

## COMMENTS TO THE CO-CHAIRS FOCUS AREAS DOCUMENT – OWG SDG 11 – MAY 2014

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) urges the international community's recognition that good animal welfare<sup>1</sup> is an important element of sustainable development. WSPA presents its comments to the Co-Chairs Focus Areas Document that will be discussed during the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the OWG SDG.

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### FOCUS AREA 1 - POVERTY ERADICATION:

WSPA welcomes the inclusion of a specific reference to the impact of disasters to poverty eradication efforts. To protect development gains and to prevent disasters pushing households below the poverty line it is essential that the SDGs assist people in **maintaining those assets that are essential to their livelihoods and food security**. WSPA would suggest the following additions to strengthen this message:

- d) build resilience of the poor and reduce by x% deaths and **[add: by (Y) percent]** economic losses related to disasters **[add: by protecting livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds]**<sup>2</sup>

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### FOCUS AREA 2 - SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION:

WSPA strongly support the inclusion of a specific reference to the need to reduce the global rate of food loss and waste along the food supply chain. **Food loss and waste occur during both the production and consumption phases** and must therefore be addressed in both. In countries where food insecurity is most prevalent, preventing food loss during the production phase of the food supply chain is critical. **We support the Co-Chairs' target proposal (e – reduce the global rate of loss and waste along the food supply chain by 50 percent by 2030).**

Furthermore, as recently noted by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food "Over one third of the world's cereals are already being used as animal feed, and if current trends continue, this will rise to 50 per cent by 2050. Continuing to feed cereals to growing numbers of livestock will aggravate poverty and environmental degradation"<sup>3</sup>. Based on the above, WSPA proposes for your consideration the following **target** for inclusion under Focus Area 2:

**[add: limit the usage of human-edible food crops for animal feed at (Y) percent]**

The role of **small-scale food producers**, landless laborers and other rural communities is of particular importance as they represent the majority of the world's undernourished. At the same time, they are responsible for the **majority of the agricultural production worldwide** and therefore can be critical agents of change. In view of that, we would suggest the following additions:

- d) by 2030 **[add: double smallholder food producers income and productivity through achieve]**access to adequate inputs, knowledge, productive resources, financial services, **[add: veterinary services]** and markets for small farmers, **[add: pastoralists]** and fishers, with a particular focus on women and indigenous peoples

The Rio+20 outcome document reaffirms the necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable agriculture systems which improve food security, eradicate hunger and are economically viable while conserving all natural resources, promoting sustainable land use, reducing soil erosion and desertification and

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<sup>1</sup> This refers to the physical and psychological wellbeing of an animal. The welfare of an animal can be described as good or high if the individual is fit, healthy, free to express natural behavior, free from suffering and in a positive state of wellbeing.

<sup>2</sup> A/RES/68/211 – OP 7

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/25/57 - Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, 2014.

enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters<sup>4</sup>. Moreover, the Open Working Group in its deliberations stressed that the new sustainable development framework should promote **indigenous and sustainable farming** and fishing practices. Along these lines, WSPA proposes the following **target** for consideration to replace target (g):

**[add: increase sustainable, diverse, and resilient agriculture practices by (X) percent through promoting indigenous and sustainable farming, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture practices by 2030]**

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### FOCUS AREA 3 - HEALTH AND POPULATION DYNAMICS

WSPA welcomes the inclusion of references to ending the epidemic of **neglected tropical diseases** (target b). These pose a serious burden to developing countries and having a stronger commitment on ending this scourge will bring positive results to sustainable and human development. For example, the global adoption of mass dog vaccination would result in **the eradication of canine rabies worldwide by 2030**, at a cost that is significantly less than what is currently spend on rabies treatment.

Strengthening public health systems, including through access to **affordable essential** medicines for all (target e) must be key aspects of an SDG on health. Of particular concern in this regard is the **non-therapeutic and preventative use of antibiotics in livestock production** as this contributes significantly to the fast rising occurrence of anti-biotic resistance in humans. Without the conservation of effective antibiotics the task of ensuring adequate and affordable health services for all will prove impossible. As such, WSPA encourages the inclusion of the following target under Focus Area 3:

**[add: By 2030, reduce to zero the non-therapeutic and preventative use of antibiotics in livestock production to protect adequate and affordable healthcare for all]**

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### FOCUS AREA 13 - CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE RESOURCES, OCEANS AND SEAS

The crucial role of healthy marine eco-systems to sustainable development has been clearly recognized in the Rio+20 outcome document through a commitment to protect, and restore, the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine eco-systems<sup>5</sup>. An expansion of the usage of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is the most effective route to achieving this goal. The global community also committed to achieve significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment by 2025<sup>6</sup>. WSPA strongly supports the proposed targets in the Co-Chairs text but urges for the following addition to target a):

- a) by 2030, prevent, control and reduce by (X) percent marine pollution, **[add: debris]** and marine disposal of waste and tailings, including from land-based activities

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### FOCUS AREA 14 - ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

WSPA welcomes the inclusion of poaching and wildlife trafficking (item g) in the revised focus areas document but notes that the target should apply to all wildlife. Therefore we propose the following text for the consideration of Member States:

- g) end poaching and trafficking of **[add: wildlife, in particular]** endangered species

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<sup>4</sup> A/RES/66/288 – Rio+20 Outcome document, OP111.

<sup>5</sup> A/RES/66/288 – Rio+20 Outcome document, OP158.

<sup>6</sup> A/RES/66/288 – Rio+20 Outcome document, OP163.