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PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION IN THE FOURTH NATIONAL REPORTS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present note presents a preliminary analysis of the key findings from analysis of the fourth national reports received as of the end of February 2010. The statistical analyses are based on a review of 85 reports received by the end of November 2009, with supplementary information from ten other reports received since then. As further reports are received and analysed, this note will be updated and complemented by more detailed analysis.

II. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF KEY FINDINGS FROM ANALYSIS OF FOURTH NATIONAL REPORTS

A. Status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity

2. Nearly all the countries report continued biodiversity declines, though some reports provide cases of positive status and trends. Most countries did not analyse trends of changes in biodiversity primarily due to lack of historical data, systematic monitoring or research. For example:

(a) Most (91%)[1] of Parties reported that at least one, but in most cases several, species within their national territories were in a state of decline. However several countries also report that they have species populations which have either stabilized or are increasing in number;

* UNEP/CBD/WGRI/3/1

[1] Note: These and subsequent statistics are based on an assessment of 85 national reports available at the time of analysis in English, French or Spanish. The statistics as well as the statements which accompany them will be further refined as more reports are assessed. In presenting statistical responses generic terms are used: "Nearly all" is used for 90% over, "most" for 70% over, "many" for 40% over, "some" for between 40% and 15% and "few" for less than 15%.

(b) Most (82%) Parties reported that biodiversity was important for human wellbeing in their country. Further in several reports it is implied that biodiversity loss will have serious consequences on human wellbeing, particularly livelihood of local communities.

3. Only a minority of countries provide trend analysis of some species or habitats based on monitoring results over years. For example:

(a) Canada reports a rapid decline in sea ice cover: extent of Arctic ice has decreased from about 6.3 million km2 in 2000 to about 4.3 million km2 in 2007;

(b) China reports that its marine trophic index shows signs of a moderate increase since 2000, following earlier large declines;

(c) Ethiopia reports a continued increase in the population sizes of the Ethiopian Wolf and the Walia Ibex from 2002 to 2009;

(d) The European Union reports a decline in the abundance of common forest bird species of 18 per cent from 1990 to 2006;

(e) Hungary reports almost a doubling of the population size of the great bustard since the 1990s, following a massive decline in the 1980s, though levels still remain at about one third of the population in the 1970s;

(f) India reports an increase in the number of threatened species between 2004 and 2008, accounted for mostly by an increase in the number on the "vulnerable" category;

(g) Indonesia reports a deforestation rate of 1.08 million hectares during the period 2000-2005, falling from a peak of 2.83 million hectares during the period 1997-2000;

(h) Italy reports an increase in the number of naturalized alien higher plant species from 782 in 2005 to 1023 in 2008;

(i) Madagascar reports lower rates of deforestation of many types of forest in 2000 as compared to 1990;

(j) Malaysia reports improving quality of river basins from 2000 to 2007;

(k) Mexico reports declining catch and trophic levels of several commercial marine fish species;

(l) The Philippines reports continuing loss of forest area which declined from 23 per cent in 1988 to a projected 6 per cent in 2010;

(m) Uganda reports higher population levels for buffalo, elephant, hippopotamus and zebra species in 2004-6 as compared to 1999-2003, following sever declines over previous decades;

(n) The United Kingdom reports that about 60 per cent of priority species are of increasing or stable status in 2008. The number of increasing species has remained similar to what was reported in 2005. The overall trend between 2002 and 2008 looks positive with a decline in the number of species that are decreasing in status;

(o) Finland reports on the nearly doubling population of grey seals from 2000 to 2008 and even more increase in the total seal population of the Baltic Sea including marked increase in the

population of ringed seals; Both grey and ringed seals declined steeply in the twentieth century before the monitoring schemes were put in place for ringed seals in 1985 and for grey seals in 2000;

(p) Denmark reports that its forest area has been steadily increasing from 1881 to 2006 (approximately 100% from 1800 to 2000), and the population index of forest birds, according to the monitoring results, has increased by 16% from 1976 to 2006. Meanwhile Denmark reports on drastic fall in the number of hares since the 1960s, with 31% drop between 2000 and 2007.

4. The main threats to biodiversity identified by most countries include habitat fragmentation or loss, unsustainable use or overexploitation of natural resources, invasive alien species, pollution and climate change:

(c) The unsustainable use/overexploitation of resources was reported as being a threat to biodiversity in most (87%) fourth national reports;

(d) Most (89%) Parties reported that climate change was either currently driving biodiversity loss or would be in the relatively near future. Some of the noted changes caused by climate change include changes in the timing of important ecosystem events, such as flowering or migration dates, and changes to the range distribution of certain species;

(e) Nearly all (95%) Parties reported that habitat fragmentation and loss was driving biodiversity loss in their country;

(f) Most (88%) Parties indicated that invasive alien species were having negative impacts on some aspects of biodiversity;

(g) Nearly all (94%) Parties signalled that pollution/nitrogen was posing a threat to biodiversity.

5. While the five pressures mentioned above where the most common globally it should be noted that several countries identified more specific pressures. These pressures include such things as population pressures, fire, charcoal production, overgrazing, and the unsustainable harvest of certain key resources.

6. Among underlying causes of continued biodiversity loss, Parties cite limited knowledge of biodiversity, limited capacities for conservation, low levels of biodiversity awareness and public support, the lack of coordination among relevant sectors in conservation and sustainable use or weak mainstreaming of biodiversity into relevant sectors, and the lack of economic evaluation of biodiversity and consequently the lack of incentives or measures to promote the conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing, and weak law enforcement. For example:

(a) Most (87%) the Parties report that limited capacity, including financial, human and technical issues, is a major obstacle to the implementation of one or more of the three goals of the Convention. Both developed and developing countries have indicated that limited capacity is an issue. However this lack of capacity has not stopped actions from being taken;

(b) The absence of, or difficulties in, accessing scientific information as well as limited awareness of biodiversity issues was identified by most (89%) Parties as being an obstacle to the protection of biodiversity. The need for awareness-raising amongst the general public and decision makers was noted in several national reports;

(c) Most (82%) Parties report that limited biodiversity mainstreaming, fragmented decision making and or limited communication between different ministries or sectors is a challenge to taking concerted national actions to meet the three objectives of the Convention;

(d) Many (60%) Parties report that the absence of economic valuations of biodiversity and consequently lack of effective incentives or measures was an obstacle to mobilize all the possible resources for their efforts of conservation or sustainable use of biodiversity.

B. Implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans

7. Nearly all countries report on having developed and adopted national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Some (22%) Parties have revised their national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Revisions are designed to identify and meet new challenges and to respond to recent guidance from the Conference of the Parties.

8. The Convention and national biodiversity strategies and action plans have promoted substantial activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. For example:

(a) Many (56%) Parties reported that they have a protected area coverage equal to or in excess of 10% of their terrestrial area;

(b) Most (86%) Parties reported that they have developed new legislation related to biodiversity since their third national reports were submitted (see annex I below). Legislative developments in many countries to promote the implementation of the Convention as well as mainstreaming are noteworthy. However few parties provided information on the impact of new legislations;

(c) Most (79%) Parties report that they have species or ecosystem recovery programmes in place for some elements of their national biodiversity. However the presence of recovery programmes for certain species or ecosystems does not mean that all species/ecosystems are covered. From the reports receives it appears that recovery programmes tend to be concentrated on emblematic biodiversity or biological resources of socio-economic importance. Further few countries report on the outcomes of these programmes on biodiversity;

(d) Nearly all (92%) of Parties have mechanisms in place for environmental impact assessment and some (38%) reported having mechanisms related to strategic environmental impact assessment. From the national reports most countries appear to have legislation or similar mechanisms related to the use of environmental impact assessment however in most reports it is unclear how environmental impact assessment is being applied;

(e) Many (67%) Parties indicated they were using the ecosystem approach in some way. Most Parties reported that they were using the ecosystem approach to manage certain ecosystems, such as forests, while few Parties indicated that the approach was being used in an integrated manner across the country;

(f) Most (86%) Parties indicate that they are taking actions towards mainstreaming. Much of the actions appear to be in relation to the forestry and agricultural sector. The integration of biodiversity into other sectors is less common;

(g) Nearly all (95%) Parties report that they are undertaking programmes or projects related to monitoring, research and/or the creation of databases. However, despite these actions the information from the national reports suggests that much remains to be done in relation to monitoring, particularly with regards to monitoring the implementation of national biodiversity strategic action plans. Further

several of the monitoring programmes which are in place have considerable gaps and tend to focus on key species or ecosystems;

(h) Most (87%) Parties have co-management and or community involvement in the management of biological resources. The important role played by non-governmental organizations in involving local people in the management of natural resources was mentioned in several reports;

(i) Some Parties report that they have been exploring ways and means of sustainable use of biodiversity, such as sustainable tourism or eco-tourism, while linking biodiversity conservation with improvement of local livelihood and poverty reduction;

(j) Some (38%) Parties reported having some form of benefit sharing mechanisms in place. These tended to be in the form of fledgling legislation, as opposed to concrete programmes or mechanisms;

(k) Nearly all (96%) Parties report that they are undertaking actions related to education and public awareness. While some of theses actions are part of strategic communication, education and public awareness campaigns others are more general. The role of non-governmental organizations, particularly in developing countries, was noted by several Parties as being important in awareness-raising activities.

(l) Some (21%) Parties report that they are using spatial planning to some degree;

(m) Many (61%) Parties report that sub-national policies are contributing to the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity;

(n) Many (69%) Parties report that they are undertaking activities related to Climate change adaptation, with few reports mentioning species measures to address climate change impacts on biodiversity, some (31%) report that they are taking actions related to climate change mitigation and some (36%) report that they have undertaken vulnerability assessments. Some countries report that the implementation of their national programme of action to address desertification issues is also contributing to biodiversity conservation;

(o) Most (78%) Parties report that they are participating in transboundary management or cooperation initiatives. These management initiatives take various forms raging from bi-lateral agreements with neighbouring countries and regional initiatives to developing specific agreements such as the Helsinki accord on the Baltic Sea. Further while several of these agreements are related to protected areas others are related to shared ecosystems or resources such as mountain ranges and rivers. Transboudary agreements were common in both developed and developing countries.

9. Few reports provide detailed assessments concerning the extent to which activities in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans have been implemented or what outcomes have been achieved. Only five analyzed to date provide quantitative assessments of implementation. These represent the proportion of activities or elements of the NBSAP that have been implemented. For example:

(a) Djibouti reports that 30% of the projects identified in the NBSAP have been carried out;

(b) France reports that 32% of actions identified in the NBSAP have been completed, an additional 54% have been initiated, while 14% have yet to be launched;

(c) Krygyzstan reports that 30% of the strategic components of its NBSAP have been successfully implemented;

(d) Togo reports that 40% of the 119 priority actions in its NBSAP have been implemented;

(e) Turkmenistan reported that 49% of the objectives and activities in its NBSAP have been implemented.

10. While there are few quantitative assessments, they are remarkably similar in their results with implementation levels ranging from 30 to 50%. They are also broadly consistent with the overall perception that NBSAP implementation remains low, but not insignificant.

11. Few countries have provided analysis of the outcomes or impacts that NBSAP implementation has generated. Some countries do provide cases or success stories in this regard.

12. All the countries report on challenges encountered in NBSAP implementation or the implementation of the Convention as a whole. For example, India has assessed challenges and constraints for implementation of each of the objectives identified in its NBSAP while highlighting progress and achievements made. Main obstacles to implementation reported include: limited financial, technical and human resources and capacities, limited information, low political will, a lack of coordination between ministries, poverty, low awareness level of biodiversity issues, and limited incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

13. In many countries, national biodiversity strategies and action plans are implemented through individual projects or programmes. Almost all the countries report on programmes and projects developed to implement their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other similar strategies. For example, Australia's Caring for Our Country Initiative, which consolidates various initiatives and programmes related to biodiversity, provides an investment of $2.25 billion over the first five years (2008-2013) and aims to have an environment that is healthy, protected, well-managed, resilient and provide essential ecosystem services in a changing climate.

14. Financial support for the implementation of NBSAP in many developing countries is clearly lacking. Most of them depend on external support or funding for individual projects, though only a few developing countries such as Malaysia and Vietnam said their support to NBSAP implementation would increase. In terms of mechanisms of implementation, some countries such as Finland and Indonesia have adopted sectoral responsibilities for implementing NBSAP, however evidence is lacking to prove the effectiveness of such a mechanism. The United Kingdom has adopted a partnership approach for implementing its biodiversity action plan through devolved administration.

C. Biodiversity mainstreaming

15. Many countries reported that biodiversity issues have been integrated into various sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes, particularly poverty reduction papers, sustainable development strategies and action plans to address related challenges such as climate change. However, very few countries elaborate on mechanisms to make mainstreaming happen and even fewer on how mainstreaming has generated outcomes.

16. Many countries reported on actions taken at sectoral and cross-sectoral levels that have contributed to implementation of NBSAPs, however details are still lacking as to how these sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes have impacted changes in biodiversity.

17. As noted above, nearly all (92%) of Parties have mechanisms in place for environmental impact assessment and some (38%) reported having mechanisms related to strategic environmental impact assessment. Both figures represent an increase from the situation in the third national reports.

D. Progress towards the 2010 target and goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan (2002-2010)

18. The fourth national reports provide numerous examples of progress towards the goals and targets (see annex II below). Most encouraging in achieving the 2010 target is the increase in protected areas, particularly terrestrial; however, the establishment of marine protected areas is still far below the target. However, overall, the reports corroborate other evidence that the 2010 target is not met, overall. No country reported having met the 2010 target and a few (19%) Parties unequivocally state that they have not met it.

Annex I

EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY-RELATED LEGISLATION

Algeria	A law for the protection of mountain zones in the context of sustainable development. Was adopted in 2004
	A law expanding the list of species whose conservation is of national interest was passed in 2009
Bhutan	In 2001 an environmental impact assessment act was passed
	In 2003 a biodiversity act was passed
Cambodia	In 2008 a law giving more responsibility to sub-national councils to oversee local development and natural resources management was passed.
	In 2006 a fishery law was adopted which requires fishery management to be based on the ecosystem approach and which emphasizes the conservation of fish habitats. 8 fish sanctuaries have been established at national level.
Chile	The law on General Principles of the Environment was amended in 2007
	A law on Native forest restoration was adopted in 2008
	The 2007 law on National System of Certification of Agricultural Organic Products establishes the conditions for the commercialization of organic products and their equivalents
Djibouti	*The Environmental Framework Law* of 2001 includes procedures for environmental impact assessment and regulations regarding the transport of dangerous products. As of 2004 the law also includes provisions for the creation of terrestrial and marine protected areas and the protection of biodiversity.
European Union	Directive 2004/35/EC on environmental liability establishes a framework for environmental liability based on the 'polluter pays' principle, with a view of preventing and remedying environmental damage.
	Rural Development Article 39 (1)-(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005, and Article 27 of Regulation (EC) No 1974/2006 promote agri-environment measures that support the rearing of 'farm animals of local breeds indigenous to the area and in danger of being lost to farming', and the preservation of 'plant genetic resources naturally adapted to the local and regional conditions and under threat of genetic erosion'. Article 28 of Regulation 1974/2006 also supports the conservation of genetic resources in operations not covered by the above-mentioned measures by supporting the preservation of endangered animal and plant genetic resources.
Finland	The Land Use and Building Act, adopted in 2000 and since revised, makes it is possible to designate National Urban Parks as a means of protecting and maintaining the beauty of the cultural or natural landscape, biodiversity or related values in townscapes.
Hungary	Agri-environmental measures will be included under the New Hungary Rural Development Plan, which will be implemented in 2009. The plan will help to find a suitable balance between the compulsory conservational requirements and the possibility of voluntary measures; subsidies for such biodiversity-supportive measures will be eligible for farmers on ca. 914,000 ha.
Japan	As part of Japan's Biodiversity Basic Law local governments are encouraged to develop local biodiversity strategies. To support local public authorities in this task the Japanese Ministry of the Environment has developed guidelines on the development of local biodiversity strategic action plans.
Kenya	The Seeds and Plant Varieties Act regulates the genetic quality of seeds and plants in Kenya by detailing provisions on seed testing, transactions in seeds, prevention of cross-pollination and on plant breeder rights.

Lebanon	The 2004 hunting law explicitly refers to the Convention on Biological Diversity and promotes sustainable hunting by, amongst other things, defining the hunting season, banning the hunt of certain species and established breeding centers for certain species. Law for the Protection of the Environment 2002 – includes principle of biodiversity protection.
Madagascar	Decree n°2003-439 puts in place environmental department ("cellules") in each of the government's ministries
Morocco	Legislations related to the regulation of pollutants, protected areas and environmental impact assessment, amongst others, have been adopted.
Norway	The Management of Wild Marine Resources Act went into force in 2009. The purpose of this Act is to secure a sustainable and socio-economically profitable management of wild marine resources and associated genetic materials and to contribute to securing employment and settlement in coastal communities
Philippines	In January 2008 the Supreme Court designated 84 branches of first-level courts and 31 branches of second-level courts as special Environmental Courts or "green courts" to handle cases involving violations of environmental laws.
Poland	A new act on ecological farming was introduced in 2004. This act regulates, amongst other things, the conditions for farming and food processing with the use of ecological methods, and specifies the system of control and certification
	The Act on Nature Conservation was adopted in 2004.
	The 2008 Act on Sharing Information on Environment and its Protection, Involvement of Society in Nature Conservation, and on Environmental Impact Assessment creates a new system for supervising environmental impact assessment procedures.
Spain	A law adopted in 2007 provides for the creation of a Spanish Inventory of Traditional Knowledge related to Natural Patrimony and for the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity and geological diversity.
	An environmental assessment law, which aims to regulate, clarify and harmonise provisions related to environmental impact assessment was adopted in 2008.
Sri Lanka	The 1937 Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance No. 2 was amended by a 2009 Act which, besides protecting animal and plant life within national reserves, has provision for the protection of certain categories of animals and plants throughout the country.
	The Marine Pollution Prevention Act which was adopted in 1981 and which was amended in 2008 resulted in the establishment of the Marine Pollution Prevention Authority (MPPA) and provides for the prevention, reduction and control of pollution in Sri Lankan waters, amongst other things.
Tunisia	A new law on Marine Protected Areas was adopted in 2009
Uganda	The Constitution of Uganda recognizes and makes special provisions for environment and natural resources. The Constitution has a number of Articles which are relevant to the CBD, such as *Article 237(2)(b) which* mandates Parliament to make laws which authorize the central government or local governments, to hold in trust for the people various ecosystems for the common good of all citizens.
United Kingdom	A 2003 reform of the Common Agricultural Policy reduced the environmental impact of agriculture by removing incentives to intensify production.
Swaziland	The Biodiversity Conservation and Management Bill was adopted in 2008 with a view to consolidating the different biodiversity-related legislations and giving effect to the principle of cooperative governance. The Access and Benefit-sharing Bill was also adopted in 2008 to regulate access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits.

Annex II

EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL LEVEL ACTIONS TOWARDS THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET

Target	Example
Focal Area: Protect the components of biodiversity	
Goal 1: Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes	
1.1: At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	• **Lithuania –** 15.13% of the country is covered by protected areas, this is an increase of more than 3% since 2004. Special Protected Areas make up 7% of this while Special Areas for Conservation make up 9%.
	• **Slovakia –** Protected sites and zones cover more than 24% of the national territory while Natura 2000 sites cover 29% of the Slovak territory.
	• **Chile -** National parks, national reserves and national monuments comprise approximately 19% of the national territory.
	• **Norway** - 14.3% of the Norwegian mainland is protected as national parks, nature reserves or other conservation areas. The figure for Svalbard (Arctic) is 65%. Most of the protected areas occur in the alpine zone.
	• **European Union -** At the core of EU biodiversity policy are the Birds and Habitats Directives, which provide the legal basis for the Natura 2000 network of protected areas. The combined Natura 2000 network now comprises more than 25,000 sites, covering around 17% of the total land area of the European Union.
	• **Cuba** has a total of 253 protected areas, encompassing 19.95% of the national territory. 16.85% of the terrestrial and 24.81% of the marine territories have been protected.
	• **Spain** - Protected areas in Spain cover 6.2 million hectares, which represents 11.8% of the national territory.
	• **Philippines** - Terrestrial protected areas increased from 8.5% of the total land area in 1992 to 13.8% in 2008. The number of MPAs increased from 439 in 1997 to 1169 as of 2007. Management effectiveness of these sites increased from 10-15% in 2000 to 20-30% in 2007.
	• **China** - During 1999-2007, the number and coverage of nature reserves have increased significantly. Protected areas now cover 15.2% of the country.
	• **Uganda** has 12.86% of its total country area protected. It has also gazetted a total of 11 Ramsar sites. There has been a progressive increase in the number of wild animals in protected areas in the last 15 years.
	• **Algeria's** network of protected areas covers 36.5% of the national territory and represents most of the country's ecosystems. 10% of the country's wetlands are protected RAMSAR sites.
	• **Cambodia** - The coverage of protected areas accounts for 26.1 of the total land area.

1.2: Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected	• **Spain –** In 2008 El Cachucho, an extensive offshore bank and seamount with surrounding slopes and a complex system of channels and canyons that was declared as a marine protected area. The area, which covers 234 000 hectares, is home to important populations of deep sea sponges with some sections of the park having up to 750 sponges per hectare. The area is also home to deep water sharks and giant squid. The marine protected area is the first created under the new Spanish law for Natural Heritage.
	• **Burundi** - A national action plan has been established related to priority sites for conservation. As part of this process the lakes in the Northern part of the country, covering 30,000 hectares, have been protected.
Goal 2. Promote the conservation of species diversity	
2.1: Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups	• **Norway** - Historically 72 populations of salmon have become extinct however 27 of these have been re-established as a result of measures taken to reduce acidification and exterminate salmon parasites.
	• **Ethiopia -** The Walia ibex is confined to the Simen Mountains National Park which covers an area of 412 km2 of the Simen Mountains watershed. In the 1990's IUCN listed the species as critically endangered and the species population was estimated at between 200 and 250 individuals between 1994 and 1996. The main threat to the species is habitat loss. However as a result of various conservation actions, including the implementation of an integrated conservation and development project, in 2004 the population stood at around 500 and by 2009 had reached 740.
	• **Uganda** - Trends in abundance and distribution of some selected species show a steady increase in population: Elephants - 100% increase (550 in 1995 to 3000 in 2004) Buffalo- 61% increase (7000 in 1995 to 18000 in 2004) Mountain Gorillas- 8% increase (292 in 1995 to 315 in 2002) Giraffe- 52% increase (153 in 1995 to 320 in 2004) Chimpanzee- 33% increase (3300 in 1997 to 4950 in 2003)
	• **Egypt** made efforts in 2008 to save a few endangered species through captive breeding, such as Oryxdammah and Arabian Oryx (four new births), Caracal, and porcupine. Cheetah was introduced for the first time since 40 years, in addition to breeding the fourth generation of Egyptian Gazelle. The number of African turtles is also growing, with the total having reached 1,469 compared with 113 previously, representing 17 species. As well as, medicinal plants, acacia trees, El Ombet and mangroves were cultivated successfully in several Protected Areas.
	• **Pakistan,** with the support of IUCN, WWF and other partners, has been implementing since 1997 a rehabilitation programme for degraded mangroves. So far 6.5 million seedlings and a network of container plants nurseries have been established. Some species have been reintroduced to bring genetic variation and vibrant sustainability of plants and larger ecosystems. Some virgin estuarine areas have created new world records for high growth rates of mangroves.
	• **Thailand-**implemented a marine turtle nursery and breeding project to restore its wild population. In 2007, 580 baby green turtles, 104 baby leatherback turtles and 93 baby olive ridley turtles were bred and released to the sea at different time periods.

2.2: Status of threatened species improved	• **Mongolia -** The Government of Mongolia has implemented several measures to reintroduce the Przewalski Horse into its natural habitat in Mongolia. As of 2007, approximately 300 heads of Przewalski Horse have been released into three different regions. While the species is still listed as critically endangered, the population is increasing.
	• **United Kingdom -** The review of priority species and habitats resulted in 123 species no longer meeting the criteria for selection on the revised list. In some, but not all, cases this was a result of conservation action. Species such as the Devil's bolete (*Boletus satanas*) and the Killarney fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*) were removed from this list because of successful conservation efforts.
Goal 3. Promote the conservation of genetic diversity	
3.1: Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.	• **Lithuania -** There are over 8,000 plant specimens contained in Lithuanian botanical gardens, parks and research stations and a plant gene back contains more 2,280 plant seed specimens.
	• **Tunisia** – In 2007 a national gene bank was created as a means of promoting research on agricultural biodiversity. The bank identifies and collects endemic as well as introduced species, and helps to reintroduce extinct species from seeds held in foreign gene banks. The bank currently has 1600 cereal crop and 10000 other accessions.
	• **Algeria -** In 2008, as part of rural development projects, 173 pilot farms were reoriented towards the conservation and promotion of genetic resources of local breeds (in particular, Ouled Djellal sheep). A national committee has been established to promote local varieties of olives, dates and figs. Hunting centers have been established in which endemic species threatened with extinction are raised.
	• **Nepal -** A Community Seed Bank for enhancing local seed security has been established with the participation of local communities in Kachorwa. The seed bank collects and identifies available seeds of landraces and stores them. To date, 60 landraces of rice, 5 of sponge gourd, 3 of pigeon pea and 2 of finger millet seeds, have been collected and stored in the seed house.
	• **United Kingdom -** The Millennium Seed Bank Project, hosted by the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, is the largest *ex situ* conservation project ever conceived. Its partners will have banked seed from 10% of the world's wild plant species by the end of the decade. These will include the rarest, most threatened and most useful species known to man.
	• **Viet Nam -** The national plant gene bank preserves 12,307 varieties of 115 species, many of which are indigenous with unique features.

Focal Area: Promote sustainable use	
Goal 4. Promote sustainable use and consumption.	
4.1: Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity.	• **Morocco –** A co-management agreement between the High Commission for Water, Forests and to Combat Desertification (*Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification)* and a women's cooperative was established in the Eastern region of the country related to wild rosemary. As part of the agreement the cooperative has the right to use and sell extracts and essential oils extracted from 22,000 hectares of wild rosemary in exchange for sustainably exploiting the resource and allowing sufficient time for its recovery.
	• **Sweden -** The Swedish Board of Fisheries has started a co-management programme for the fishing industry based in Vättern, the second largest lake in Sweden. The aim of the project is to reach long-term sustainable fishing in the lake. The co-management project is carried out under the auspices of the Lake Vättern Society of Water Conservation, in which municipalities, companies, and county administration boards participate. The work undertaken as part of this programme include, amongst other things, an analysis and possible adaptation of fishing guidelines for the lake, the production of information brochures, and the evaluation of no-fishing zones in the lake. This programme is one of 6 co-management pilot projects commissioned by the government.
	• **United Kingdom** - During the 1990s the percentage of fish stocks considered to be harvested sustainably was around 10 per cent. In 2000, it was 5 per cent, but has increased to 25 per cent in 2007.
	• 80% of commercial forest plantations in **South Africa** are managed according to Forestry Stewardship Council standards.
	• **Czech Republic** - 7.36% of all agricultural land is devoted to organic agriculture. The country has set an objective of increasing the share of organic agricultural land to at least 10% by 2010. If current trends persist this target will be met.
4.2: Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced.	• **Morocco –** A co-management programme in the Kenitra region related to wood resources was established. The co-management agreement allows local co-ops to manage the wood resources and in its first year reduced illegal logging by 98%.
	• **Sri Lanka -** As part of the National Forest Policy (1995) and National Wildlife Policy (2000) a moratorium on state mediated logging of all Wet Zone forests was introduced in the 1990's. As a result most of the logged forests in the Wet Zone are now regenerating.
	• The prevalence of illegal logging has been reduced over the last few years. In 2003 it was estimated that 42 236 trees were illegally felled in **Armenia** while in 2008 the number of illegally harvested trees was 2080.
4.3: No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade.	• **Turkmenistan** – Prohibiting the export of snakes for the last 15 years allowed for the populations of the Central-Asian cobra *(Naja oxiana)* and lebetina viper *(Macrovipera lebetina)* to increase two fold and it has been proposed to reclassify them from "rare and disappearing species" to "restored species"

	• **Dominica** – The population of the endemic Imperial Parrot (*Amazona imperialis)* has increased to some 250 mature individuals from a previous low, in 1993, of just 80 to 100 individuals. If the current increasing population trend continues the species will eventually be down listed from endangered to vulnerable. The species is listed under Appendix I and II of CITES.
Focal Area: Address threats to biodiversity	
Goal 5. Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.	
5.1: Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased.	• **Madagascar** has reduced the rate of decline of several forest types in the country. The rate of loss of humid forests has been reduced from 0.79% per year (1990-2000) to 0.35% (2000– 2005). Similarly, loss of dry forests has been reduced from 0.7% per year to 0.42% per year, over the same time periods, while, the decline of mangrove forests, which was occurring at a rate of 0.17% in the 1990s has been stopped altogether.
	• **Algeria's** programme for the preservation of steppe areas regenerated 15% of this ecosystem. This is being complemented by a pasture planting program that covered 248,000 ha between 2001-2007.
	• **Czech Republic -** Forest area is increasing by 0.07% annually and currently covers 33.7% of the country's total area. In forest areas spruce and pine are declining but beech, oak, ash and maple area increasing.
	• **China's** forest resources have witnessed continuous growth and China's forest cover has increased from 8.6% in 1949 to 18.21% now.
	• **Philippines** - Forest cover has increased from 23.9% of the total land area in 2003 to 52.6% in 2006
Goal 6. Control threats from invasive alien species.	
6.1: Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled.	• **Norway -** In 2006 an action plan to prevent the escape of farmed fish was developed. The plan contains 30 actions, including double securing fish hatchery drains and regulating the mesh size of nets, to reduce farmed fish entering the environment.
	• **Ghana** is participating in a regional Invasive Alien Species program together with **Zambia**, **Ethiopia** and **Uganda**. It has made progress in identifying and controlling 4 plant invasive species in the country.
	• **Malaysia** – A National Action Plan for invasive alien species has been finalized. The Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services controls 52 entry points to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species.
6.2: Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.	• **Australia -** Bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *rotundata*) is a highly invasive coastal shrub of South African origin, which has invaded 900 kilometres of the New South Wales coastline. Bitou bush has been declared a weed of national significance, a noxious weed, and a Key Threatening Process in New South Wales. The NSW Bitou Bush Threat Abatement Plan identifies priorities for management independent of land tenure by prioritizing the species at greatest risk from bitou bush and the sites where its control is most critical.
	• **Estonia** - Estonia uses both control measures and information gathering and monitoring to mitigate the impacts of Giant Hogweed, an invasive plant introduced for ornamental purposes in the 1950s.

Goal 7. Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.	
7.1: Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change	• **Australia -** In 2008, the Australian Government committed $200 million over five years to the Great Barrier Reef Rescue Programme. This funding will be used to address the impacts of declining water on reef health by helping farmers to further reduce nutrients, chemicals and sediments leaving their land. Further 180,000 hectares of the land across the Great Barrier Reef Catchments has been protected as a means of improving the water quality reaching the reef. By reducing the amount of land-based pollutants entering the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem, the reef will be given a chance to regain its inbuilt natural resilience and ability to cope with the impacts of climate change.
7.2: Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity	• **Switzerland –** As a result of banning the use of phosphorous in detergent, the extension of water treatment, new treatment technologies and new agricultural measures the nitrate, heavy metal and phosphorous loads found in water systems has decreased and water quality has improved.
	• **European Union –** Though all European countries have nitrogen surpluses, overall agricultural nitrogen surpluses have fallen. The adoption of nutrient management plans and environmental farm plans has been instrumental in achieving this reduction.
Focal Area: Maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being	
Goal 8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods	
8.1: Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained	• **Vietnam -** A green corridor was established in the forest belt linking Phong Dien Nature Reserve and Bach Ma National Park. The corridor covers an area of approximately 130,000 hectares and includes both medium and lowland mountains. The forest corridor was established to protect part of the Huong River's watershed, which provides environmental services for the fishery sector and by way of flooding reduction. As part of the project economic incentives are provided to local stakeholders to encourage them to actively participate in natural forest management and biodiversity conservation.
	• **Australia** - The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative is a program designed to help people, plants and animals adapt to future environmental threats by maintaining, improving and reconnecting 'islands' of natural vegetation along the great eastern ranges which have become isolated because of development. In the state of New South Wales the ranges, are a source of clean water for more three quarters of Australian's, contain the catchment for the most reliable rainfall in eastern Australia, harbour two thirds of New South Wales's vulnerable and endangered plant and animal species as well as provide a multitude of other cultural and socio-economic benefits.

8.2: biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained.	• **Afghanistan –** With the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Kingdom a sustainable agricultural and livelihoods project was initiated in Eastern Hazarajat from 2003 to 2008. The project which sought to reduce conflict and confusion regarding pasture ownership, a major cause of land degradation, resulted in approximately 157,000 hectares of pasture being brought under community based pasture management.
	• **Cameroon -** The Heifer Project, which operates in 5 provinces in the Republic, practically demonstrates appropriate techniques for conserving and managing various forms of biodiversity. In 2003 they succeeded in assisting over 10 000 resource limited families through placements of various species of livestock (dairy cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, rabbits, poultry, snails, bees and fish) and by providing training, production material and technical support.
	• **South Africa -** Biodiversity stewardship programmes are being implemented in several provinces. The ultimate goal of these programmes is to safeguard threatened habitats and create secure biodiversity corridors within production landscapes by keeping people on the land and involving them in the conservation of these threatened habitats. Biodiversity stewardship is particularly advanced in the Western Cape Province where 40 Contract Nature Reserves, 12 Biodiversity Agreements and 19 Conservation Areas have been secured through the Stewardship Programme.
	• **Samoa** engages local villages Councils of Chiefs to assume leadership and using village by-laws to enforce bans on the use of unsustainable fishing methods and closed 'no-fishing' zones for rebuilding stocks and marine ecosystem rehabilitation. Over seventy (70) village based fisheries reserves are functional according to latest reports. There is also an increasing use of a more integrated ecosystem approach to the management of community fisheries reserves project, with actions to reduce land based pollution enforced by many communities.
Focal Area: Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	
Goal 9 Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities	
9.1 Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	• **Côte d'Ivoire-** An inventory of traditional knowledge related to the protection of forests and scared sites has been established.
	• **Norway** – The "Arbediehtu" project was established in 2008 to develop suitable methods to record the traditional knowledge of the Sami People and to develop capacities and methods for its collection.
	• **Malaysia -** The Sarawak Biodiversity Centre started a *Traditional Knowledge Documentation Programme* in 2001. The main objective of the Traditional Knowledge Documentation Programme is to facilitate local indigenous communities in the State in preserving their traditional knowledge through recording or documenting techniques, capacity building workshops and the, propagation and management of useful indigenous plants. The project also encourages local indigenous communities to cultivate useful indigenous plants for their own uses.

	• **Benin –** The Paptia Botanical Garden is based on the traditional medicine knowledge of the Peuls people. The garden is the result of cooperation between the Peuls community, non-governmental organizations, other organizations and the local community to capitalize on traditional knowledge related to biodiversity conservation. The garden contains 103 woody and 60 riparian species used in traditional medicine.
	• **Sweden -** During 2007 the Sami initiative was jointly launched. It is an initiative working on the documentation and maintenance of traditional ecological knowledge from a Sami perspective. Two sets of Sami 'grassroots' pilot projects on community-based documentation on traditional Sami land tenure and use of biological resources have been initiated.
	• **South Africa** has an Indigenous Knowledge Systems Policy through which it compensates indigenous people for their effort to conserve and protect biodiversity.
9.2: Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing	• **Madagascar –** there has been approximately 500 transfers of natural resource management to local communities , covering an area of about 178,000 hectares
	• **Canada** - The Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement, negotiated between the Government of Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and four regional Inuit associations, allows for the creation of three new national wildlife areas on Baffin Island. The agreement provides for the preparation of Cultural Resources Inventories, supporting the development of interpretative materials and management plans for the ten existing and three proposed protected areas in the Nunavut Settlement Area, and will identify Inuktitut place names for these areas. Co-management and collaborative opportunities promote conservation and sustainable use through the inclusion of critical Inuit tradition ecological knowledge in the development of any management plan
	• **Mexico** - The Program of Indigenous Peoples and the Environment 2007-2012 aims to ensure that indigenous people have equal access and fair distribution of benefits, and respect the customary regulatory systems related to the sustainable use and management of natural resources and associated traditional knowledge.
Focal Area: Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources	
Goal 10. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources	
10.1: All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and	• **Uganda** -. In 2005 the country, as part of the National Environment Act, introduced specific regulations on the access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. The act sets out procedures for access to genetic resources for scientific research, commercial purposes, bioprospecting, conservation or industrial applications; provides for the sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources; and promote the sustainable management and utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to conservation of biological resources in Uganda.
	• **South Africa** regulates access to genetic resources through the Biodiversity Act and ABS regulations.

other applicable agreements.	• **Australia** - In 2004, the Australian state of Queensland enacted the *Biodiscovery Act 2004*. The Act provides for streamlined, sustainable access to Queensland's native biological resources while returning a fair and equitable benefit to the community. This means that if the genetic code of a native plant or animal species from Queensland is used to develop a new medicine or industrial product for example, that a portion of the profits are returned to the state. The Biodiscovery Act seeks to create legal certainty for biodiscovery organizations, to ensure ecologically sound and sustainable collection activities; to provide an equitable sharing of benefits for all Queenslanders; and encourage value-added research and commercialization.
10.2: Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources.	• **Ethiopia -** In 2006, a British company, Vernique Biotech, signed a 10 year agreement with the Ethiopian Government to have access to *Vernonia (Vernonia galamensis)*, a tall weed endemic to Ethiopia, the oil of which is being investigated for its possible use as a "green chemical" in the production of plastic compounds. As part of the deal, Vernique Biotech will pay a combination of license fees, royalties and a share of its profits to the Ethiopian Government.
Focal Area: Ensure provision of adequate resources	
Goal 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention	
11.1: New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20.	• **United Kingdom** - The Darwin Initiative is a small grants programme that aims to promote biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of resources around the world. It seeks to share UK expertise and each application for funding support must have a UK and foreign partner organisation. Since 1992, the initiative has committed £73m to 644 projects in 149 countries, involved over 200 British institutions and partnered with 764 organizations in host nations.
	• **Denmark's** international development assistance supports projects that encourage nature and biodiversity conservation and are consistent with the CBD 2010 target. The priority issues identified for support include sustainable forest management, linking biodiversity conservation with climate change mitigation and adaption, networking protected areas and prevention of invasive alien species. In 2005 Danish development assistance totalled DDK 12.6 billion corresponding to 0.81% of GNI.
	• **European Union -** The dense humid forests of Central Africa represent the second largest block of rainforest on earth, after the Amazon, and harbour an incredible diversity of wildlife, including many rare apes. Since 1992, the European Commission has been supporting a major regional forest conservation initiative, the ECOFAC Programme, covering six countries in West Africa. As a result of the project, some 28,000km² of forest are now being managed as functioning protected areas. ECOFAC has also devoted considerable resources to providing alternative sources of revenue as a way of reducing hunting pressure on wildlife populations.

11.2: Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4).	• **Mali** in partnership with the Millennium Seed Bank developed the "Unité de Semences Forestières (USF) et Herbier", Mail's first seed facility. The USF allows for easier access to quality seeds
	• **Japan** – The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) organizes a number of training courses in which it invites participants from developing counties to Japan and provides lectures and field studies on such topics as protected areas, coral-reef conservation, and wetland conservation.
