# BELGIUM 22

**BELGIUM-SPEAKING NOTES AND POSITIONS, SBSTTA 17**

**FACILITATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS THROUGH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MEANS>**

***Strategic goal B which addresses the Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use***

## A. Speaking Notes

Dear Madam Chair, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

On goal B, Belgium supports the conclusions on Adequacy of guidance and tools that some gaps have already been filled concerning the improved ability to measure progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as shown by reports on status and trends of biodiversity on national, regional and global level. Other gaps remain, among others regarding guidance and tools for the identification of potential invasive species and pathway analysis. We therefore support the further development of information systems, in particular to enable stakeholders to identify and manage invasive alien species. Belgium recognizes that important work has been done on approaches that among others implement all of the AICHI Biodiversity Targets collectively, in particular at the landscape level. Belgium is aware that several Parties do monitor available indicators to assess progress at this scale. Belgium would like to request the CBD secretariat to facilitate the prioritisation of the gaps identified under Goal B based on lessons learned by Parties.

Further, in relation to decision XI/3, Belgium would like to highlight that more harmonized use of indicators across countries based on standardized methodology would support coherent data collection, consolidation and analysis at the global level. We highly appreciate the work carried out by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other partners, to develop online practical information on the online reporting tool and the application of the framework indicators, as well as to provide capacity-building for using these indicators. We look forward to the further development of global indicators with a view to ensuring that each Aichi Biodiversity Target can be monitored by at least one global indicator by 2014.

Belgium can agree with the reflections in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2 on the need to improve in-situ observations, remote sensing information, data management and analysis and the availability of indicators, and the proposed conclusions and priorities for each of these information gathering systems and tools.

We are of the view that there is a strong need to consider land-use change in a more integrated and holistic way, as decisions on land use in one area or ecosystem have multiple effects elsewhere, such as negatively affecting biodiversity, as well as on indigenous and local communities. In this regard Belgium would like to highlight the technical and scientific needs related to estimating the economic and social benefits provided by ecosystem services, and those related to the impacts on biodiversity of pollutants and deposited nutrients. Regarding the multiple anthropogenic pressures on vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification, Belgium supports the further development of effective landscape-scale approaches to managing multiple drivers of ecosystem loss and degradation including the integration of effective actions to support ecosystem restoration.

In the face of increasing and shifting demands by a growing world population Belgium encourages the development of additional guidance related to ways to sustainably intensify agriculture production without adversely impacting biodiversity and stresses the need for capacity-building to address biodiversity issues within the framework of fisheries management.

Belgium will hand in text in writing to reflect these points,

Thank you Mr Chair.

**Proposed elements for conclusion and/or draft decision**

***The Conference of the parties:***

*Reminds Parties that in general conservation is far more efficient and cost effective than restoration. Moreover, restoration is not always possible, hence first and foremost conservation needs to be strived for.*

***Requests*** **the Executive Secretary:**

1. To continue cooperation with other bodies (such as GEO BON, IPBES, IUCN) to further develop consistent protocols to enable quantitative aggregation of data for assessments at different scales
2. To propose adjustments to the Indicator framework prior to its application in the 6th National Reports and in the assessment of the progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, taking into account experiences of other biodiversity related Conventions and organizations, and report to SBSTTA before COP 13;
3. in collaboration with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other partners, to continue to:
    a. provide capacity-building to support use of the indicators;
    b. further develop practical information on the application of the indicators;
    c. promote harmonization on indicators between Conventions;
    d. maintain the online database.

***Invites*** **Parties and other Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant organizations to:**

4. Continue research on methods for:
    a. measuring the impacts of pollutants and deposited nutrients on biodiversity
    b. effective landscape-scale approaches to manage multiple drivers of ecosystem loss and degradation including the integration of effective actions to support ecosystem restoration
6. Continue the development and/or refinement of tools and methodologies to attain the Aichi Targets and share these through their national CHMs and the global CHM, in particular tools on :
    a. management of inland waters ecosystems and
    b. management of protected areas systems under climate change.
7. Continue existing *in situ* observation efforts that are scientifically robust and quality-assured so as to provide reliable time series information;

8. Further develop and implement plans for filling observation gaps with a view to the long-term sustainability of the monitoring schemes and with a view to fill gaps in coverage along major biophysical gradients and essential biodiversity variables;
9. Promote additional monitoring through well-planned and scientifically underpinned citizen science;
10. Enhance modelling efforts and to develop innovative survey techniques which can provide a cost-effective way of filling some gaps;
11. Support actions to improve access to and use of data in line with GBIO;
12. Assist in overcoming barriers in the use of remote sensing by promoting a closer relationship between the earth observation community and potential users in the biodiversity policy and management communities, and to promote enhanced access to remote sensing data including improved internet access, including computational power and human resources, particularly in developing countries;
13. Support GEO BON in its efforts in coordination of methods in data collection and processing for harmonized remote sensing data linking between global, regional, national and local scales and other observational data, and in enabling temporal change and trend analyses to track progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.