



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 Chair

South Africa takes note of document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.4 prepared by the Executive Secretary.

South Africa notes that ecosystem restoration is an indispensable complement to conservation in enabling the achievement of the various Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as the enhancement of ecological infrastructure. Restoration of ecosystems is crucial for restoring the important ecosystem services provided by or obtained from ecosystems.

South Africa has a number of flagship and world-renowned national environmental programmes on restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems. These include Working for Wetlands, Working for Water (which have just been presented on), Working on Land, Working for Water, Working on Fire, LandCare, CBNRM and Community Participatory Forest Management. Implemented through Government's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), these programmes consider the development of people as an essential element of environmental conservation. Short-term contract jobs created through the clearing activities are undertaken, with the emphasis on endeavouring to recruit women (the target is 60%), youth (20%) and disabled (5%). Creating an enabling environment for skills training, the programmes are investing in the development

of communities wherever it works. Implementing HIV and Aids projects and other socio- development initiatives aimed at women and the youth are important objectives.

With regard to Aichi target 14, South Africa's national target is to rehabilitate 1110 wetlands by 2016. By 2010/11 financial year 610 wetlands were rehabilitated and the aim is to have 100 each financial year until 2016. **A significant number of these wetlands are enlisted on the Ramsar Convention due to their international significance.**

With regard to Aichi Biodiversity Target 15, by 2020 an integrated national programme that facilitates adaptation to the predicted impacts of climate change on biodiversity across the landscape and seascape should have been established (current NBSAP Outcome 3.4).

In relation to policy support tools for assistance with the achievement of this target, a White Paper on the National Climate Change Response was approved by Cabinet in November 2011.

Madam Chair, in terms of climate change adaptation, the Strategy includes a risk-based process to identify and prioritise short-term adaptation interventions that should be addressed in the adaptation plans of key sectors, such as the biodiversity sector, which is developing plans to address the vulnerability of ecosystems to climate change.

Thank you