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Speaking points by Lithuania

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Strategic Goal D:

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Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

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Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

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Lithuania is of the view that we should make full use of relevant tools already developed under CBD, other conventions, organisations, different programmes and projects, such as TEEB for example. On the other hand, it is important that we seek to address barriers to implementation of the Strategic Plan.

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Lithuania believes that the attainment of target 2 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, concerning maintenance and enhancement of ecosystems and their services, is of substantial importance in the implementation of the Strategic Goal D of the Aichi targets in European Union territory.

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We note that in order to understand the complex interactions between ecosystems degradation and climate change new predictive models need to be developed.

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Moreover, we consider that the link between enhancing sustainable consumption and production patterns and halting ecosystem degradation deserves more focus.

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Concerning the implementation of target 14

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Lithuania recognizes the challenges to identify and prioritize those ecosystems and their services which are essential for human well-being. We note that the understanding on how improvements in the status of ecosystems increase human well-being needs to be enhanced. We believe that the future work should focus on development of comprehensive assessments of the economic and social benefits provided by ecosystem services and ecosystem restoration.

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Concerning the implementation of target 15

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Lithuania underlines that further development of tools to systematically assess the potential for ecosystem restoration and prioritisation of further restoration opportunities is needed. This should be done taking into account the location and extent of degraded lands in relation to high nature value areas with the aim to decrease fragmentation.

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We emphasise the importance of soil conservation for the achievement of target 15, particularly those with high carbon stocks as peatlands and organic soils, referring to a coherent approach for assessing land degradation and land restoration processes in order to achieve a neutral balance.

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