



Comments for item 5.6: Draft Decision on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Change title on mitigation, focus on ecosystems in general

The header of the part about mitigation after 8 (l) already suggests that mitigation of emissions due to ecosystem loss is seen as mainly a forest issue (*Ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation including the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation...*)

Remove all the words in the title after: Ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation.

Prioritise ecosystem management activities for effectiveness in mitigation

The current list of ecosystem engagement activities lacks prioritisation and therefore is not targeted to most effective actions for mitigation and biodiversity.

Re-order the list of activities under 8 (n) and be explicit about priorities:

Implement ecosystem management activities, including in order of priority, the protection of natural forests, natural grasslands and peat lands, restoration of degraded wetlands and natural grasslands, conservation of mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass beds, the use of native communities of forest species in reforestation activities, sustainable management of forests, sustainable agricultural and soil management as a contribution...

Restore forest landscapes subject to harvesting, clearing and degrading

Using native species is good, but in itself not enough to restore biodiversity. Further degradation intruding into intact ecosystems should be explicitly avoided.

Add to the end of 8. (o):

(...secondary forests;)and avoid introducing harvesting, clearing and / or degrading activities to forest landscapes where such activities are not already occurring.

Add safeguard against forest plantations on peat.

In 8 (p), four safeguards are mentioned for afforestation / reforestation forest restoration.

Under 8. (p) add:

(v) Prevent the loss of ecosystem carbon in other organic stocks, such as the loss of peatland carbon due to drainage for forest plantations.

Prevent biodiversity and ecosystem carbon losses for renewable energy production.

In the part on “mitigation and adaptation measures; including renewable energy production” add:

Under 8. (v) , add:

vi) Make sure that emissions caused by renewable energy production - including those from (direct and indirect) land use and land use change - are at least 50% less compared to the fossil fuel production and use.

(vii) Ensure that no areas of high conservation value or species richness are used or converted for renewable energies.

More information:

www.wetlands.org/peatlands alex.kaat@wetlands.org +31 (0)6 50601917

Peg Putt peg.putt@wilderness.org.au +61 418 127580