



The Millennium Declaration Review WWF Recommendations to EU Heads of State

May 2005

1. Introduction

WWF, the global conservation organisation, is calling upon the 25 EU Heads of State and Government to **ensure** that the September Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) recognises that progress in poverty eradication depends on **a global policy framework leading to global sustainable development**. This recognition would constitute a major step by the European States towards acting upon several commitments in the fight against global poverty and promoting sustainable development.

Environmental and sustainable development concerns must be integrated into the implementation plans for all of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A healthy environment is the foundation upon which the achievement of every MDG depends. The Synthesis Report of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (March 2005) stated that '...the degradation of ecosystem services poses a significant barrier to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to the MDG targets for 2015'.

Sustainable natural resource management, maintenance of ecosystem services and environmental protection are key factors for alleviating poverty, attaining global peace, security and public health, and achieving the MDGs.

To achieve the goals set by the Millennium Declaration, WWF makes recommendations to EU Heads of State and Government in three key areas:

- **Coherence for development of EU policies:** Ensuring the integration of environment and sustainable development concerns into the implementation of MDG-8 on Global Partnerships for Development through transparent monitoring of EU policies impacts on developing countries' environment and sustainable management of their natural resources.
- **Integration of environment and sustainable development concerns into development policy programming:** A stronger focus on MDG-7 and integration of environmental considerations into policy and economic agreements as well as national and regional programming.
- **Better and more quantifiable indicators for all MDGs:** setting up of transparent and adequately financed monitoring mechanisms particularly for MDG-7.

2. Coherence for development in MDG-8:

The establishment of a global partnership for development is a prerequisite for achieving all the MDGs. Economic and social governance structures weakened by corruption and by denial of human rights, are presently inadequate to tackle the challenges of sustainable development. Most attempts to create international environmental governance structures have been ineffective in addressing the coherence of 400 existing Multilateral Environment Agreements. This implies the need for a clear coherence of EU policies to support and not undermine the global objectives of poverty reduction and sustainable development.

The European Commission's has issued three communications: the EU contribution to MDGs; the coherence for development; and, aid effectiveness.¹ WWF urges EU Heads of State and Government to: institutionally recognise EU performance in addressing **MDG targets** as being the cornerstone of the European Sustainable Development Strategy; **nominate the General Affairs Council for External relations for assessing progress**; and, take **stronger commitments and clear set of actions** regarding development aid policy, trade, and governance and implementation issues.

a) Development aid policy

The excessive dependency of developing countries on the extraction of natural resources beyond the Earth's capacity to regenerate its resources is exacerbated by subsidies regimes, international lending institutions and private finance and is an obstacle to poverty eradication.

At least 54 countries² have suffered from declining per capita income since 1990, and increasing poverty is accompanied by an increase in global and income inequality. These inequalities are often an important factor behind local, national and regional conflicts. It is WWF's experience that in most countries the livelihoods of the poor depend heavily on the quality, availability and access to natural resources. And, at the same time, the poor are often increasingly weakened in their capacity to manage the natural resources on which they depend therefore leading to total marginalisation.

Still, however, environmental concerns and concerns for the capacity of the poor to manage their resources are rarely factored into security, development or humanitarian strategies. By and large, international institutions and States continue to treat poverty, infectious disease and environmental degradation as stand-alone threats leading to fragmented national and international responses and poor implementation and enforcement. Based on the commitments made on several Multilateral Environmental Agreements and at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), EU Heads of State can make progress on these issues.

¹ Communications proposals of 12 March 2005 on "Speeding up progress towards the Millennium Development Goals" - "Policy coherence Development, accelerating progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals" - "Accelerating progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals - Financing for Development and Aid effectiveness"

² As noted in the report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change ("High-Level Panel")

WWF urges EU Heads of State and Government to:

- 1) agree a binding time frame for the increase of EU official development assistance (ODA), which at least lives up to the proposal of the UN Secretary General for ODA to reach 0.5% of gross national income (GNI) by 2009 and 0.7% of GNI by 2015. Given the global leadership role of the EU, the 'old' Member States should all agree to reach the 0.7% target by 2010;**
- 2) agree for the establishment of a transparent monitoring mechanism of subsidies regimes, lending and grant mechanisms from European policies and actions impacting developing countries' environment and their capacity to manage natural resources on the basis of good governance.**
- 3) integrate conservation and sustainable use of natural resources into the principal national and international mechanisms for poverty reduction and development, and increase effectiveness of EC aid through common assessment of socio-economic environmental challenges ("Country Environmental Profile") and common strategic intervention tools (Country and Regional Strategy papers);**
- 4) ensure that EU will continue to promote pro-poor environment-related initiatives and policies for sustainable development, which will be sufficient to close financing gaps preventing the achievement of the MDGs and WSSD targets;**
- 5) ensure that development aid policy definition and programmes address the question of coherence with other policies regarding impacts on developing countries' environment and increase local capacities for sustainable resource management, access to resources, and participation in environmental governance and decision making by the poor at local, national, regional and international level**

b) Trade

It is estimated that by 2015, 40% of all goods and services in the world will be traded internationally. Presently, however, in international trade, economic priorities are often pursued with inadequate consideration of their long-term impacts, resulting in increased poverty, environmental degradation and social problems.

To address these issues, sustainable development must be the guiding principle in international trade and investment policy-making. Economic development strategies must balance between short and long-term concerns.

WWF urges EU Heads of State and Government to use the WTO's Millenium Round of negotiations to ensure:

- 1) recognition that many subsidies have immense negative implications for developing countries, and that 'trade distortion' is not the right concept to discriminate between legitimate and illegitimate subsidies. Legitimate payments should be focussed narrowly on legitimate developmental and environmental**

goals, without prejudging the levels of payment that may be required in pursuit of such goals;

- 2) *recognition that the extension of market access provisions will require balancing, on the one hand, the need to distinguish between goods on the basis of how they are produced and used, with, on the other, the needs of developing country exporters. This will require intergovernmental agencies other than the WTO to identify market access measures which promote trade in goods and services in those instances where these have positive sustainable development impacts (considering both short-term and long-term needs);*
- 3) *recognition that global problems require international agreements (e.g. multilateral environmental agreements) and that it is legitimate for these, where necessary, to include trade provisions in such a way as to balance long-term and short-term concerns.*

3. Promote Environmental Sustainability MDG-7:

National development strategies should become frameworks of sustainable development leading to the achievement of the MDGs. In this context, WWF urges the EU to promote the integration of **five priority issues** both in national strategies and in global policy frameworks: biodiversity, freshwater, energy and climate change, illegal logging, and fisheries.

This five issues, fully interconnected, are reported by the UN as being vital for health, livelihoods, food production, vulnerability of populations. WWF's 2004 Living Planet Index, measuring trends in species populations, reports that from 1970 to 2000 terrestrial, freshwater, and marine species populations fell by 40%. Meanwhile, as stated in WWF's 2004 Living Planet Report, humanity's ecological footprint grew 150% from 1961 and 2000. **Energy** consumption is the fastest growing component of the global ecological footprint with a 180% increase since 1971. Global **freshwater** use exceeds long-term accessible supplies from 5% to possibly 25% and demand is projected to grow for water by between 30% and 85% during the next 50 years. **Illegal logging** account for up to 80 per cent of all harvested trees in some countries of South East Asia, Africa and Latin America due to high demand for timber in the EU, Japan, US, and China.

WWF recommends that EU Heads of State and Government:

a. Biodiversity

- 1) *affirm these internationally agreed commitments, including on funding of implementation through a EU common platform for financing International Public Goods and on application of the ecosystem approach;*
- 2) *commit to taking action to substantially reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;*

- 3) *agree to take greater actions to halt the extinction of known species;*
- 4) *acknowledge the need for indicators measuring biodiversity loss and the human footprint to monitor progress in meeting the MDGs.*

b. Energy and Climate Change

- 1) *increases in global average temperature stay below 2 degrees Celsius (in comparison to pre-industrial levels) by promotion of domestic action leading to at least 30% greenhouse gas emission cuts by 2020 in the EU. This can ideally be achieved by a target of 25% renewable energy by 2020, by sectoral standards leading to an overall energy efficiency increase higher than economic growth that will reduce energy consumption by 1% per year, and by a strengthened emissions trading scheme;*
- 2) *negotiations are initiated immediately under the Kyoto Protocol to produce agreements on substantial reductions in CO₂ emissions post-2012;*
- 3) *countries implement adaptation strategies on the basis of national plans for the reduction of vulnerability to climate change.*

c. Freshwater

- 1) *build on their commitments made at the WSSD to implement strategies to protect ecosystems and develop IWRM and water efficiency plans and halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation;*
- 2) *call for cooperation between States sharing watercourses, including ratification of the UN Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses;*
- 3) *define best practices in integrated water resources plans, poverty reduction strategies, and national laws to encourage the adoption of water-use policies and practices that contribute to conserving the environment of threatened river basins, for example, by allocating environmental flows; and*
- 4) *protect and sustainably manage key freshwater habitats, for example, through the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. In this regard, outcomes from CSD-13 should be integrated in the Millennium review.*

d. Illegal Logging

- 1) *exclude illegal wood products from the EU market;*

- 2) *use government procurement policies to source legal and environmentally and socially sustainable timber and wood products;*
- 3) *support the adoption of credible and responsible purchasing policies by industry, sourcing legal and sustainable timber and forest products, and;*
- 4) *ensure forest policy reform and improve forest governance in producer countries, where needed, to establish clear laws which ensure just, equitable and transparent sustainable forest management.*

e. Fisheries

- 1) *securing sustainable fisheries management regimes both in EU waters and in waters accessed by EU distant waters fleets;*
- 2) *disciplining harmful subsidies;*
- 3) *utilizing market and trade incentives to promote sustainable fishing;*
- 4) *securing coherence with other sector policies, including trade and development.*

4. Indicators

To achieve the goals set by the Millennium Declaration, the existing MDG indicators need to be improved significantly with capabilities to measure the integration of environmental considerations in a forward-looking and quantifiable manner in all development-related focal areas. New indicators must reflect the pressures and drivers affecting development, poverty and environment issues in an integrated manner providing accurate and informed information on overall trends regarding sustainable development.

WWF can offer concepts from WWF's Living Planet Report to provide effective solutions to these monitoring challenges, including indicators reflecting humanity's ecological footprint. Also the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment provides very useful input in this regard, particularly by linking the concept of ecosystem services directly to human well-being.

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