

Finland Goal C.: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Finland would like to thank the Secretariat for the background documents 17/2 add.3. We line up with the intervention made by LT.

Target 11

Despite the large volume of guidance on protected areas, there is the issue for the better recognition and/or integration of indigenous and community conserved areas (although this has improved in recent years, notably through IUCN guidance).

One of the main obstacles and the vast amount of information and the use of the policy support tools and methodologies is that they often do not reach those people who could make most use of them. Tools and methodologies remain unknown to protected areas managers and local communities due to a lack of exposure to them.

We should integrate protected areas into wider landscapes and seascapes, and with certain livelihoods, in order to prepare for and adapt to climate change, in particular. Key methods of doing so will include the development of ecological networks and corridors, and the restoration and management of degraded habitats.

Additional supervision and policy support incl. law enforcement to safeguard protected areas threatened by industrial activities such as mining, or dam construction, and best practices for mitigating threats to the integrity of protected areas are welcomed.

New research data is required on the impacts of climate change and its progress with regard to the functioning of protected area networks, particularly on waterways, mire ecosystems and wetlands, and the species of northern habitats such as Arctic fells, cold conditions in general, and, for example, dwindling sea ice. The protected areas management effectiveness is required under scenarios of climate change, incl. monitoring the effectiveness of our actions. Research is required to enable the correct targeting of management and monitoring; for example, through species-specific conservation and monitoring programmes, and instructions for the management of habitats.

It is necessary to enhance the effectiveness of landscape-level reviews in land use planning and in planning the use of natural resources.

Target 12

Information on species in Finland, and the related changes remains deficient, even if such information is exceptionally comprehensive in international comparisons. The 2010 assessment of threatened species (*Red List*) showed that 45–47 per cent of our species were not included in the evaluation processes. The Red List Index has been developed and used in Finland. It includes as well success stories. In addition an Action plan has been drawn up for improving the condition of endangered habitats.

Assessments of the conservation status of additional taxa (i.e. currently uncertain or unknown status) is a challenge. Priorities for information collection on key functional group (for instead for pollinators) and groups of socioeconomic importance (e.g. species used, crop wild relatives), as well as marine species (e.g. deep-sea species, arthropods) is needed.

Target 13.

The genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed or domesticated animals and of wild relatives is in decline as is the genetic diversity of some other socio-economically and culturally valuable species. This has serious implications for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. The genetic diversity which remains needs to be maintained, and strategies need to be developed and implemented to minimize the current erosion of genetic diversity, particularly as it offers options for increasing the resilience of agricultural systems and for adaptation to changing conditions, including the escalating impacts of climate change.

(We support the interventions by UK/BE on linking up with FAO on this, for not duplicating our work and efforts).

THANK YOU Madame Chair!