

Thank you for this opportunity.

WWF was deeply engaged in the development of the SDGs, and remains deeply committed to their implementation. We see the High Level Political Forum, and the Regional Sustainable Development Forums, as key instruments to deliver development for people and planet.

In the next 20 years demand for natural resources will further intensify to sustain basic human needs. Putting ecosystem approaches and fair and sustainable management of natural resources at the centre of development strategies and decision making are essential to ensure we deliver on all Goals.

In the thematic reviews and in the VNRs we call upon Member States to recognise the value of biodiversity and ecosystem for our subsistence, prosperity and well-being

The regional piece of the follow up and review is an essential one and can help solidify some of the gaps that the HLPF, due to the nature of the forum, will not be able to address. We call upon the regional commissions to strengthen their follow up mechanisms to build on good practices, shed light on the gaps and challenges, and identify concrete solutions.

WWF is also still very concerned about current status of the environmental dimension of the SDGs indicators: 49% of the environmental-related indicators are listed under Tier III (no methodology and/or data available) and many gaps still need to be filled to ensure that all dimensions of the targets are reflected at the indicators level. WWF calls for:

- The quick development of Tier III indicators
- The refinement of those indicators that do not fully reflect the intent of the targets they have to measure.

By 2020 the world could have witnessed a two-thirds decline in global wildlife populations in only half a century and we currently need the equivalent of 1.6 Earths to produce the goods and services we use each year, threatening the natural resources base and ecosystem services that humanity depends upon. This pressure significantly undermines sustainable development and increases risks of humanitarian crisis involving decreased access to food and clean water<sup>1</sup>. We **urgently** need global, regional and national instruments to reverse these trends and to step up collective efforts to meet the scale of the challenge and realize sustainable development.

Thank you

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<sup>1</sup> WWF, Living Planet Report 2016, [http://wwf.panda.org/about\\_our\\_earth/all\\_publications/lpr\\_2016/](http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/all_publications/lpr_2016/)