

Nepal intervention on Goal C and D

Thank you Madam Chair,

We appreciate the excellent document made available to us pertaining to goal C and D. We congratulate the secretariat for their good work.

In order to make intervention brief, I will touch upon target 11 and 14. Views on other targets will be submitted to the secretariat.

Target 11:

Protected areas are important means that ensures ecosystems, species and genetic diversity are protected, sustainably managed and that they continue to provide vital ecosystem services for human well being. Policy support tools developed by CBD to implement the program of work on protected area deserve particular appreciation. We also would like to highlight the excellent work done by IUCN and other organizations in support of this target through various initiatives.

We believe, policy support tools and methodologies developed or used to help achieve this target have important bearing with other targets of Goal C and D. Therefore comprehensive assessment of available tools, methodologies and their application related to targets 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 may help us identify obstacle and gap in the broader perspective.

We wish to share that Nepal has established protected areas network that covers little more than 23% area of the country. I am happy to mention that it is already above the bench mark set under target 11. Out of 118 ecosystems, 80 are represented in these protected area networks. Network of approximately 20 thousand community managed forests distributed across the country have complemented in representing remaining ecosystems. Success is also achieved on transboundary landscape level management of protected areas in close cooperation with our neighbors.

We urge secretariat to explore the possibility of sustainable investment in PA management through for example Life Web Initiatives.

We are of the view that establishment/recognition of community conserved areas within the protected area system has to be assessed from legal perspective of the country as appropriate. We would like to hear from other delegates concerning success stories on community conserved areas with protected area system.

Target 14:

We have noted that tools and methodologies developed in support of target 11 are broadly applicable to target 14. Target 11 is about conserving ecosystems and 14 consider ecosystem restoration and protection with special emphasis on women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable. We therefore agree with the statement contained in the para 9 of document sbstta/17/2/add.4

On target 14 ecosystem restoration and safeguarding has central focus. However in section 14.1 of the elements of target 14 these terms are not adequately elaborated.

We are concerned at the lack of policy support tools for identifying, prioritizing, restoring and safeguarding vulnerable ecosystems. As a mountainous country, Nepal supports developing policy support tools and methodologies aimed at restoring and safeguarding vulnerable mountain ecosystems that are directly contributing to water regulation, food production, climate change adaptation, ensuring the livelihoods of millions of mountain dependent communities and maintaining fragile ecological balance. We urge this meeting take up the matter and be included in the recommendation of SBSTTA 17.

Learning from ecosystem based adaptation and watershed management initiatives in developing countries may provide us with useful insights on ecosystem restoration, data and information for monitoring progress and the effectiveness of action taken at local level. Lesson can also be drawn from the work done by regional organizations on vulnerability assessment to develop guidance on restoration of such ecosystems at regional level.

Target 12:

We do fully agree that issues related to human induced extinctions require action to address the direct and indirect drivers of change. From this perspective it is evident that this target cannot be achieved in isolation. It calls for holistic approach in addressing the extinction of known threatened species.

Nepal has made significant progress in conserving threatened species of flora and fauna through species conservation plans and its implementation. We are happy to mention that it has been possible through functional working relationship among national and international conservation partners.

However solution of human induced species extinction has to be looked beyond species conservation. There are socio-economical and governance dimension associated to it. We do have sufficient experience to mention that incentive based conservation facilitates in reducing species extinction rate. Similarly increasing cases of illegal trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora across national border has warned us that one country alone cannot achieve satisfying progress. It has also become evident that enhanced collaboration with other biodiversity convention is equally important.

Target 13:

We believe that despite of immense role that genetic diversity has in our daily life, available tools and methodologies are inadequate to derive useful information at national level.

Realizing this gap, ongoing NBSAP revision has emphasized for strong cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture. Effort is also being made to have additional expert service for further work on agriculture, livestock and fishery in the revised NBSAP.

Nepal has recently completed its report on forest tree genetic resources and identified number of program for implementation. We see that greater collaboration between CBD and FAO could bridge data and information gap on this target and also to implement program identified in the forest tree genetic resource report.

Farmer led agriculture genetic resource conservation is one of the innovative approaches that has become popular in Nepal. We look forward to hearing success stories from delegates.

I thank you.