



OWG OUTCOME DOCUMENT

WWF POLICY ANALYSIS

Global and Regional Policy, 3 September 2014

Document purpose:

This document is WWF's policy analysis of the outcome document of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and it outlines in detail how the OWG outcome document lives up to the ambition of integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development. This document also suggests ways to improve the existing target proposals and raise the ambition level for a more integrated and mainstreamed agenda that aims to be globally relevant and universal in nature. See the Annex for WWF's summary "scorecard".

Introduction

WWF welcomes:

- the overall range of critical social and environmental issues identified and the understanding of the integrated solutions required to lead us to sustainable change;
- the acknowledgement that "**poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural base of economic and social development**" are all "overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development" (paragraph 3);
- paragraph 8, which recognizes combating **climate change** as one of the greatest challenges of our time and an essential element to delivering sustainable development, but also highlights the gap between mitigation commitments and the aggregate emission pathways necessary to hold the increase in the global average temperature below 2°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;
- paragraph 9, which recognises the importance of the rights of nature, **Planet Earth** and its **ecosystems** for sustainable development as well as the necessity to **promote harmony with nature**.

The Introduction should be further strengthened by:

- recognizing the importance of the overall **level of integration** through the framework;
- recognizing that humans should prosper while **maintaining the planet's resources** and that any long-term overshoot would result in an **unsustainable overexploitation of the planet and jeopardise the SDGs as a whole**;
- recognizing, in paragraphs 2 and 3, the role of **sustainable development** in poverty eradication and recognizing that it is an overarching objective of the SDGs;
- recognizing, in paragraph 2, that **increasing inequality** is becoming a risk factor that can weaken development efforts and increase social costs;

- recognizing **poverty as, also, a consequence of unsustainable production and consumption, poor environmental governance and inequality, as well as a cause of environmental degradation.**

Proposed goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

WWF strongly welcomes:

- the inclusion of “in all its forms” in the goal’s title to recognize the **multidimensional aspects of poverty** that go beyond income and monetary values alone;
- the inclusion in target 1.4 of **equal rights and access to natural resources**;
- target 1.5 on building resilience and **reducing exposure to climate-related extreme events and other environmental shocks and disasters.**

These targets above could help recognize the important interlinkages between poverty eradication and sustainable and equitable management of resource base and the need to reduce the particular exposure of the poor and most vulnerable to extreme weather events and environmental shocks, which may themselves be often linked to the degradation of natural environments.

Indicators to make these linkages explicit will be needed for Target 1.b on “sound policy frameworks [...] based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies”.

The goal should be further strengthened by adding a target on the protection of ecosystems and natural resources, essential for long term poverty eradication and prevention.

Proposed goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

WWF believes this goal successfully integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development.

WWF strongly welcomes in particular:

- the inclusion of **food security** in the goal title as it is the only time that food security is mentioned in the entire document;
- the recognition of the importance of **maintaining ecosystems** that “strengthen capacity for adaptation to **climate change**, extreme weather, drought flooding and other disasters” to “ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices” (target 2.4);

WWF further welcomes:

- the need to ensure sustainable food productions and resilient agricultural practices that progressively improve land and soil quality;
- the inclusion of “**fishers**” in target 2.3; and the inclusion of “secure and equal access to land, other **productive resources** and inputs”;
- the acknowledgement of the importance of **maintaining genetic diversity** and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge (target 2.5).

This goal should be further strengthened by:

- including a target on climate-smart land-use planning and agriculture;
- including a target on reducing the impact of agriculture on forests.

This goal will require **clear indicators** to define key concepts, including “all forms of malnutrition” (target 2.2), as well as “sustainable food production systems” and “resilient agricultural practices” (target 2.4). These definitions will be crucial for the next phase of discussions.

Proposed goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

WWF welcomes target 3.9 which calls for the reduction of “the number of deaths and illnesses from **hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination**.”

This goal should be further strengthened by:

- reflecting the importance of **protecting biodiversity and genetic diversity** for its contribution to **disease prevention and cure**;
- including a **target on healthy diets** given that, according to WHO, **obesity and diabetes** are the fastest growing health issues amongst low, middle and high income communities which may undermine health benefits gained over the past decades;
- recognizing challenges generating from **climatic and environmental change for controlling diseases** such as malaria;

Proposed goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

WWF welcomes target 4.7, which calls for all learners to “acquire knowledge and skills needed to **promote sustainable development**, including among others through **education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles**”.

Proposed goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

WWF welcomes the inclusion in target 5.a of “**equal [...] access** to ownership and control over [...] **natural resources [...]**” for women.

Proposed goal 6. Endure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation

WWF strongly welcomes:

- target 6.6 on the **protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems**

WWF further welcomes:

- target 6.4 **on water-use efficiency and sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater**;
- target 6.5 on **integrated water resources management through transboundary cooperation**;

This goal should be further strengthened by:

- including **climate-smart water related infrastructure** development and management to build resilience to risk including extreme flooding;
- including **improved governance systems** that safeguard and restore ecosystem and build resilience to climate;
- including a target on **water-efficient agriculture** practices (According the UNDP Human Development Report, agriculture accounts for 70-85 percent of water use)

Proposed goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

WWF supports a goal on universal access to energy, but the full set of targets under this goal grossly lacks the ambition necessary to put the world on a sustainable energy path. The vague target on renewable energy and the insufficient target for improving energy efficiency ignore what is technologically and economically feasible and desirable today. There is no reference to “**safe**”, “**clean**” and “**sustainable**” energy, which would exclude nuclear energy and risky upstream fossil fuel exploration. The absence of a target to **phase out fossil fuel subsidies** is a glaring gap in this goal. This goal should be further strengthened by:

- replacing “increase substantially” by “at least doubling renewable energy share” in target 7.2 as per the Sustainable Energy for All objectives;
- modifying target 7.3 to “tripling the annual rate of energy efficiency improvement by 2030 compared to today”;
- including language on transforming fossil fuel production and consumption subsidies into pro-poor clean energy access and overall support for renewables and energy/resource efficiency.

Proposed goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

WWF remains alarmed by the focus on economic growth as an objective end-point detached from wider social objectives and environmental safeguards critical to long term sustainable development. Furthermore, this goal **does not recognize the critical and definitive role a healthy natural environment plays in enabling economic growth and development**. As this goal currently stands, it has the potential to contradict many of the environmental and social goals and targets identified elsewhere in the goal set.

While WWF strongly welcomes the inclusion of target 8.4 on **improving global resource efficiency in consumption and production**, we note that it lacks sufficient ambition to ensure that **economic growth is decoupled from environmental degradation in absolute terms**.

This goal should be considerably strengthened by:

- changing the focus to “**economic development**” instead of “economic growth”;
- including, within target 8.4, the concept of **absolute decoupling of economic activity from environmental degradation**;
- including a target on sustainable **management, efficient use and good and equitable governance of natural resources (currently SCP 12.2)**;
- including a target on the development and implementation of **low carbon, climate resilient economic development strategies and action plans**;
- moving target 17.19 on a broader system of **national accounting including natural, social and human capital and measures of progress beyond GDP** to this goal;
- including a target on **sustainable (corporate) reporting**;;
- including a target on the internalization of external environmental and social costs in national accounting and in economic balances resulting in sustainable and fair end product prices that is consistent with target 17.19.

Proposed goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

WWF welcomes the inclusion of “**resilient**” and “**sustainable**” in the title of this goal as well as target 9.4 on upgrading infrastructure and **retrofitting industries** to make them sustainable, with **increased resources use efficiency** and greater **adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies**.

However, the goal requires more ambition in order to recognize the high economic and job potential of investments in innovative, **resource efficient** and **low carbon developments** and solutions.

This goal should be considerably strengthened by:

- including a target on increased investment in **energy- and resource-efficiency infrastructure**;
- including a target on **promoting natural and climate smart infrastructure**;

Proposed goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

WWF believes this goal could be considerably strengthened with the introduction of a target on **universal and equitable access to natural resources and sharing of benefits**.

Proposed goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

WWF believes this goal includes a good level of integration between the three dimensions of sustainable development. WWF welcomes the introduction of the word “**resilient**” in the title of the goal and welcomes particularly:

- the acknowledgement, in target 11.b, that cities must **adopt and implement integrated policies and plans** towards inclusion, **resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters**;
- target 11.4 on the **protection and safeguard of the world’s cultural and natural heritage**;
- the reference to **disasters, including water-related disasters** under target 11.5;
- target 11.6 on reducing the **adverse environmental impact of cities**;
- reference to **green and public spaces** in target 11.7;
- the addition, of the **environmental links** between urban, peri-urban and rural areas in target 11.a;

WWF however believes that this goal should be significantly strengthened by:

- recognizing the importance of **clean and renewable energy, energy efficiency** as well as investment in the development of **energy- and resource-efficient infrastructure**;
- including “**energy efficient**” under target 11.1 on access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing;
- specify “**air quality**” under target 11.6 on reducing adverse environmental impact of cities;

Proposed goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

WWF particularly welcomes:

- target 12.2 on **sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources**;
- target 12.3 to halve per capita **global food waste** and **reduce food losses**;
- target 12.6 to encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices and to **integrate sustainability information into their reporting requirements**;
- target 12.7 to **promote sustainable public procurement practices**;
- target 12.8 to have relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and **lifestyles in harmony with nature**;
- target 12.b on **sustainable tourism**;
- target 12.c on rationalizing and phase out inefficient **fossil fuel subsidies**;

This goal should be further strengthened by:

- increasing the level of ambition of target 12.6 by recommending transparent and integrated reporting of environmental, social and governance impacts;

- strengthening target 12.7 by specifying that governments, local governments and public authorities should put in place sustainable procurement policies for goods, services and infrastructure which define minimum environmental and social standards;
- including **governance and enforcement capacities** in target 12.a on supporting developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacities;
- removing the subjective qualifier “**inefficient**” before fossil fuel subsidies in target 12.c;

Proposed goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

WWF welcomes the inclusion of climate change as a standalone goal. However, targets under this goal significantly lack the ambition necessary to address climate change globally, particularly given that there are no timelines and figures. While we welcome targets 13.1 on **strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity** to climate related hazard and natural disasters and target 13.a on “**implementing the commitment of mobilizing USD100 billion annually by 2020**” and “**fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund**” this goal should be significantly strengthened by:

- including a target on introducing instruments and incentives for investment in **low carbon solutions, infrastructure, industry and other sectors**;
- including a target on **reducing global annual emissions to less than 40 GtCO₂e/yr by 2020 and less than 24 GtCO₂e per year by 2030**;
- including a target on holding **the increase in global average temperature below 2° C, or 1.5° C** in accordance with international agreements.

Proposed goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

WWF supports the **dedicated goal on oceans, seas and marine resources** as critical to all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental). WWF strongly welcomes:

- target 14.2 on the importance of managing, protecting and restoring **coastal ecosystems**;
- target 14.4 on regulating harvesting, ending overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and restoring fish stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield;
- target 14.6 on **fisheries subsidies** although this target should be considerably strengthened by removing the mention on “**certain forms of**” fisheries subsidies.

WWF believes that this goal should be considerably strengthened to encompass a better inclusion of social and economic targets by:

- recognizing the linkages with and contribution to **food security**. Fisheries and aquaculture are a vital part of food security and they should be clearly mentioned under target 14.2 and 14.4;
- recognizing the linkages with **economic development**. Marine ecosystems provide services valued at an estimated USD\$21 trillion per year to the global economy and power the economies of many coastal nations and small island developing states, while capture fisheries support more than 260 million jobs globally;
- strengthening target 14.4 by including “**implementing ecosystem based approach to fisheries**” to regulate harvesting;
- strengthening target 14.5 on conserving coastal and marine areas by increasing the ambition **to 20% instead of 10%** and adding “through establishing **ecologically**

representative and effectively and equitable managed systems of marine protected areas, within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction”;

- recognizing the importance of **equitable management** in delivering sustainable management;
- recognizing the importance of **marine spatial planning**;
- including **“equitable”** in target 14.b on “providing access to small scale artisanal fishers to markets”. WWF would further strengthen this target adding the qualification “engaged in sustainable fishing practices managed within an ecosystem approach to fisheries”, in order to ensure that these activities also contribute to ecosystems health and productive sustainable fisheries.

Proposed goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

WWF strongly supports the **dedicated goal on terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity** and strongly welcomes the inclusion of the concept of **“restoration”** in the title and targets. This recognizes not only the need to rehabilitate certain degraded ecosystems but also opens the door to indicators to capture the ability of ecosystem and biodiversity preservation to stimulate and create jobs and foster economic development.

This goal remains very focused on the environmental dimension of sustainable development and we thus strongly support target 15.9 on integrating **ecosystems and biodiversity values** into **national and local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies** as an essential recognition of the link between biodiversity and **poverty eradication** and **economic development**. WWF believes this goal would be considerably strengthened by:

- recognising that biodiversity and ecosystems provide the basis for jobs, food, water and energy, as well as ensuring human health, and if well governed also for well-being, sustainable development, and social stability;
- referring to **“sustainable management and equitable governance”** instead of “sustainable use” under target 15.1;
- including under target 15.b, a reference to **“halt deforestation”**, as an additional objective for incentives to developing countries;
- strengthening target 15.5 by including **“halting the loss of all natural habitats by 2030”** as per CBD Aichi target 5;
- recognizing agriculture as a main driver of deforestation.

Proposed goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

WWF strongly welcomes this goal as essential for the sustainable and equitable management of natural resources. WWF believes this goal should be strengthened by:

- recognizing of the important role of **indigenous people and local communities** in decision-making and **natural resource management** under target 16.7 on inclusive and participatory decision-making.
- including **illicit wildlife trafficking** among other forms of organized crime under this goal.

WWF calls for these aspects to be strongly addressed at the **indicator level**.

Proposed goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

WWF strongly welcomes the target 17.19 on **developing measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement GDP**. However, WWF suggests that measures should be agreed and implemented as soon as possible as they have been in development for a long time already.

WWF further welcomes:

- target 17.16 on **multi-stakeholder partnerships** as complementary to the global partnership for sustainable development;
- target 17.7 on development and diffusion of **environmentally sound technologies** to developing countries.

WWF believes that this goal should be considerably strengthened with the inclusion of specific targets on **resource mobilization** for the implementation for the **CBD** and for the fulfilment of the Copenhagen pledge of USD100 billion annually by 2020.

WWF SDGs Scorecard

Goals	Positives	Missing
1. Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Equal rights and access to natural resources (1.4) ✓ Reduced exposure to climate-related extreme events (1.5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Protection of ecosystems and natural resources for poverty reduction
2. Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sustainable food production in agricultural practices that help maintain ecosystems (2.4) ✓ Acknowledgement of the importance of maintaining genetic diversity (2.5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Climate-smart land-use planning and agriculture ✗ Reducing the impact of agriculture on forests
3. Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reducing the number of death and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination (3.9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Protecting biodiversity and genetic diversity for its contribution to disease prevention and cure ✗ Healthy diets ✗ Challenges from climatic and environmental change for controlling diseases
4. Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles (4.7) 	
5. Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Equal access to ownership and control over natural resources (5.a) 	
6. Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Water-use efficiency, sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater (6.4) ✓ Integrated water resources management (6.5) ✓ Protect and restore water-related ecosystems (6.6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Climate-smart water related infrastructure ✗ Good governance ✗ Water-efficient agriculture practices
7. Energy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Ambition of renewable energy targets ✗ Ambition of energy efficiency targets ✗ Energy related targets under goals on food, water, cities, economic growth, infrastructure ✗ Phase out of fossil fuel subsidies
8. Economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving global resource efficiency in consumption and production (8.4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Role of healthy natural environment in enabling economic growth and development ✗ Absolute decoupling of economic activity from environmental degradation ✗ Sustainable management, efficient use and good and equitable governance of natural resources ✗ Low carbon, climate resilient economic development strategies and action plans ✗ Sustainability (corporate) reporting ✗ System of national accounting, including natural, social and human capital and measures of progress beyond GDP
9. Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Retrofitting industries to make them sustainable (9.4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Energy- and resource efficient - infrastructure ✗ Promoting natural and climate smart infrastructure
10. Inequality		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Universal and equitable access to natural resources and distribution of benefits
11. Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Clean and renewable energy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters (11.b) ✓ Protection and safeguard of the world's cultural and natural heritage (11.4) ✓ Reducing adverse environmental impact of cities (11.6) ✓ Environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas (11.a) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Energy efficiency ✗ Investment in energy- and resource-efficient infrastructure
12. Sustainable consumption and production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (12.2) ✓ Reducing food waste and food losses (12.3) ✓ Companies to adopt sustainable practices and integrate sustainability information in their reporting requirements (12.5) ✓ Sustainable public procurement practices (12.7) ✓ Sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature (12.8) ✓ Sustainable tourism (12.b) ✓ Rationalising inefficient fossil fuel subsidies (12.c) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Governance and enforcement capacities
13. Climate change		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Instruments and incentives for investment in low carbon solutions, infrastructure, industry and other sectors ✗ Reducing carbon emissions ✗ Increase of temperature kept below 1.5/2 degrees
14. Oceans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Managing, protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems (14.2) ✓ Regulating harvesting, ending overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and restoring fish stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield (14.4) ✓ Prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies (14.6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Linkages with economic development and food security ✗ Establishing ecologically representative and effectively and equitable managed systems of marine protected areas, within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction ✗ Equitable management
15. Biodiversity and ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Inclusion of the concept of restoration (title and 15.1) ✓ Integrating biodiversity values in national planning and development strategies (15.9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Incentives to halt deforestation ✗ Halting the loss of all natural habitats ✗ Agriculture as a main driver of deforestation
16. Peaceful and inclusive societies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Role of indigenous people and local communities in natural resource management ✗ Reference to illicit trade in natural resources and wildlife
17. Means of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National accounting "beyond GDP" (17.19) ✓ Multi-stakeholder partnerships (17.16) ✓ Development and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries (17.7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Resource mobilization for the implementation for the CBD and for the UNFCCC