

**FACILITATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020
AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS THROUGH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MEANS****Strategic Goal D which addresses the enhancement of benefits to all from biodiversity and
ecosystem services – Targets 14 & 15****A. Speaking Notes**

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

Belgium welcomes the conclusions on the Adequacy of guidance and tools in support of the implementation at the national level for Goal D. Belgium would like to stress the importance of restoration and invites the Secretariat to compile best practices on restoration of ecosystems and the benefits thereof. This can help parties to build greater interest and political support for attaining target 15.

Even more so, Belgium would like to stress the importance of conservation which is naturally far more efficient and cost effective than restoration. Moreover, restoration is not always possible, hence first and foremost conservation needs to be strived for. Along these lines Belgium welcomes the conclusion that better and more information on the benefits of restoration work will have positive effects and is therefore urgently needed, but would like to stress that this is maybe even more so the case regarding the benefits of conservation.

In addition, Belgium would like to stress the need to emphasize across processes the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience to the enhancement and long-term conservation of carbon stocks.

On Target 14: To restore and safeguard ecosystems that provide essential services, Belgium encourages to develop further guidance for categorizing, mapping and assessing ecosystems providing essential services for human well-being but also to develop further comprehensive assessments of the economic and social benefits provided by ecosystem services. (T14) As for Target 15 on ecosystem restoration, tools and methodologies to help identify potential areas for restoration, and greater information on the benefits of restoration for socioeconomic concerns could build greater interest and political support as well as enhance the effectiveness of restoration efforts (T15).

Belgium will hand over these comments in writing and we will provide the secretariat with text which reflects the points raised.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Proposed elements for conclusion and/or draft decision

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Conference of the parties:

Stresses the importance of restoration.

Reminds Parties that in general conservation is far more efficient and cost effective than restoration. Moreover, restoration is not always possible, hence first and foremost conservation needs to be strived for.

Stresses the need to emphasize across processes the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience to the enhancement and long-term conservation of carbon stocks.

Recognizes that tools and methodologies to help identify potential areas for restoration, and better and more information on the benefits of restoration for socioeconomic concerns could build greater interest and political support as well as enhance the effectiveness of restoration efforts

Requests the Executive Secretary:

1. to include sections on its CHM on compiled information on
 - a. the benefits of the conservation of ecosystems
 - b. best practices on the restoration of ecosystems and the benefits thereof
2. To develop
 - a. further guidance for categorizing, mapping and assessing ecosystems providing essential services for human well-being
 - b. further comprehensive assessments of the economic and social benefits provided by ecosystem services.

Calls upon Parties and *invites* other Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant organizations to share best practices across processes on the enhancement and long-term conservation of carbon stocks through biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.