

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

Mr Chairman

This Finland's statement is on goal B:

How to reach the Aichi targets by 2020 is the key issue of this SBSSTA. Do we work on right issues, are our tools adequate and effective and have we chosen the right priority ones?

Finland would like to thank the Secretariat for the background documents, which clearly seeks to bring out the analysis of policy support tools, the effectiveness of actions taken, as well as obstacles and gaps to achieve the targets. This kind of analysis is important to knowledge and it helps us to see if we are on the right track.

To implement the Aichi Targets under strategic goal B, Finland has renewed its National Biodiversity Strategy and set up over 100 national concrete actions identified in the Action Plan. Those, our targeted measures cover actions on the forest biodiversity, mires, agricultural environment, lakes, rivers and other inland waters, the Baltic Sea, fish stocks and fisheries, game animals, reindeer management as well as invasive alien species.

To implement the targets under the goal B, some focused tools might be useful. For example there is a need to consider land use change in a more integrated and holistic way to achieve the Aichi Target 5. Fortunately there is some interesting work ongoing on land use in areas which have multiple effects in other areas and ecosystems, also related concepts such as land-use planning, ecological and economic zoning. In Finland, Zonation work led by Helsinki University, prof. Atte Moilanen, has been noted with interest.

With regard to Target 6 concerning fisheries, Finland is implementing our national fishway strategy (2012) to strengthen the natural reproduction of threatened populations of migrant fish, like salmon. And referring to the Target 7 and because forests cover more than 70 per cent of the land area of Finland, sustainability and certification schemes are essential to us, as well as implementing the measures based on our National Forest Programme

http://www.mmm.fi/en/index/frontpage/forests/forest_policy/strategies_programmes/kmo2010.html

and the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland

http://www.mmm.fi/en/index/frontpage/forests/forest_policy/strategies_programmes/metso.html .

Referring to the Aichi Target 9 on IAS, the decision made in COP11, is still very valid. The decision for example "requests the Executive Secretary, to prepare a preliminary list of the common pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, and identify a range of tools that may be used to manage or minimize the risks associated with these pathways;...". This decision still covers very concrete steps to reach the target, and these should now be undertaken, and the follow up taken in the next coming COP. Finland has included the actions based on the Aichi Target 9 into our National IAS Strategy, which we already are implementing via the specialised Action Plan.

On the timeframe we would like to emphasize Target 10 and the need to rush with the characterisation on ecosystems especially vulnerable to climate change or ocean acidification. The deadline is already in two years (2015).

Finally, Finland would be very happy to see SBSTTA 17 making a conclusion for COP 12 to support all Parties to take clear steps, in implementing the actions and decisions - already agreed to - in reaching the Aichi targets. We think that many decisions on the Aichi Targets adopted by last COP 11 are still adequate, and we would like to see less new recommendations but instead strengthening implementation by making better use of existing knowledge. The indicators work is essential and key elements.

Thank you Chair.