

Thank you Madam Chair

- The UK is grateful for the assessment provided in Document SBSTTA/17/2/Add.4 and for the Panel presentations - we also look forward to hearing later today the progress report (SBSTTA 17/7) on implementation of the tasks directed to the Secretariat by Decision XI/16.
- We agree with the conclusions of the paper that these two targets, 14 & 15, are generally well served by a range of guidance [much of which was compiled in Information documents to CoP11] and that the few gaps which do exist, by and large, do not represent a major factor limiting implementation.
- We also feel that the work being undertaken by Executive Secretary under Decision XI/16 should also provide us with additional tools and guidance relevant to Targets 14 & 15.
- This should help provide Parties and others with a comprehensive set of guidance for ecosystem restoration, will enhance their capacity to undertake such restoration and may provide options for integrating this work with work aimed at improving livelihoods & alleviating poverty.
- Accordingly, the only priority we identify for further work includes the need to better:
 1. Enhance our understanding on how the restoration of ecosystems, and the services they provide, contributes to improved human well-being, including related socio-economic benefits

[A similar point made by Finland and others]

We have already provided one case study on [Nature Improvement Areas](#) in England which is relevant to this goal.

- [In this respect we provide an example of the approach taken in parts of the UK by identifying [Nature Improvement Areas](#) aimed at achieving more and better-connected habitats at a landscape scale, providing space for wildlife to thrive and adapt to climate change and enhancing a wide range of benefits that nature provides, such as recreation opportunities, flood protection, cleaner water and carbon storage.]

Thank you