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CANADA INTERVENTION FOR GOAL C

TUESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2014

Canada would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the working document for the targets under strategic goal C (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.3) and all of the speakers this afternoon for their excellent presentations.

Target 11

- Protected areas and other conservation areas are a vital component of Canada's efforts to conserve biodiversity. Notably, Canada has expanded the extent of its protected areas by 94% in the last 20 years.
- Canada is developing a parallel target at the national level to conserve at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020.
- Canada has a variety of spatial conservation measures that provide a long term benefit to the conservation of biodiversity. As Canada is working to interpret "other effective area-based conservation measures", it is seeking views from CBD Parties on what constitutes "other effective area based measures" for the purpose of reporting on target 11 in both the terrestrial and marine realms.
- Under paragraph 26 (g), Canada believes that it may be premature to call for "effective management of protected areas in open oceans" considering that the discussion on the governance for marine protected areas in the high seas is still ongoing.

Target 12

- Canada supports focused international and domestic efforts to conserve threatened species, including international efforts to conserve species with distributions across international boundaries.
- Canada's efforts to conserve threatened species are reflected in its Strategy for the Protection of Wildlife Species at Risk that includes the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), the National Accord and National Framework for the Protection of Species at Risk (the Accord), and the Habitat Stewardship Program.
- With its federal provincial and territorial partners, Canada produces a report on the general status of wild species in Canada every 5 years.
- Canada believes that the scientific and technical needs related to implementation of Target 12 should include the need to better understand the reasons for the decline of species, the effects of invasive species, the long-term implications of climate change, and the role of multi-species and ecosystem approaches in recovery planning.
- The Species at Risk Act aims to prevent wildlife species from becoming extinct, and to secure the necessary actions for their recovery.

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- The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has been established as an independent body of experts responsible for assessing and identifying species at risk.
- A recovery strategy for the widely distributed boreal caribou, an iconic and threatened species in Canada, has been completed.
- As well, through a Habitat Stewardship Program each year Canada invests in local projects to help community-based groups protect and recover species at risk and their habitat.
- Canada also supports many North American migratory bird initiatives.

Target 13

- **Canada supports the conclusions on scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of target 13 presented in paragraphs 82-86 of the document, with some reservations. In particular, in our view, market and commercial pressures provide signals for farmers to enhance their livelihoods and food security. Policy and funding initiatives to encourage farmers to go out of their way to maintain genetic resources in spite of market signals are marginal, and Canada does not use any such subsidies. A more successful approach would promote attaining target 13 through continued improvement of mechanisms to maintain these genetic resources including, as stated in the last part of paragraph 86, "appropriate balance between *in situ* and *ex situ* methods and their complementarity, so that genetic diversity lost in some circumstances can be maintained in alternative ways".**
- **Canada believes that the SBSTTA should support the request made to FAO by the Commission on Genetic Resources to elaborate higher-order composite indices for each of the Commission's three targets on plant and genetic resources.**
- Canada agrees that most of the monitoring, data, tools, policies and guidance are within the realm of genetic resources for food and agriculture – including forest genetic resources – and progress towards this target is highly dependent upon partners in the food and agriculture field.
- Canada agrees that the *Global Plans of Action* for plant, animal and forest genetic resources developed and adopted by the 175 member countries of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are particularly relevant frameworks to support this target.
- **We will submit written comments to the Secretariat.**

Suggested text for Target 13 for Summary Report to COP12

Considering that:

most of the monitoring, data, tools, policies and guidance for Target 13 are within the realm of genetic resources for food and agriculture – including forest genetic resources – and

progress towards this target is highly dependent upon partners in the food and agriculture field;

the conservation of the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals, and of their wild relatives, is not ideal, but that progress has been made in the implementation of many activities relevant to this Target;

guidance related to the *ex situ* conservation of plant diversity related to food, particularly in the form of *ex situ* gene banks, is fairly well developed. By comparison, there is less guidance related to the conservation of animal genetic diversity and to *in situ* conservation; and

at the global level, uneven data makes it difficult to monitor overall progress;

Recognizing that:

the *Global Plans of Action* for plant, animal and forest genetic resources developed and adopted by the 175 member countries of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are particularly relevant frameworks to support this Target; and

the best opportunity to generate indicators for Target 13 is to support the planned work of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

The SBSTTA recommends that:

1. greater attention be paid to maintaining and safeguarding genetic diversity *in situ*;
2. the use of gene banks be scaled up;
3. cooperation be enhanced between organizations working in the agriculture and environment sectors;
4. the CoP support the request of the Commission for FAO to elaborate higher-order composite indices for each of the Commission's three targets on plant genetic resources;
5. further actions are needed to address genetic diversity of non-food genetic resources.