

**Possible Interventions by Thai Delegation to
The Seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical
and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)**

14 - 18 October 2013 - Montreal, Canada

Agenda item 3 (d): The identification of scientific and technical needs for the attainment of Targets 14 and 15 under Strategic Goal D of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

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

Noting the lack of attention to monitoring of change in ecosystem functions and provision of ecosystem services in most restoration project as indicated in paragraph 12 of the document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.4, it would be advisable to place attaining ecosystem services as criteria for evaluating success of future restoration projects. This would not only encourage generation of information on ecosystem services in areas subjected to restoration but also enable assessment on how selected restoration actions contribute to maintenance of particular ecosystem services, especially those associated with health livelihood and well-being. In addition, the information would be vital in measuring achievement made under the Target 14.

Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks have 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

The primary concern in measuring progress made on Target 15 is the lack of an agreement on what constitutes a “degraded ecosystems” as pointed out in paragraph 35 of the document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.4. Unless revision is made to remove the target of restoration of at least 15 percent of degraded ecosystems, immediate actions must be taken to establish formal criteria for “degraded ecosystems” under the Convention with the view to enable global assessment on their restoration to determine achievement made for Target 15. These actions, however, are likely to face significant technical challenges as each type of ecosystems may have its own set of degradation criteria and information is not always readily available for development of criteria for every type of ecosystems.