

**Possible Interventions by Thai Delegation to
The Seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical
and Technological Advice(SBSTTA)**

14 - 18 October 2013 - Montreal, Canada

Agenda item 3: Facilitating the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets through Scientific and Technical Means
Agenda item 3 (b): The identification of scientific and technical needs for the attainment of the targets under Strategic Goal B of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced

Thailand notes with interest the importance of monitoring the drivers of natural habitat loss. Such monitoring is particularly crucial when land use changes alter or disrupt upstream riparian flow and adversely affects freshwater replenishment to mangrove forests and other coastal wetlands, resulting in degradation and eventual loss of habitats. In this regard, additional tools and guidance might be needed to assess potential impacts from change in land use as an additional mechanism to monitor driver of habitat loss.

Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits

Thailand wishes to point out the need for increase efforts to monitor inland and coastal fisheries in order to fill the information gaps on the harvesting of freshwater and marine species and other aspects of inland and coastal fisheries' management. This monitoring is of significant importance in drawing heightened attention towards addressing the apparent lack of policy instruments for managing both freshwater and coastal aquatic resources, particularly given local communities' reliance on inland and coastal fisheries as the primary source of protein in many freshwater and coastal wetlands. Another primary focus of the monitoring could be on providing more accurate estimation of harvest on specific species, including those of socio-economic and cultural importance.

Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity

Thailand believes that actions might be required to achieve policy coherence on sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry include finding a balance between agricultural intensification and the promotion of small-scale, ecosystem-based, production systems. One such action could be a global assessment similar to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) to systematically determine the status and trends of sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry.

Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity

Several types of pollution are recognized. Wetland ecosystems, particularly rivers, are often subject to industrial pollution and agricultural run-off pollution. These pollution levels require monitoring for impacts, as well as the development of suitable policy and management frameworks. In Southeast Asia, transboundary movement of air-bound particulates from forest fires has become an increasingly serious pollution problem in recent years. Pollution events associated with the oil industry also needs effective mitigation measures.

Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment

The interaction between potentially invasive species and other drivers of change as a possible focus for actions to overcome methodological gaps on how to develop strategies to prevent certain species from becoming invasive. Such strategies are perhaps one of the most cost-effective means to control invasive alien species since efforts to eradicate established invasive alien species are more costly than any preventative action. In addition, further studies on this issue would deepen our understanding on the invasive nature of the species as well as on drivers facilitating biological invasion and provide policy advice on how to best address these drivers.

Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning

The first priority is the identification of priority ecosystems, including coral reefs, which are vulnerable to impacts of climate change. Actions should be taken to increase monitoring of climate change impacts on identified ecosystems, especially those affected by multiple drivers of change and under-represented in protected area systems. Studies in interaction between drivers of biodiversity loss, particularly those associated with efforts to prevent alien species from becoming invasive, would likely contribute to monitoring of climate change impacts, including on how climate change exacerbates effects of these drivers individually and/or collectively in vulnerable ecosystems.