

Thank you Mr Chair

Norway likes to address issues that are general for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and will also touch upon some issues that are specific for the implementation of Strategic Goal B.

We recognize the need for long-time data series, including remote sensing data, to facilitate the monitoring of changes in the status of biodiversity over time, and for measuring progress towards 2020 and beyond. Parties, other Governments, relevant International Organizations and indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders are encouraged to invest in long-term data collection on biodiversity issues.

Investment in national and international systems for the collation and mobilization of data from all available sources and making the information publicly available should be prioritized in order to get the most knowledge out of limited resources. Standardized methods for data collection, analyzing and presentation will benefit the wider use of data and knowledge. Furthermore, free and open access to all types of knowledge relevant to the implementation of the convention should be promoted.

In Norway, the strengthening of the knowledge base has been an important follow-up of our first NBSAP. One of the instruments developed to improve this is the Norwegian Nature Index, a tool for collating and analyzing data on species and habitats. The Nature Index is documenting overall trends for the state of major ecosystems, and provides a readily available overview of whether Norway is making progress towards halting the loss of biodiversity. Baselines have been developed by experts for the different main ecosystems in order to provide a basis for monitoring trends. It is calculated using a large number of species and ecosystem indicators. The software used in the Nature Index may be used by other countries to systemize data for ecosystem monitoring.

We welcome the recently published Global Biodiversity Informatics Outlook and the strategy proposed in the outlook for delivering biodiversity knowledge for science and policy. The key actions proposed in the outlook are central in order to improve data and knowledge flow, and we propose that the outlook should be acknowledged by the CBD community in the conclusion from SBSTTA17.

Norway finds that improved knowledge is important to be able to track the various actors' influence on the ecosystem's ability to provide essential services. The conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity presents a cross-sectoral challenge and all sectors are responsible for the pressure they put on the environment. Several of the targets under Strategic goal B, especially target 6, 7, 8, are depending on sectoral measures and activities for their implementation. Therefore the relevant sectors must be included in the discussions regarding the interpretation and implementation of the targets. A common understanding of terms like sustainable management and safe ecological limits, are essential for progress towards these targets. The sectors also possess tools, like data bases and monitoring programs,

that are relevant for monitoring biodiversity and that may support the implementation of the of the targets.

A topic touched upon during the introduction speeches yesterday were the use of citizen science. Through citizen science, members of the public may contribute to the gathering and analyzing of data, add significantly to the knowledge base and at the same time obtain increased awareness of biodiversity. Coordinated citizen science projects can in some instances also provide trend information. In Norway, the Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre has organized a citizen science project for five years where individuals may record their observations of species through a website. The project has developed into a large-scale common effort with more than 9 million observations registered, which is quite a large number considering that we have a population of 5 million, and this has contributed to increased knowledge about biodiversity in Norway. Further the Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre has developed an application for mobile devices for identification and registration of bumblebee species which in addition to contributing to enhanced data also contributes to increased awareness.

Concerning target 9 on invasive alien species, the Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre may provide some experiences of relevance for the CBD community through the development of a Black List of invasive alien species. The Black List includes an ecological risk analysis of alien species and provides an instrument for management authorities and a source of information on invasive alien species for relevant parties in society and the public at large.

Last, but not least, Norway would like to underline that although the analysis by the Executive Secretary identifies some gaps in policy support tools and methodologies, these gaps should not prevent action based on what we already know and by using the variety of existing tools and methodologies.

Thank you Mr Chair