim to:

- ▶ Scale up and catalyse new and additional sources of funding, from both public and private funding with a view to raise the capital necessary to transition to green economies;
- ▶ Finance leapfrogging technologies and refitting programmes with a view to capture the increased returns inherent in economies that better address social and environmental concerns;
- ▶ Seek to invest in food, water and renewable energy access.

UNCSD can also seize the opportunity to make significant progress on the establishment of the Green Climate Fund, which could become a part of the new investment vehicle to fund the transition to green economies. The following key principles should apply to both the Green Climate Fund and the new investment vehicle:

- ▶ Streamlining and harmonising the numerous existing funds building upon the Paris Aid Effectiveness Declaration and setting up coordination platforms to better handle the fragmented financial landscape by simplifying the application processes for funding;
- ▶ Ensuring a fair allocation of funding between sectors, countries and regions;
- ▶ Facilitating direct access to funding for National Implementing Entities, including by fostering capacity-building for the accreditation of new Implementing Entities in the LDCs;
- ▶ Setting up a balanced governance system between donor and recipient countries, with the objective of funding priorities on the basis of country-led initiatives;
- ▶ Ensuring the effective engagement of stakeholders (governments, business, civil society) ; Civil Society Organisations should be involved in decision-making process related to the selection of the Board, the selection of funding priorities and projects, and through clear and transparent reporting;
- ▶ Establishing and use social and environmental safeguards for the implementation of projects, with a specific attention to the vulnerabilities and needs of local communities, women and indigenous people.

### 3.2.2 New innovative sources of finance

Public sources of funding need to be updated and enhanced in order to help fund sustainable development. UNCSD can catalyse this by notably agreeing to:

- ▶ Agree to introduce a global Financial Transaction Tax (FTT), with revenues raised being earmarked for implementing UNCTAD.
  - ❖ The FTT could be levied on all financial market transactions involving stocks, bonds, foreign exchange and derivatives (futures and options);
  - ❖ The FTT could be collected through an electronic tag on existing information systems;
  - ❖ Fixed at a low level of taxation (around 0.05% or below), the FTT would raise significant revenues to address global issues such as food, water and energy insecurity, climate change and biodiversity loss without any significant impact on the economy;
- ▶ Auction allowances or a levy on emissions from the international maritime and aviation transport sectors (so called “bunkers”) providing guidance to the IMO and ICAO to:
  - ❖ Reduce emissions from aviation and shipping by implementing an emissions levy or allowance auctioning in both sectors;
  - ❖ Use the revenue raised from such a system towards climate change finance in developing countries;
  - ❖ Design the system such that there is no net incidence or burden on developing countries, for instance using a rebate mechanism in the maritime sector for the economies which are heavily dependent on imports by sea.
- ▶ End the Chicago Agreement not to tax aircraft fuel for international flights (a form of fossil fuel subsidy)
- ▶ Support the establishment and access to financial assets for rural and urban poor by means of alternative schemes of financial services (micro-credit; credit unions, etc).

## 4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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It is essential to bring a robust and ambitious framework into force after the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expire in 2015 to eliminate poverty by ensuring food, water and energy access to all. A post-2015 framework needs to tackle the structural causes of inequality within and between countries, and target poor governance, unfair trade systems, environmental degradation, and climate change. The new framework should better capture the integrated development challenges to the environment and should be benchmarked for all countries. The process to develop a new set of goals and targets should be a consultative process.

For these reasons WWF supports:

- ▶ The concept of Sustainable Development Goals, including linking ecosystem health (water management, energy, food production, agriculture and ranching, marine and fisheries, footprint reduction) to development objectives;
- ▶ The principle that SDGs are complementary to MDGs and bring added value to the work on post-2015 framework for MDGs;
- ▶ Any agreed set of SDGs should have universal targets, for both developing and developed countries.