



**ITEM 3: THE IDENTIFICATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL NEEDS FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF THE TARGETS UNDER STRATEGIC GOAL C OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020**

Thank you Madam Chair

South Africa commends the Secretariat for the analysis presented in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.3. As indicated earlier, South Africa has developed several national targets related to achieving Aichi biodiversity Targets including targets 11, 12 and 13. These targets are set according to government's outcomes based approach.

In support of the achievement of Target 11, South Africa co-hosted with CBD secretariat, a capacity building workshop on the development of action plans for the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas a capacity building workshop for the Africa Region on protected areas in Cape Town in 2012. This has resulted in the development of action plans by some countries in the Africa Region. On behalf of the region we would therefore like to thank the CBD Secretariat for this initiative.

As an outcome of this workshop, South Africa completed a national Action Plan for PoWPA and submitted to CBD Secretariat in 2012. As part of this national action plan, and using the existing scientific conservation planning tools in particular systematic conservation planning, South Africa has been implementing the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) since 2008, which indicates areas in the landscape needing to be incorporated into protected areas network to achieve target 11 and also to ensure ecological representivity and connectivity for climate change resilience. These include terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas. New scientific data on freshwater ecosystem priority areas has necessitated a review of the expansion strategy, which will be commissioned shortly.

Using NPAES, South Africa has set quantifiable national targets to be achieved by 2013 and 2023 for land based protected area network, inshore and offshore marine areas as follows:

## 2013

- An additional 2.2% (2.7 million hectares) of the country has been included in the land-based protected area network (currently 6.5% of the country).
- An additional 2.4% (88km<sup>2</sup>) of the coastline has been included in the inshore marine protected area network (currently 21.5% of the coastline, but with only 9.1 % in no-take marine protected areas).
- An additional 4.9% (52 500km<sup>2</sup>) of the mainland exclusive economic zone (EEI) and an additional 5% (23 300km<sup>2</sup>) of the Prince Edward Islands EEI has been included in the offshore marine protected area network (currently 0.4% of the mainland EEI and 0% of the Prince Edward Islands EEI).

Due to the existing land tenure framework in South Africa, various approaches are employed in acquiring critical land for achieving conservation targets including formal protection, stewardship, contractual arrangements, inclusion of private land and areas co-managed with local communities in particular the beneficiaries of the land reform programme.

For equitable and effective management of protected areas, South Africa has entered into co-managements agreements with affected local communities neighbour protected areas to ensure their full participation and involvement in their management and also to ensure equitable sharing of the costs and benefits incurred and accrued respectively.

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention and Man & Biosphere Programme, as well as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) Programme, are contributing immensely to the implementation of the national protected area expansion strategy, underscoring the need to enhance synergies between CBD and other international biodiversity related Conventions and instruments. The Protected Areas Register therefore comprises of all these categories of protected areas and is linked to the World Database on Protected Areas which is maintained by IUCN and UNEP-WCMC.

Financial and human resources, however, continue to constrain achievement of target 11. In an attempt to address the issue of capacity building for protected areas, a Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy is in place and being implemented in order to ensure effective conservation of biodiversity inside and outside protected areas. Plans are underway towards development of a sustainable financing strategy for improving coverage and management of protected areas in order to complement existing financial resources which are mostly state resources.

In relation to protected areas management effectiveness, South Africa has adapted METT methodology and assessed more than 70% of its protected areas within the country. The METT assessment depicts that 85% of assessed area

has a METT score greater than 67%. South Africa has a current protected areas average METT score of 62 % with 42% of assessed protected areas having a score greater than 67%. This is a significant improvement from the 2010 average METT score of 49%. Improvements in the METT-SA tool are ongoing in order to extend applicability to world heritage sites, TFCA's and biosphere reserves.

These efforts in improving coverage and management of protected areas have been made possible by an extensive legislative regime for biodiversity conservation and protected areas. Several regulatory tools such as regulations, guidelines and norms and standards ([Regulations for national parks and world heritage sites](#), [Regulations for nature reserves](#), [Regulations for identified protected environments](#), [Guidelines for Stewardship Programme](#), [Strategy for buffer zones](#), [draft Norms and Standards for protected area performance management](#), [Guidelines for declaration of protected areas](#), [Guidelines for development of management plans for protected areas](#)) are in place or in final development stage in order to enhance achievement of Target 11.

Target 12: By 2013: National targets have also been established for Aichi Target 12. These include development of list of threatened and protected species, Biodiversity Management Plans for Species, Norms and standards for Biodiversity Management Plans for Ecosystems and Threatened or Protected Species regulations as a contribution to improving conservation status of species and preventing further extinction. However, more work is needed towards formulation of outcome indicators.

Target 13: Focus is on establishing management and control measures to minimise the potential risks to biodiversity posed by GMOs. Legislation (GMO Act) and Environmental Risk Assessment Framework are in place to support and guide decision making. A GMO Council appointed by the Minister, supported by an Independent Advisory Group of scientists.

Thank you