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Global Climate & Energy Initiative

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Expectations for the UNFCCC Bangkok Conference

Bangkok must agree on a process to operationalize the Cancun Agreements as well as lay the basis for increasing ambition especially in terms of mitigation and finance pledges in time for COP 17 in Durban.

The UNFCCC inter-sessional meetings in Bangkok present the first opportunity after Cancun to start to map out the way forward from the Cancun Agreements. The meeting must ensure there is no further slippage of the timelines agreed in Cancun, and lay the basis to set ambitious and achievable objectives for the Durban meeting at the end of this year and beyond. In terms of issues, WWF has prioritized the following areas for early progress to be made in Bangkok:

- Enhancing Mitigation action through addressing the Gigatonne Gap
- Reaching agreement on sources of Finance
- Deepening agreements on Adaptation and Deforestation
- Deepening agreement on Low Emission Development Strategies differentiated for developed and developing countries.

Markers of Progress in Bangkok:

Agreement on a work plan and timetable to deliver on key elements of the Cancun Agreement: This would be an important outcome from Bangkok. Together with progress on key substantive issues in the Cancun agreement outlined below, a clear workplan and timetable is required to pave the way for rapid operationalization as well as enhanced outcomes for COP 17 in Durban.

Agreement on the process and timetable for the establishment of institutional arrangements: The institutional arrangements for Finance, Adaptation and Technology under the UNFCCC were agreed to in Cancun. Parties in Bangkok have to reach agreement on how to operationalize these institutions. WWF believes these institutions should be capable of mobilizing and managing the financial and technology resources necessary to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change, and to support developing countries in achieving climate-resilient and low-carbon development.

Identify steps to close the Gigatonne Gap:
There is gap between the emissions reductions Parties have pledged, and what is needed to meet the overall temperature goal. The gigatonne gap between what is

currently pledged and what the science calls for implies warming levels of 3-4ºC, rather than the less than 2ºC goal agreed in Cancun.

The Bangkok workshops will be an important opportunity in working towards closing the gap. WWF sees these workshops as the beginning of a transparent process of understanding the assumptions behind the pledges, testing their credibility using the best available information, and finally exploring the scope to increase ambition, with the aim by of having mitigation ambition consistent with the ultimate objective of the Convention to achieve *"…stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system."*

The workshops should include examination of loopholes and accounting gaps in developed country pledges, such as those in land use, land-use change and forestry emissions, hot air banking for future compliance, and use of poor-quality offset credits. Developing countries have different assumptions about the baselines that they have used to define their pledges. These needs to be better understood and evaluated.

The science review clauses of the Cancun Agreement are essential to define the overall needed level of ambition and should be coupled with a review of overall adequacy. WWF believes that Parties should agree that the best available scientific information should define the overall level of action with the effort fairly shared between Parties within a robust legal framework.

Agreement that Flexible Mechanisms should not lead to the widening of the Gigatonne gap: It is important that Bangkok establishes a placeholder for further negotiations to require avoidance of double counting of efforts as both emissions reductions and finance. This is especially necessary with developed country targets that allow access to international offset credits at the same time that developing countries increasingly showing strong ambition to make progress on low-carbon climate-resilient development themselves. WWF would like to see Parties in Bangkok affirm the essential principle that any flexible mechanisms should not lead to the widening of the Gigatonne Gap. They should instead help to close it.

Agreement to commence negotiations on sources of Finance: Bangkok needs to create a robust process for negotiating sources of public finance, to ensure there is scaled up, new and additional funding under the UNFCCC starting in 2013. WWF believes that innovative sources of public finance, in addition to government budgetary sources, will be key to significantly scaling up financial resources available to the UNFCCC, and the process to discuss and agree on such sources should build on relevant findings of the Advisory Group on Climate Finance (AGF). Two such innovative sources that should be explored urgently are revenues from mechanisms to address emissions from international shipping and aviation, and an internationally coordinated Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) as another credible source of financing for climate change action.

The new agenda item proposed by the DRC and the Africa Group provides an excellent opportunity to create such a process, under which Parties in Bangkok can also begin to examine the scale of funding needed for mitigation and adaptation actions, and definition of parameters around the current $100 billion commitment, including: additionality, grants/loans, public/private, interim scale, and what share of both adaptation and mitigation should flow through Green Climate Fund. Addressing the issue of sources cannot wait for the establishment of the Standing Committee. Agreement on sources of funding for the 2013-2015 period should be finalised by COP 17 in Durban.

We also need to see how progress will be achieved in the work of Transitional Committee to design the Green Climate Fund as well as work progressing on other institutional arrangements identified in the Cancun Agreements such as the Standing Committee and Registry

Deepening the agreement on Adaptation:

Parties should outline and agree on the composition of the Adaptation Committee, which should be fair, representative and equitable. The Bangkok meeting should establish a process and agree a work program towards a mechanism to address loss and damage from climate impacts.

Laying the basis for enhanced agreements on Deforestation (REDD+):

Parties should be committed to base discussions and processes on clarifying modalities for setting reference levels, for providing information on safeguards as well as for establishing robust and transparent monitoring systems on basic principles[1]. These principles should guarantee additionality, avoid leakage, maintain and/or enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services and contribute to sustainable and equitable development by strengthening the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities.

Parties need to scale up efforts to identify needs and sources for long-term adequate and predictable REDD finance. When addressing financing options for the full implementation of mitigation action in the forest sector, Bangkok needs to create a robust process for negotiating innovative sources of public finance including the design of the Green Climate Fund, an internationally coordinated Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) and mechanisms to address emissions from international aviation and shipping as credible sources of financing for climate change action.

Starting in Bangkok, Parties should agree, by Durban, a target to halt and reverse forest cover and carbon loss by 2020[2] as a quantifiable and significant contribution to the ultimate objective of the convention. Bangkok should also establish a process to address how developed countries can tackle international drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

Elaboration and guidelines for Low Emission Development Strategies:

Parties need to agree on a process to define guidelines and modalities for the development of Low Emission Development Strategies. These remain undefined in the Cancun Agreement. Dates should be set by Durban for the first iteration of developed countries' plans, and also for those of developing countries.

Agreement on work program to finalize MRV guidelines:

Bangkok needs to set a deadline for the MRV work programs with a view to adopting these at COP17, so that governments can begin domestic implementation. These guidelines should include the timing of biennial reports and National Communications. WWF would like to see Parties agree to the date of 2012 for the first iteration of biennial reports for Annex 1 and Non-Annex 1 (NA1) countries, and for the 2014 for NA1 National Communications.

WWF would further like to see agreement on guidelines for the MRV of finance by developed countries. Their biennial reports should be required to define "new and additional" finance, including a specific base year; define categories of acceptable funding, distinguish climate change within funding given through bilateral and multilateral channels, identify recipient countries, and report on other support (capacity building and technology).

Operationalizing the Climate Technology Center and Network:

Parties should begin negotiating the structure, location and institutional arrangements for the Climate Technology Center and Network and how they will interact with a view to making the Technology Mechanism fully operational in 2012. WWF also believes that

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[1] See 5 principles for REDD+ to safeguard the climate, biodiversity and people´s wellbeing http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/climate_carbon_energy/forest_climate/about/

[2] WWF's forthcoming report due out later this year, the International Year of the Forests, that with adequate financial support this target is achievable.

Parties should begin an analysis to see whether there are gaps in areas of technical expertise requiring the creation of new institutions. A separate inventory for mitigation-related and adaptation-related institutions/expertise should be conducted.

Parties should start to develop a set of key objectives on issues including: capacity building, providing technical help for diffusing and deploying technologies, support for country-driven regulatory policies, guidance for countries developing funding proposals to submit to the Green Fund. Overall, resources should be focused on filling gaps and not duplicating efforts and the priorities should be driven by developing country needs.

WWF would like to see Parties in Bangkok launch a scoping exercise for the scale of resources (finance, technical expertise, human) needed to help transition countries to a low-carbon climate-resilient pathway.

Conclusion:

WWF believes that the Bangkok session presents Parties with an important opportunity to build on the gains made in Cancun. It is critical to maintain the momentum that the Cancun Agreement created and it is equally important to recognize that much more needs to be done. The current emission reduction pledges on the table do not add up to the range of 25 – 40% reductions for developed countries agreed to in Cancun nor will it ensure that the objective of achieving less than 2° C warming also agreed to in Cancun, is achieved. Parties need to deal with this contradiction.

While progress was made in dealing with the institutional arrangements for Finance in terms of the agreement on a Green Climate Fund there has been no progress with regards to *how* funds will be mobilized in order for the Fund to work.

We need to leave Bangkok with a clear sense of how these issues will be resolved in the lead up to COP 17 in Durban.

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