

Finland Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

Distinguished Chair,

Finland's statement includes general information on a national action towards GOAL D, and two recommendations on the Targets 14 and 15.

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

As we all know, biological diversity and well functioning ecosystems provides valuable goods, but also essential services for human health and well-being. The research and the knowledge on the relationship between natural environment and human health, for instance diverse ecosystems and human allergies, have advanced recently in Finland.

However, as our research on this topic is quite scattered, we have established a project called *Ecosystem services and Human Health*. This, almost a two year (2013-2014) discussion platform, is carried jointly with the researchers and decision-makers of health and natural science sectors. Also the media is involved.

The aim of the project is to produce a wide-ranging summary of the links between ecosystem services and human health. The purpose is:

- (1) to map the variety of links between ecosystem services and human health; and the occurrence of health benefits (both mental and physical) provided by ecosystem services, as well as their meaning, values and effects in different contexts, and
- (2) to find new approaches to develop multidisciplinary research on ecosystem services and human health; as well as how to implement

the scientific results, for instance, to urban planning and decision-making, for instance, in natural resource management.

Chair, Finland has two recommendations:

Target 14: Enhance the understanding on how improvements in the status of ecosystems are providing essential services to human health and well-being.

Target 15: Further develop tools to systematically assess the potential for ecosystem restoration for human health and well-being, and prioritize further restoration opportunities, taking into account the location and extend of degraded lands in relation to conservation areas and other high nature value areas, also with the aim to decrease fragmentation.

Finland is also supporting the views expressed by Lithuania

Thank you, Chair