

# Austria

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## Third National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity



**2005**

## A. REPORTING PARTY

Contracting Party	<b>AUSTRIA</b>
<b>NATIONAL FOCAL POINT</b>	
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Date of submission	7. November 2005

## Information on the preparation of the report

**Box I. Please provide information on the preparation of this report, including information on stakeholders involved and material used as a basis for the report.**

The national report was prepared on the basis of inputs from the various responsible organisations and individual experts (federal ministries and provincial governments, Federal Environment Agency, Austrian Development Agency, University of Vienna/Botanic Garden, Austrian Agency for Health and Food Security, Federal Forest Office). After thorough discussions the report was completed and then formally adopted by the Austrian National Commission on Biodiversity. Members of this Commission are representatives of Federal Ministries (including federal institutes), the Provincial Governments, interest groups (e.g. Forest Owner Associations, Federal Chamber of Commerce), Federal Agencies involved in biodiversity issues (e.g. Federal Environment Agency, Federal Office and Research Centre for Forests), NGOs (e.g. WWF, Greenpeace Austria, Arch Noah) as well as representatives from the scientific community (e.g. University of Vienna, Austrian Botanic Gardens Working Group, Austrian Academy of Sciences).

In general a wide range of activities is taking place in Austria at various levels (federal, provincial, local) with the aim of conserving biological diversity.

It needs to be mentioned that prime responsibilities for many of the issues addressed in the format lie with different governmental bodies at federal and provincial levels. E.g. nature conservation policy, including the establishment and management of protected areas, primarily lies with the legal competence of the nine Federal Provinces of Austria (Bundesländer). Nine different Provincial Nature Protection Laws therefore govern issues pertaining to nature and biodiversity protection. As a consequence, many of the questions contained in this format cannot be answered generally from a national level perspective, but reflect the specific provincial situations.

Further information mainly has been drawn from the following WebPages:

[www.lebensministerium.at/umwelt](http://www.lebensministerium.at/umwelt)

[www.ris.bka.at](http://www.ris.bka.at)

[www.biodiv.at](http://www.biodiv.at) (Austrian CHM)

[www.naturschutz.at](http://www.naturschutz.at)

as well as WebPages of federal ministries and provincial governments

## B. PRIORITY SETTING, TARGETS AND OBSTACLES

### Box II.

Please provide an overview of the status and trends of various components of biological diversity in your country based on the information and data available.

Austria is characterised by a very high diversity of landscapes ranging from the Pannonian plains to high alpine regions, from wetlands to sub continental regions. Austria's biodiversity has been shaped by human interventions throughout the ages especially through agriculture and forestry, hunting and fishing. More recently a range of other land uses has had a high impact on biological diversity as well.

One of the main causes of loss of biodiversity in Austria is still the loss of habitats because of destruction or change of biotopes. The sealing and fragmentation of landscapes by settlements and transport infrastructures have become a problem for the conservation of species and habitats in Austria. But also the abandoning of traditional forms of land use (DULLINGER et al., 2003) or the intensification of land use leads to a loss of species and habitats. Another potential threat to some aspects of biodiversity is the introduction of non-native plant and animal species (neobiota). In Austria currently 35 plant species and 46 animal species have been identified to potentially or in fact endanger native species (ESSL & RABITSCH, 2002).

The combined negative impact can be seen in the high number of endangered native plants and animals featured in the relevant "Red Lists". Among the most intensively studied animal and plant species in Austria, we know that for example over 60% of the fern and flowering plants are regionally endangered and about 50% of the vertebrates are endangered to varying degrees. Unfortunately no significant trend reversal can currently be detected (UMWELTBUNDESAMT, 2004).

A project is still ongoing to classify the threat situation of habitats in Austria. The threat categorisation of Austrian forest biotope types shows that out of 93 Austrian forest biotope types 53 biotope types (57%) can be found in a threat category (ESSL et al., 2002). The predominant portion of the Austrian forests is being utilized for timber production. In these forests the dynamics of succession cycles and natural disturbances have been affected by management practices. The natural flood dynamics of floodplain forests is considerably reduced by the regulation of river systems and the building of hydro-electric power plants. Out of the 61 grassland biotope types in Austria, 53 biotope types (about 90%) have been assigned to a threat category and 48 scrubland biotope types (about 56%) have been assigned to a threat category as well (ESSL et al., 2004).

Various measures set out in recent years, including the revision of the Austrian Forest Act, show positive effects, such as increasing natural reforestation, increasing mixed forest stands, etc..

Surveys are being carried out in NATURA 2000 sites, which provide increasingly detailed information on the status of biological diversity in these sites, forming the basis of management plan for habitats and species.

A study to define the favourable condition for habitats and species protected under EU legislation was completed in 2005, building the basis for monitoring and assessment.

DULLINGER, S., DIRNBÖCK, T., GREIMLER, J., GRABHERR, G. (2003): A resampling approach for evaluation effects of pasture abandonment on sub alpine plant species diversity. In: Journal of Vegetation Science 14. IAVS; Opulus Press Uppsala. P.243-252.

ESSL, F. & RABITSCH W. (2002): Neobiota in Österreich. Bd. DP-089. Wien.

ESSL, F., EGGER, G., ELLMAUER, Th., AIGNER, S. (2002): Rote Liste der gefährdeten Biotoptypen Österreichs. Wälder, Forste, Vorwälder. Umweltbundesamt Monographie, Bd. M-156. Wien.

ESSL, F., EGGER, G., KARRER, G., THEISS, M., AIGNER S. (2004): Rote Liste der gefährdeten Biotoptypen Österreichs. Grünland, Grünlandbrachen und Trockenrasen, Hochstauden- und Hochgrasfluren, Schlagfluren und Waldsäume, Gehölze des Offenlandes und Gebüsche. Umweltbundesamt Monographie, Bd. M-167. Wien.

UMWELTBUNDESAMT (2004): Environmental Situation in Austria. Seventh State of the Environment Report. Umweltbundesamt. Wien.

## Priority Setting

1. Please indicate, by marking an "X" in the appropriate column below, the level of priority your country accords to the implementation of various articles, provisions and relevant programmes of the work of the Convention.

Article/Provision/Programme of Work	Level of Priority		
	High	Medium	Low
a) Article 5 – Cooperation		X	
b) Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use	X		
c) Article 7 - Identification and monitoring	X		
d) Article 8 – <i>In-situ</i> conservation	X		
e) Article 8(h) - Alien species		X	
f) Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions		X	
g) Article 9 – <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation	X		
h) Article 10 – Sustainable use of components of biological diversity	X		
i) Article 11 - Incentive measures	X		
j) Article 12 - Research and training	X		
k) Article 13 - Public education and awareness	X		
l) Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts	X		
m) Article 15 - Access to genetic resources		X	
n) Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology		X	
o) Article 17 - Exchange of information	X		
p) Article 18 – Scientific and technical cooperation	X		
q) Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits	X		
r) Article 20 - Financial resources	X		
s) Article 21 - Financial mechanism		X	
t) Agricultural biodiversity	X		

u) Forest biodiversity	X		
v) Inland water biodiversity	X		
w) Marine and coastal biodiversity			NA
x) Dryland and subhumid land biodiversity		X	
y) Mountain biodiversity	X		

### Challenges and Obstacles to Implementation

<b>2.</b> Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the provisions of the Articles of the Convention (5, 6,7, 8, 8h, 8j, 9, 10, 11,12, 13, 14, 15,16, 17, 18, 19 and 20)	
3 = High Challenge	1 = Low Challenge
2 = Medium Challenge	0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome
N/A = Not applicable	

Challenges	Articles																	
	5	6	7	8	8h	8j	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
a) Lack of political will and support	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
g) Loss of	1	1	1	N/A	N/A	2	1	1	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	1

traditional knowledge																		
h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	0	1	N/A	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	N/A	1	N/A	0	0	0	0
k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	1	1	N/A	0	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
n) Lack of economic incentive measures	1	1	N/A	2	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	N/A	0	0	1	0	0	0
o) Lack of benefit-sharing	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	2	1	2	1	2	0	0	N/A	1	0	1	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	1
q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
r) Lack of effective partnerships	1	1	1	1	N/A	1	1	2	1	1	0	N/A	0	0	1	1	0	0
s) Lack of engagement of scientific	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

community																		
t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
u) Poverty	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
v) Population pressure	N/A	0	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	1	1	N/A	1	N/A	2	1	1	1	N/A	0	N/A	1	0	N/A	0	0	1
x) Lack of capacities for local communities	1	0	N/A	0	N/A	1	1	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	1	0	0	0
y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
z) Weak law enforcement capacity	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	0
aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	1	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	1
bb) Others (please specify)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



## 2010 Target

The Conference of the Parties, in decision VII/30, annex II, decided to establish a provisional framework for goals and targets in order to clarify the 2010 global target adopted by decision VI/26, help assess the progress towards the target, and promote coherence among the programmes of work of the Convention. Parties and Governments are invited to develop their own targets with this flexible framework. Please provide relevant information by responding to the questions and requests contained in the following tables.

### Box III.

<b>Goal 1</b>	<b>Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes.</b>		
<b>Target 1.1</b>	<b>At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
A whole range of protected areas under different categories together with the establishment of the NATURA 2000 sites and EU nature conservation legislation ensure that all the relevant ecological regions are protected.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		in progress
b) Inland water	X		
c) Marine and coastal		X	not applicable for Austria
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		
f) Mountain	X		Alpine Convention & related Protocols
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
National target: Conservation of areas/regions of particular importance to biodiversity (e.g. biodiversity hotspots)			

Add c) Management plans have been established or are being developed for a majority of NATURA 2000 sites

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

About 3.8% of Austria's surface area is currently designated as nature reserve, a strict category of protection. Other categories of protected areas are "protected landscapes" (10,7% of national territory), "nature parks" (2,2%), "nature monuments" etc. (2%). Furthermore six National parks cover 2,8% of the Austrian territory. As a member of the EU, Austria has designated 212 NATURA 2000 sites which cover about 17% of the territory. Many of these NATURA 2000 sites are nature reserves as well. Internationally designated areas like Ramsar sites (1,4%) Biosphere reserves (0,6%), Biogenetic reserves (2,1%), three European Diploma sites and one Wilderness area (IUCN Category Ia and Ib) also aim to preserve areas of importance to biodiversity.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

Indicators to monitor biodiversity are currently under development (project "MOBI-e"/Monitoring Biodiversity) and should be available by end of 2005.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

#### Box IV.

Target 1.2	Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
This goal partly corresponds with target 12 (Maintenance of species and landscape diversity) and target 13 (responsible land use) of the Austrian Sustainable Development Strategy.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water	x		
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest	x		National targets are: conservation of all 93 forest biotope types in Austria, effective protection of forest biodiversity
f) Mountain		x	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X
Please provide details below.	
<p>Recently the Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity was further developed and updated. During this participatory process the global targets from the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD (COP/VII/30) were incorporated.</p> <p>Add c) Establishment of NATURA 2000 sites</p>	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
<p>About 3.8% of Austria's surface area is currently designated as nature reserve, a strict category of protection. Other categories of protected areas are "landscape protection" (10.7% of national territory), "nature parks" (2.2%), "nature monuments" etc. (2%). Furthermore six National parks were designated which cover 2.8% of the Austrian territory. As a member of the EU, Austria has designated 212 NATURA 2000 sites which cover about 17% of the territory. Many of this NATURA 2000 sites are nature reserves as well. Internationally designated areas like Ramsar sites (1.4%) Biosphere reserves (0.6%), Biogenetic reserves (2,1%), three European Diploma sites and one Wilderness area (IUCN Category Ia and Ib) also aim to preserve areas of importance to biodiversity.</p>	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
<p>Indicators to monitor biodiversity are currently under development in the MOBI-e project and should be available by end of 2005.</p>	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

**Box V.**

<b>Goal 2</b>	<b>Promote the conservation of species diversity</b>
<b>Target 2.1</b>	<b>Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups</b>
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X
Please provide details below.	
<p>The goal partly corresponds to target 12 (Maintenance of species and landscape diversity) of the Austrian Sustainable Development Strategy.</p> <p>Management plans have been established or are being developed for a majority of NATURA 2000 sites aiming at conserving and improving the respective habitats and species.</p>	

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		National target: Conservation and maintenance of agricultural biodiversity with special emphasis on pollinators and species which are not used in agricultural systems
b) Inland water	x		National Ramsar Strategy, nature protection laws
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land	x		Nature protection laws
e) Forest	X		Promotion of the conservation of forest biodiversity
f) Mountain	x		Nature protection laws
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		x	
Please provide details below.			
<p>Recently the Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity was further developed and updated. During this participatory process the global targets from the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD (COP/VII/30) were incorporated.</p> <p>National Target: Conservation of all native species (plants, animals and fungi) and if necessary restoration and promotion of selected taxonomic groups.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>Recently many positive measures have been carried out in Austria with the aim to conserve or protect biodiversity. E.g. the number and surface area of protected areas has increased. Instruments for biodiversity related activities dealing with the extensification of agricultural areas are in place. Nevertheless the decline of species and habitats continues. See Box 2.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>Indicators to monitor biodiversity are currently under development (MOBI-e project) and should be available by end of 2005.</p>			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<p></p>			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			
<p></p>			

**Box VI .**

<b>Target 2.2</b>		<b>Status of threatened species improved</b>	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target		X	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural	X		Promotion of breeding lines and stable populations of all species which belong to endangered farm animals. Promotion of conservation of all agricultural and horticultural plants
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		x	
Please provide details below.			
Recently the Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity was further developed and updated. During this participatory process the global targets from the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD (COP/VII/30) were incorporated.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
See box above: The decline of species and habitats continues.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
The Austrian Set of Sustainability Indicators contains an indicator on Red list of threatened species and biotopes (Ind. 35)			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box VII.**

<b>Goal 3</b>	<b>Promote the conservation of genetic diversity</b>		
<b>Target 3.1</b>	<b>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</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
National target: Conservation of genetic diversity of crops, livestock and fish			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		The Austrian biodiversity strategy contains sub targets for the preservation of agricultural and horticultural plants, livestock and the genetic resource in the alps
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain	X		The Austrian biodiversity strategy contains a sub target for the preservation of genetic resource in the Alps
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
Recently the Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity was further developed and updated. During this participatory process the global targets from the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD (COP/VII/30) were incorporated.			
Add c) Nature conservation sites for the protection of endemic species are in place.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
In Austria the recording and conservation of genetic diversity is closely connected with its economic			

use. Extensive recording is carried out, or especially promoted by federal and also private institutions, for those plant and animal species which are exploited particularly in agriculture and forestry (for example genetic inventory of the forest). Many among those are so-called "ancient" cultivated plant species (vegetables, fruit, grapevines, herbs and ornamental plants) or domesticated animals (farm animals and bees).

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

Indicators to monitor biodiversity are currently under development (MOBI-e project) and should be available by end of 2005.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box VIII .**

<b>Goal 4</b>	<b>Promote sustainable use and consumption.</b>		
<b>Target 4.1</b>	<b>Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
The goal corresponds with target 10 (Promoting Sustainable Products and Services) of the Austrian Sustainable Development Strategy.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural	X		Special targets in the Austrian biodiversity strategy with regard to sustainable agriculture.
b) Inland water	X		Special targets in the Austrian biodiversity strategy with regard to sustainable fishery.
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		Special target in the Austrian biodiversity strategy with regard to the promotion of sustainable forest management.
f) Mountain	X		
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			

b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
Recently the Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity was further developed and updated. During this participatory process the global targets from the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD (COP/VII/30) were incorporated.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
10.7 % of the agricultural area in Austria is under organic farming (Source: Austrian Indicator-Report on Monitoring the Guiding Targets for Sustainable Development 2004)	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
<p>The Austrian Set of Indicators for Monitoring the Guiding Targets for Sustainable Development contains the indicator "share of organic farms in entire agricultural and forest area, and share of farms participating in agricultural environmental programmes" (Ind. 32).</p> <p>Also within the Austrian Forest Dialogue indicators for sustainable forest management are being elaborated, some of which also address target 4.1. The set should be available in autumn 2005.</p> <p>Indicators to monitor biodiversity are under development (MOBI-e - project) and should be available by end of 2005.</p>	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

**Box IX.**

<b>Target 4.2</b>	<b>Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural	X		National targets (Austrian biodiversity strategy): promote the positive effects and mitigate the negative impacts of agricultural systems and practices on biodiversity on agro-ecosystems and their interface to other ecosystems.
b) Inland water	X		National target (Austrian biodiversity strategy): promotion of the ecological orientation of fisheries



c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		
f) Mountain	X		
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below .			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Concerning non-timber forest resources, the management and harvesting of game species (ungulates) by hunting must be classified as unsustainable in some regions when as to intensity and game damage to forest regeneration. Uncontrolled selective browsing can have considerable negative impacts on the natural mixture of tree species and reduce tree-species diversity.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
The Austrian Set of Indicators for Monitoring the Guiding Targets for Sustainable Development contains indicators on - Sealed area (Ind. 33) - Land use change (Ind. 34) - Land use (Ind. 36)			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box X.**

<b>Target 4.3</b>		<b>No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade</b>	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X	
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		x	
Please provide details below.			
National and sectoral legislation implements the legal requirements according to CITES			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Austria is Party to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XI .**

<b>Goal 5</b>	<b>Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.</b>		
<b>Target 5.1</b>	<b>Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
This goal has been incorporated into the national biodiversity strategy. The goal partly corresponds also to target 12 (Maintenance of species and landscape diversity) and to target 13 (responsible land use) of the Austrian Sustainable Development Strategy			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
Recently the Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity was further developed and updated. During this participatory process the global targets from the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD (COP/VII/30) were incorporated.			
Add c) Financial incentives are available for landowners and stakeholders for a management favourable to biodiversity.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
One of the main causes of loss of biodiversity in Austria is still the <b>loss of habitats</b> because of destruction or change of biotopes. The sealing and fragmentation of landscapes by settlements and transport infrastructures have become a problem for the conservation of species and habitats in Austria. In Austria 50% of the forest biotope types are endangered (Source: Austrian Red List of Threatened Biotope Types). Out of the 61 grassland biotope types in Austria, 53 biotope types (about			

90%) have been assigned to a threat category and 48 scrubland biotope types (about 56%) have been assigned to a threat category as well (ESSL et al., 2004).

35 introduced invasive plant species and 46 introduced invasive animal species potentially or in fact threaten native species and habitats (Source: Federal Environment Agency / Umweltbundesamt 2002 and 2004).

**Pressures from land use change:**

In 2004 4574 km<sup>2</sup> or 5.5 % of the area of Austria was under seal. From 2001-2004 the land use change from forest or agricultural land to urban areas increased by 6.1%. In this time urban areas increased by 17.7 ha/day and traffic areas increased by 2.7 ha/day. (Source: Grundstücksdatenbank, BEV). Forest area is increasing about 5.100 ha / year (Austrian Forest Inventory 2000/2002).

Information on fragmentation is not yet nationwide available, but will be proposed by the project MOBI-e which is currently under development.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

The Austrian Set of Indicators for Monitoring the Guiding Targets for SD contains indicators on

- Ground water quality (Ind. 28)
- Ecological condition of inland waters (Ind. 29)
- Sealed area (Ind. 33)
- Land use change (Ind. 34)
- Red list of threatened species and biotopes (Ind. 35)
- Land use (Ind. 36)

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box XII.**

<b>Goal 6</b>	<b>Control threats from invasive alien species.</b>		
<b>Target 6.1</b>	<b>Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Relevant sanitary and phytosanitary regulations are included in national legislation			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	

d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		x	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	x		
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	x		
Please provide details below.			
National Action Plan on invasive Alien Species ( <a href="http://www.biodiv.at">www.biodiv.at</a> ). It sets out activities aiming at increasing awareness on introduction pathways in the future. This Action plan is part of the revised national biodiversity strategy and focuses on the prevention of introduction and further spread of ecologically or economically harmful alien species.			
Some legislation on the prevention of introduction of alien species is in place (nature protection laws).			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XIII.**

<b>Target 6.2</b>	<b>Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No	x		
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
But in special cases management plans are established, such as for the Asian Longhorn Beetle ( <i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i> )			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>

a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	
f) Mountain		x	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XIV.**

<b>Goal 7</b>	<b>Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.</b>		
<b>Target 7.1</b>	<b>Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
The goal corresponds to target 11 (Protection of Environmental Media and Climate) of the Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been			

established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
Recently the Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity was further developed and updated. During this participatory process the global targets from the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD (COP/VII/30) were incorporated.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Since 1999 guidelines for the financial support of reforestation and afforestation measures are strongly oriented towards the potentially natural vegetation.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
The Austrian Set of Indicators for Monitoring the Guiding Targets for SD contains indicators on - Land use change (Ind. 34) - Land use (Ind. 36) - Greenhouse gas emissions (Ind. 30)			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XV.**

<b>Target 7.2</b>		<b>Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity</b>	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X	
Please provide details below.			
Amount of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions The goal corresponds to target 11 (Protection of Environmental Media and Climate) of the Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		A national target was incorporated in the Austrian biodiversity strategy.
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
The Austrian biodiversity strategy contains a goal to reduce negative impacts of industrial areas on biodiversity and to minimise the negative impacts of traffic.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Nitrogen oxides contribute to acidification and eutrophication (over-fertilization) of soil and water. Since the base year 1985, NOx emissions in Austria have been reduced by 14%. However, since 1990 a reduction of only 2% could be achieved, and nitrogen oxide emissions have risen again since 1999. The limit value for the protection of vegetation (30 µg/m <sup>3</sup> as annual mean for NOx) has not been exceeded at monitoring sites operated for the protection of vegetation, as these are rural sites located far from emitters. SO <sub>2</sub> can contribute to the acidification of soils as well. In 2001, total SO <sub>2</sub> emissions amounted were 53% below their volume in 1990. The largest reductions were achieved in the small combustion sector (- 67%), energy supply sector (- 49%) and industry sector (- 43%). In the transport sector, emissions decreased by 28%. The limit values for the protection of ecosystems			



are met throughout Austria.

Sulphur and nitrogen compounds can lead to the acidification of soil and water. In addition, nitrogen compounds can also cause eutrophication, (that is, over-fertilization) of soil and water. In 2001, the sum total of acidifying air pollutants emitted in Austria consisted of 37% NH<sub>3</sub>, 50% NO<sub>x</sub> and 13% SO<sub>2</sub> (converted in acidification equivalents). Between 1985 and 2000, the surface area of ecosystems in Austria where acidification was above the Critical Load was reduced from 67% to 10%. This can be put down in particular to the considerable reduction in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions throughout Europe. The overall emissions of these acidifying air pollutants in Austria decreased by 13% between 1990 and 2001. The reduction in the proportion of ecosystem areas where the amount of nitrogen was above the Critical Load for eutrophication was far less pronounced. This percentage was only reduced from 98% in 1985 to 88% in 2000. Since these pollutants are subject to long-range transport, emissions throughout Europe contribute to their deposition in Austria.

(Information derives from the 7<sup>th</sup> State of Environment Report, 2004)

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

The Austrian Set of Indicators for Monitoring the Guiding Targets for SD contains indicators on

- Greenhouse gas emissions (Ind. 30)
- Accumulation of pollutants in the topsoil or exceeding of thresholds (Ind. 26)
- Exceeding deposition values (critical loads) (Ind. 27)
- Exceeding air quality standards and targets (in accordance with the Act on Ambient Air Quality and Forestry Act) (Ind. 31)

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

Only 8% of the sulphur compounds deposited in Austria originates in Austria. Austria is responsible for only 15% of oxidized nitrogen compounds and 40% of reduced compounds.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

#### Box XVI .

<b>Goal 8</b>	<b>Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods.</b>		
<b>Target 8.1</b>	<b>Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			x
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	

d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	x		
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XVII.**

<b>Target 8.2</b>	<b>Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No	x		
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	

e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XVIII.**

<b>Goal 9</b>	<b>Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities.</b>		
<b>Target 9.1</b>	<b>Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			x
Please provide details below.			
Where necessary, traditional practices are used in implementing a management favourable to biodiversity.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	

d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	x		
f) Mountain	x		
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		x	
Please provide details below.			
The global target to protect traditional knowledge and practices has been incorporated in the chapter on traditional knowledge and in the chapter "cooperation with indigenous people" of the Austrian biodiversity strategy.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XIX.**

<b>Target 9.2</b>	<b>Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target		X	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
The target has been established in the context of Development Cooperation.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	

c) Marine and coastal	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
d) Dry and subhumid land	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
e) Forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
f) Mountain	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
Recently the Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity was further developed and updated. During this participatory process the global targets from the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD(COP/VII/30) were incorporated.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XX.**

<b>Goal 10</b>	<b>Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.</b>		
<b>Target 10.1</b>	<b>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 other applicable agreements</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
Recently the Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity was further developed and updated. During this participatory process the global targets from the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD(COP/VII/30) were incorporated.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XXI .**

Target 10.2	Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		
Please provide details below.		

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		According to the ITPGR
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Recently the Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity was further developed and updated. During this participatory process the global targets from the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD(COP/VII/30) were incorporated.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box XXII.**

<b>Goal 11</b>	<b>Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention.</b>		
<b>Target 11.1</b>	<b>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</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			



**Box XXIII.**

<b>Target 11.2</b>	<b>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</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
Recently the Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity was further developed and updated. During this participatory process the global targets from the Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD(COP/VII/30) were incorporated.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

## Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)

The Conference of the Parties, in decision VI/9, annex, adopted the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Parties and Governments are invited to develop their own targets with this flexible framework. The Conference of the Parties considered the Strategy as a pilot approach for the use of outcome oriented targets under the Convention. In decision VII/10, the Conference of the Parties decided to integrate the targets into the reporting framework for the Third National Reports. Please provide relevant information by responding to the questions and requests contained in the following tables.

**General Comment:** The targets of the GSPC are incorporated in the Austrian Biodiversity Strategy to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### Box XXIV.

<b>Target 1. A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
"Flora of Austria" – project (to be completed soon; first volume to be published end of 2005)	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
"Flora of Austria" project (see above) "Excursion flora": a short manual for the determination of plants in Austria; 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition to be published end of 2005	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Ongoing scientific projects to tackle and close gaps in knowledge, revealed by the "Flora of Austria" - project	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
Scientific publications on "critical" groups could be used as an indicator; such publications e.g. led to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition of the "Excursion flora"	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Insufficient financial support, in particular on a regular basis, which could impact the continuity of work	
VII) Any other relevant information	

An area-wide list of the wild flora for Vienna exists.

Adler W. & Mrkvicka Ch. (2003) Die Flora Wiens gestern und Heute, pp.831, ISBN 3-900 275-96-3, Verlag des Naturhistorischen Museums Wien.

Austrian contributions to achieve this target outside of Austria: Research projects, e.g. in Costa Rica, Madagascar

**Box XXV.**

<b>Target 2. A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Red Lists of threatened species	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Publications: Red Lists of plant species	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
MOBI-e -Project to set up a national biodiversity monitoring scheme is in process; to be finalized end of 2005	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
The area-wide list of the wild flora for the Province of Vienna also includes the conservation status	

**Box XXVI.**

<b>Target 3. Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Some management and/or recovery plans for rare or threatened species in Austria are in place (e.g. <i>Myosotis rehsteineri</i> , <i>Pulsatilla oenepontana</i> )	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Collaboration of Botanical Gardens at national level to coordinate activities towards safeguarding ex-situ and in-situ conservation of threatened species in Austria	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
List of taxa of relevance for individual gardens is under development. Some programs are established (e.g. for the Pannonian flora at the Botanical Garden, University of Vienna)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Insufficient financial resources to establish the necessary infrastructure	
VII) Any other relevant information	
There are some activities beyond Austrian borders: e.g. ex-situ collection of Madagascan orchids in the Botanical Gardens of the Universities of Vienna and Salzburg; these activities are carried out in collaboration with agencies in the countries of origin	

**Box XXVII.**

<b>Target 4. At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>At national level about 3.8% of Austria's surface area is currently designated as nature reserve, a strict category of protection. Other categories of protected areas are "protected landscapes" (10,7% of national territory), "nature parks" (2,2%), "nature monuments" (2%), etc.. Furthermore six Nationalparks were designated which cover 2,8% of the Austrian territory. As a member of the EU, Austria has designated 212 NATURA 2000 sites which cover about 17% of the territory. Many of this NATURA 2000 sites are nature reserves as well. Internationally designated areas like Ramsar sites (1,4%) Biosphere reserves (0,6%), Biogenetic reserves (2,1%), three European Diploma sites and one Wilderness area (IUCN Category Ia and Ib) are also directed towards the preservation of areas important to biodiversity.</p>	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>Legislation to secure the network of NATURA 2000 sites is in place or currently in progress (legal competence of nine provincial governments)</p>	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
<p>Examples from provinces:            In the Province of Vienna more than 35 % (ca. 14.860 ha) of the city area is protected by law. In Styria over 15 % of the territory belongs to the NATURA 2000 network. Almost 50% of the territory of Styria is under some form of nature protection.</p>	

**Box XXVIII.**

<b>Target 5. Protection of fifty percent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
<p>Examples from provinces:</p> <p>The most important areas for plant diversity are already protected by the Viennese Nature Protection Act.</p> <p>In Styria the most important areas for plant diversity are already protected under the Styrian nature Conservation Act.</p>	

**Box XXIX.**

<b>Target 6. At least thirty percent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXX.**

<b>Target 7. Sixty percent of the world's threatened species conserved <i>In-situ</i>.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
Provincial Laws on nature conservation regulate the protection of fauna and flora as well as their habitats.	



**Box XXXI.**

<b>Target 8. Sixty percent of threatened plant species in accessible <i>Ex-situ</i> collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 percent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
The Austrian Botanical Gardens Working Group is currently preparing a list of such taxa in the collections of the member gardens, including botanical data on the plants, as basis for achieving this target	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
List of taxa in ex-situ collections and working list, showing the taxa to be taken into cultivation in specific gardens is in preparation ( to be finalized in 2005)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Insufficient financial resources	
VII) Any other relevant information	
Participation in an EU-project called "ENSCONET", which is likely to contribute to progress towards achieving this target	

**Box XXXII.**

<b>Target 9. Seventy percent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
Participation in an EU-project called "ENSCONET", which is likely to contribute to progress towards achieving this target.	

**Box XXXIII.**

<b>Target 10. Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Some lack of acceptance by relevant actors responsible for the implementation	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXXIV.**

<b>Target 11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please specify	
Austria is party to CITES	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Participation in CITES-activities and full implementation of CITES-agreements is the best a pproach to reach this target	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
E.g., financial support to CITES research projects (ferns, orchids), incentives for artifical propagation of taxa potentially endangered by trade in plants collected in the wild	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXXV.**

<b>Target 12. Thirty percent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
No specific target has been established, but the Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development sets out the key objective "Strengthening sustainable products and services" and calls for impulses for a higher market share for sustainable products and services in general.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
National Forest Act; development of a National Forest Programme; Austrian Agri-Environmental Programme	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXXVI.**

<b>Target 13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
Some relevant research projects are supported by the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management	

**Box XXXVII .**

<b>Target 14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
There are several initiatives and programmes which address the above goal, however, a specific target has not been established.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
E.g., raising public awareness is part of management plans for NATURA 2000 sites.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p>Topic is picked up in general lectures at the University of Vienna and University courses, as well as in "Green school" -activities; displays of rare plants including explanations are available in Botanic Gardens in Austria;</p> <p>Various publications: e.g. Biodiversity in Austria; Austrian Action Plan on Neobiota</p> <p>Various projects to raise the awareness of biodiversity in general or on specific issues: e.g. the project "Nature comes to town" ("Natur findet Stadt") carried out by the Austrian NGO "Naturschutzbund" and the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.</p> <p>Public information events to improve public understanding of the objectives of the NATURA 2000 network take place.</p>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
Various reports in mass-media as result of activities	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Insufficient financial resources	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXXVIII.**

<b>Target 15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
According to a feasibility study on the implementation of GBIF, the situation regarding human and financial capacities of the private and public institutions involved in target XV activities is insufficient	
VII) Any other relevant information	



**Box XXXIX.**

<b>Target 16. Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>The Austrian Genebanks are integrated into international networks on genetic resources for food and agriculture, especially into the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR) which was founded on the basis of the recommendations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Genebank Committee of the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA).</p> <p>Austria also takes part in the EURISCO-project which was set up to create a European Plant Genetic Resources Search Catalogue with passport data on ex situ collections maintained in Europe.</p> <p>Austria is member of the "Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research" (CGIAR) since 1976 and the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety is co-operating with the CGIAR-Genebanks.</p>	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
Examples for networks: network of Botanic Gardens, Umweltforum (Fora for the Environment)	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Meetings on regular basis	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
Netzwerk Natur ( <i>Green Network</i> ), the Vienna Species and Habitat Protection Programme.	

**Box XL.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this strategy specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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## Ecosystem Approach

The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Application of the ecosystem approach will help to reach a balance of the three objectives of the Convention. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties has affirmed that the ecosystem approach is the primary framework for action under the Convention (decision 11/8). The Conference of the Parties, at its fifth meeting, endorsed the description of the ecosystem approach and operational guidance and recommended the application of the principles and other guidance on the ecosystem approach. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties agreed that the priority at this time should be facilitating implementation of the ecosystem approach. Please provide relevant information by responding to the following questions.

<b>3. ?<sup>1</sup></b> Is your country applying the ecosystem approach, taking into account the principles and guidance contained in the annex to decision V/6? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but application is under consideration	
c) Yes, some aspects are being applied	X
d) Yes, substantially implemented	

<b>4. ?</b> Is your country developing practical expressions of the ecosystem approach for national policies and legislation and for implementation activities, with adaptation to local, national, and regional conditions? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but development is under consideration	
c) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying some principles of the ecosystem approach	X
d) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying most principles of the ecosystem approach	

<b>5.</b> Is your country strengthening capacities for the application of the ecosystem approach, and providing technical and financial support for capacity-building to apply the ecosystem approach? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) Yes, within the country	X
c) Yes, including providing support to other Parties	

<sup>1</sup> Please note that all the questions marked with ? have been previously covered in the second national reports and some thematic reports.

<b>6. ?</b> Has your country promoted regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) Yes, informal cooperation (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, formal cooperation (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders.	
As regards the application of the EA in forests, cooperation takes place within the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) as well as the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS)	

<b>7.</b> Is your country facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach? (decisions VI/12 and VII/11)	
a) No	
b) No, some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach.	
National & International working groups (e.g. Within the Austria Forest Dialog, the Austrian Commission on Biodiversity); The application of the EA is an integral component of the further developed Austrian Biodiversity Strategy. Some international cooperation within the framework of various EU projects is in place.	

<b>8.</b> Is your country creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach, including through development of appropriate institutional frameworks? (decision VII/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant policies and programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the creation of an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach.	
Within the implementation of various EU-Directives, such as the Water Framework Directive.	

## C. ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

### Article 5 – Cooperation

<b>9. ?</b> Is your country actively cooperating with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, multilateral cooperation (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
e) Yes, other forms of cooperation (please give details below)	
Further comments on cooperation with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
<p>Austria has ratified all relevant conventions and is actively cooperating with other Parties.</p> <p>Austria is involved in the EU-processes related to the European Biodiversity Strategy and its Biodiversity Action Plans:</p> <p><u>International Conventions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Übereinkommen über die biologische Vielfalt, FLG.No. 213/95 (Convention on Biological Diversity)</li> <li>• Übereinkommen zum Schutz der Alpen, FLG.No. 477/95 (Conservation and protection of the Alps through prudent and sustainable use of resources)</li> <li>• Übereinkommen über Feuchtgebiete, insbesondere als Lebensraum für Wasserund Watvögel, von internationaler Bedeutung, FLG.No. 225/83 (Documentation, protection, and conservation of wetlands of international rank, especially as a habitat for water fowl and wading birds)</li> <li>• Übereinkommen zum Schutz des Kultur- und Naturerbes der Welt, FLG.No. 60/1993 (Documentation, protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage as well as their transmission to future generations)</li> <li>• Übereinkommen über die Erhaltung der europäischen wildlebenden Pflanzen und Tiere und ihrer natürlichen Lebensräume, FLG.No. 372/83 (Conservation of wild plants and animals along with their natural habitat. Special focus on endangered and sensitive species)</li> <li>• Übereinkommen über den internationalen Handel mit gefährdeten Arten freilebender Tiere und Pflanzen, FLG.No. 188/82 (CITES)</li> <li>• Durchführung des Übereinkommens über den internationalen Handel mit gefährdeten Arten freilebender Tiere und Pflanzen, FLG.No. 189/82 (Implementation measures of CITES and regulations governing export, re-export, and import of specimens, parts thereof, or products from species listed in Appendices I-III of the Convention)</li> <li>• UNCLOS</li> <li>• International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR)</li> </ul> <p><u>EU regulations relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity (selected examples)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reg. No. 1257/99 Implementation in Austria: The Austrian Programme on an environmentally sound and sustainable Agriculture (ÖPUL)</li> <li>• Council Regulation (EC) No 870/2004 of 24 April 2004 establishing a Community programme on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1467/94</li> <li>• Reg. No. 2092/91 Organic agriculture</li> <li>• Reg. No. 3626/82 Species protection</li> <li>• Dir. No. 79/409 Conservation of wild bird species (Bird Protection Directive); Implementation partly in the framework of nature conservation measures at the provincial level</li> <li>• Dir. No. 92/43 Conservation of natural habitats as well as wild animals and plants (Fauna-Flora-Habitat Directive); implementation partly in the framework of nature conservation at the provincial level</li> </ul>	

- Dir. No. 2001/18: Directive on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC
- Dir. No. 2000/60/EC: Water Framework Directive

**Federal & Provincial governments:** Cooperation with Rumania ("Twinning – Project") on the implementation of the EU-directives, which are relevant for nature protection. Various EU-projects, i.e. INTERREG 3A, INTERREG 3B, LIFE are carried out enabling and encouraging the cooperation with other regions and countries.

**Forest Sector:**

Since 2000, Austria is actively involved in the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN). a collaborative mechanism among 29 European countries to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources. EUFORGEN's main tasks are to coordinate and promote the in situ and ex situ conservation of Europe's forest genetic resources, to facilitate the exchange of genetic material and information, and to increase public awareness of the need to conserve forest genetic resources. The EUFORGEN Network structure has also been revised for phase III (2005-2009) following the Steering Committee decision in May 2004. A new thematic Forest Management Network is currently being established and the work on various forest tree species will continue through three species-oriented Networks

**10.** Is your country working with other Parties to develop regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 A)

a) No	
b) No, but consultations are under way	
c) Yes, some mechanisms and networks have been established (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, existing mechanisms have been strengthened (please provide details below)	

Further comments on development of regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention.

At EU-level: see above

At pan-European level: Austria is actively participating in the Pan-European Strategy on Biological and Landscape Diversity (PEBLDS), as well as the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)

Cooperation in the context with Austro/Hungarian National Park Neusiedlersee/Seewinkel, Ramsar Area Neusiedler See/Seewinkel (Hungary); Biogenetic reserve; World Heritage Area

Transboundary protected areas (landscape protection) with Hungary and Slovenia

Austrian Hungarian Water Commission; Austrian Slovenian Mur (a river) Commission

Cooperation in the context with March/Thaya/Danube-rivers

see also: Austrian report to the Ramsar Convention and the publication: "The Future of Austrian Rivers".

EU-Life Projects (eg. "Inn-River")

Various EU-NATURA 2000 Projects

Rumania-cooperation ("Twinning – Project") for the implementation of the EU-directives, which are relevant for nature protection, federal state - cooperation

Currently Styria is involved in an EU-funded INTERREG IIIB project requiring the cooperation of a number of regions and countries in the Central European, Adriatic, Danubian, South-Eastern European Space in developing a toolkit for Integrative Protected Area Management.

Styria is also involved in an EU-funded INTERREG IIIA project with the aim of improving the ecological condition of a transnational floodplain and is partner in a EU-funded LIFE project involving Hungary with the aim of improving the ecological condition of a shared river.

**Forest Sector:**

COST action E27 Protected forest areas in Europe –analysis and harmonisation (PROFOR)

COST action E43 Harmonisation of National Forest Inventories in Europe: Techniques for Common Reporting

In partnership with the Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW), a research institute operating under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMFLUW), and other relevant institutions in Austria the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) is currently implementing a programme 'Developing Training Capacity and Human Resources for the Management of Forest Biodiversity'. This programme will operate through complementary, inter-related training workshops and research fellowships, which will focus on one specific region each year. The five regions will be covered in the five years of the project's duration. National programmes in developing countries of (i) East Europe, (ii) Central, West Asia and North Africa, (iii) Sub-Saharan Africa, (iv) Asia Pacific and (v) Latin America are the intended beneficiaries of this new programme. Emphasis will be put on target countries that are of high interest for the Austrian development cooperation assistance (EZA). For each region, there will be one training workshop and one two-year research fellowship. In order to strengthen national capacity, the workshops will be held in a suitable venue in the respective region. This programme provides technical and methodological backstopping, in addition to its role in communicating needs and setting overall priorities for the human resources development. Transfer of knowledge is a strong feature of the programme, which will benefit from specialist inputs by Austrian institutions and individuals.

**11.** Is your country taking steps to harmonize national policies and programmes, with a view to optimizing policy coherence, synergies and efficiency in the implementation of various multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) and relevant regional initiatives at the national level? (decision VI/20)

a) No	
b) No, but steps are under consideration	
c) Yes, some steps are being taken (please specify below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive steps are being taken (please specify below)	

Further comments on the harmonization of policies and programmes at the national level.

Within various processes the issue of harmonizing national policies and programmes is addressed.

Examples:

Forest sector:

Austrian Forest Dialogue

Agricultural sector:

In the context with the harmonization of agricultural and environmental policies (at EU level); e.g. agri-environmental programmes, biodiversity strategies and action plans

National Biodiversity Commission

National Ramsar Committee

**Box XLI.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this strategy specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

**Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use**

**12.** Has your country put in place effective national strategies, plans and programmes to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention? (Goal 3.1 of the Strategic Plan)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant strategies, plans and programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the strategies, plans and programmes for implementing the three objectives of the Convention.

National Strategy to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (which is currently further developed also to incorporate latest COP decisions and adjust it to changing environment).  
 In 2004, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management launched a project 'Development of a Concept to Monitor Biodiversity in Austria'. Biodiversity indicators for different ecosystems (e.g., forest, soil, inland waters, agricultural landscapes, urban environments, alpine areas), at different scales (e.g. forest: stand scale, landscape scale) and at different biodiversity levels (species, genes) are to be developed till 2005.  
 Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development

**13. ?** Has your country set measurable targets within its national strategies and action plans? (decisions II/7 and III/9)

a) No	
b) No, measurable targets are still in early stages of development	X
c) No, but measurable targets are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, relevant targets are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, reports on implementation of relevant targets available (please provide details below)	

Further comments on targets set within national biodiversity strategies and action plans.



14. Has your country identified priority actions in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan? (decision VI/27 A)	
a) No	
b) No, but priority actions are being identified	X
c) Yes, priority actions identified (please provide details below)	
Further comments on priority actions identified in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	
The 2010 target has been incorporated in the National Biodiversity Strategy as the main goal up to 2010.	

15. Has your country integrated the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as benefit sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision VI/27 A)	
a) No	
b) Yes, in some sectors (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, in major sectors (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, in all sectors (please provide details below)	
Further information on integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	
The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is incorporated in goal 12 (Maintenance of species and landscape diversity) of the Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development.	
The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is also a subject of the Austrian Forest Dialogue which will lead to the adoption of an Austrian National Forest Programme (Autumn 2005). Specific principles, targets and measures have been defined.	
With regard to wetlands: the Ramsar-concept of "wise use" is incorporated in the Austrian Wetlands Strategy ( <a href="http://www.ramsar.at">www.ramsar.at</a> ).	

16. Are migratory species and their habitats addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan (NBSAP)? (decision VI/20)	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
I) If <b>YES</b> , please briefly describe the extent to which it addresses	
(a) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species	Species action plans in place for birds and bats
(b) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats, including protected areas	National Target: Enhancement of national and international cooperation in conjunction with the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species and their habitats. Major part in management plans of relevant NATURA 2000 sites
(c) Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration	Various projects to restore free flowing rivers are carried out
(d) Research and monitoring for migratory species	Monitoring of some species takes place as part of plans and projects
(e) Transboundary movement	Especially relevant in river restoration projects

II) If <b>NO</b> , please briefly indicate below	
(a) The extent to which your country addresses migratory species at national level	
(b) Cooperation with other Range States since 2000	

### Biodiversity and Climate Change

<b>17.</b> Has your country implemented projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but some projects or programs are under development	
c) Yes, some projects have been implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.	

<b>18.</b> Has your country facilitated coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, relevant mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the UNFCCC and the UNCCD.	
Coordination is ensured by close cooperation between the national committees on climate change and biodiversity, and by internal coordination bodies and procedures on international issues. Furthermore relevant documents addressing climate change issues are made available to the biodiversity committee and vice versa.	
Local Example: The Viennese Climate Protection Programme (KLIP) is in line with commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	

**Box XLII .**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:
a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

f) constraints encountered in implementation.

The main contribution of actions under the UNFCCC to meet the goals of the CBD is seen in mitigation of climate change. The goal of the National Climate Strategy of Austria is to meet its Kyoto target which is among the most ambitious targets worldwide (minus 13% emission reduction compared to the emissions in year 1990).

Austria also supports the long term objective of the European Union as adopted by the Council (The overall global annual mean surface temperature increase should not exceed 2°C above pre-industrial levels).

Austria is concerned about the potential threat to native species in the alpine regions by local warming induced by global climate change. Mitigation of climate change is seen as the most important strategy to address this challenge with the goal to keep the increase of the average global temperature below 2° C. However, in addition adaptation measures will also be needed.

## Article 7 - Identification and monitoring

**19. ?** On Article 7(a), does your country have an ongoing programme to identify components of biological diversity at the genetic, species, ecosystem level?

a) No	
b) Yes, selected/partial programmes at the genetic, species and/or ecosystem level only (please specify and provide details below)	X
c) Yes, complete programmes at ecosystem level and selected/partial inventories at the genetic and/or species level (please specify and provide details below)	X

Further comments on ongoing programmes to identify components of biodiversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.

A concept for the monitoring of biodiversity all over the country (MOBI-e) is in progress (to be finalised by end of 2005). It will take into consideration relevant existing national and international requirements as well as programmes and tasks which have to be performed at the provincial, federal and international level. It should provide the relevant information to identify changes, thus should – among others – fulfil the function of an “early warning system”. The early detection of cause-effect relationships should allow immediately adequate measures to safeguard the conservation of biological diversity.

In Austria extensive information on the distribution of species in the national territory is available; e.g. for all vertebrates nationwide. Data on vascular plants are in preparation. For invertebrates numbers of species as well as the complete presentation of the range of distribution are still missing for many taxonomic groups. Nationwide knowledge about the presence of these taxonomic groups will not become available for some time. Basically, knowledge about the national flora is very good owing to extensive inventories, which prove to be excellent by international comparison. There are wider gaps in the data on fungi. For micro-organisms, a survey exists only for a few of the taxonomic groups of species present in Austria.

Genetic level :

- Genetic inventory in Norway spruce, common beech, scots pine and oak by means of different DNA technologies (AFLP, cpDNA analysis, SSR, SSAP)
- Species diversity of soil organisms in protected forests (strict forest reserves) (16SrRNA analysis)

Ecosystem Level:

- Hemeroby of Austrian Forest Ecosystems (Grabherr et al. 1998)

Monitoring of vegetation of selected mountain tops

- Red List of threatened biotope types (Federal Environment Agency 2002)
- Monitoring of glaciers

Species Level:

- Red List of threatened animals (Gepp et al. 1994)
- Red List of threatened plants (Nicklfeld et al. 1999)
- Various ongoing projects on mapping of biotopes (fauna and flora), e.g.: Conservation programme for bats (www.fledermausschutz.at), monitoring of the bearded vulture (National park Hohe Tauern);
- In addition to that an international Symposium on "Mapping of biotopes in mountainous regions" was held (2000, Salzburg/Austria; report is available)

Genetic Diversity Level:

Genetic Monitoring of Forest Ecosystems (ongoing project)

In situ conservation: Establishment of a network of forest gene conservation reserves

Ex situ conservation: forest gene banks

Basic inventories are carried out in varying degrees in NATURA 2000 sites

Agricultural genetic resources:

Genetic and species level:

- For animal genetic resources the work on identification is mostly done. Some gaps concerning fresh-water fish have been identified.
- Plant genetic resources concerning arable crops have been mostly identified. There are some gaps for non-use crops like weeds and herbs, but also some gaps in identifying special ecosystems in combination with agricultural practices.

Ecosystem level:

- In connection with the agri-environmental programme ÖPUL extensive monitoring programmes have been implemented. Monitoring is also done in NATURA 2000 sites.
- A special national biodiversity monitoring programme is being developed.

Biotop mapping, e.g. as carried out by the "Amt der Salzburger Landesregierung" (Provincial Government of Salzburg) is an important measure for systematic documentation of different biotope types at the species and ecosystem level. It is the basis for various programmes like contractual nature protection, the development of renaturation-programmes, biotope management and monitoring.

At ecosystem level a "Red list of threatened Biotop Types in Austria" has been carried out (Federal Environment Agency)

Within the scope of the implementation of the Fauna-Flora-Habitat Directive and the Water Framework Directive, as well as within the scope of "Netzwerk Natur" - for key species a Biotope-type mapping of Vienna has been carried out.

In Styria monitoring activities are continuously carried out by the Styrian State Museum "Joanneum"

**20. ?** On Article 7(b), which components of biological diversity identified in accordance with Annex I of the Convention, have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes?

a) at ecosystem level (please provide percentage based on area covered)	X
b) at species level (please provide number of species per taxonomic group and percentage of total known number of species in each group)	X (breeding birds)
c) at genetic level (please indicate number and focus of monitoring programmes)	X

Further comments on ongoing monitoring programmes at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.

for key species – see above

A national scheme for biodiversity monitoring is in process ("MOBI-e")

Ad a) The ratio of High Nature Value Farmland (HNV-Farmland) in Austria is about 20 % (European

Environment Agency, EEA-Report No 1/2004). In combination with the agri-environmental programmes extensive monitoring programmes exist.

In Styria monitoring activities are continuously carried out by the Styrian State Museum "Joanneum" for various taxonomic groups.

**21. ?** On Article 7(c), does your country have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes on any of the following key threats to biodiversity?

a) No	
b) Yes, invasive alien species (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, climate change (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, pollution/eutrophication (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, land use change/land degradation (please provide details below)	X
f) Yes, overexploitation or unsustainable use (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on monitoring programmes on key threats to biodiversity.

A Biotope Monitoring Programme by analyzing aerial photos exists; Also within the scope of the implementation of the Fauna-Flora-Habitat Directive and the Water Framework Directive.

c) long-term, spatially distributed meteorological network (ZAMG)

b) National Forest Inventory

d) emission inventory (Federal Environment Agency / Umweltbundesamt), UNECE critical loads for eutrophication, acidification, heavy metals (Federal Environment Agency / Umweltbundesamt)

d) Assessment of alpine POP loads within Alpine Space programme "MONARPOP"; ICP Forests

e) Assessment of land use, land use change and forestry (LUCLUF) as required by UNECE and UNFCCC

e) & f) National Forest Inventory

Invasive forest tree species are monitored

Land use change/land degradation:

Normal statistical surveys for agriculture and forestry, but also for traffic, housing, industry and tourism. Additionally for agriculture: Controlling and monitoring systems in combination with agricultural support and environmental programmes.

CORINE Land Cover, which enables us to generate European land cover maps using ground-validated satellite images, could become a significant basis for further analysis, especially if in the future a long-term set of data is to be built up.

A special national monitoring programme on biodiversity is being developed (MOBI-e).

**22. ?** On Article 7 (d), does your country have a mechanism to maintain and organize data derived from inventories and monitoring programmes and coordinate information collection and management at the national level?

a) No	
b) No, but some mechanisms or systems are being considered	
c) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are being established	X
d) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are in place (please provide details below)	X

e) Yes, a relatively complete system is in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the coordination of data and information collection and management.	
<p>- GBIF (further information: <a href="http://www.biodiv.at">www.biodiv.at</a>)</p> <p>- The concept for the monitoring of biodiversity (MOBI-e) will include also a proposal for a coordination mechanism for various data and information collected at the national level</p>	

<b>23. ?</b> Does your country use indicators for national-level monitoring of biodiversity? (decision III/10)	
a) No	
b) No, but identification of potential indicators is under way (please describe)	X
c) Yes, some indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	X
d) Yes, a relatively complete set of indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
Further comments on the indicators identified and in use.	
<p>For the monitoring of the key targets stated in the Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development some indicators have been defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red list of endangered species and biotopes</li> <li>• Land use</li> </ul> <p>These partly have not been developed or are not collected on a regular basis yet. They should provide for the monitoring of the key objective "Preserving the Diversity of Species and Landscapes". For graphs see <a href="http://gpool.lfrz.at/gpoolexport/media/file/IndikatorenBericht_06_28.pdf">http://gpool.lfrz.at/gpoolexport/media/file/IndikatorenBericht_06_28.pdf</a>.</p> <p>The monitoring of sustainable development will also include indicators for biodiversity.</p> <p>At present there is no extensive nationwide monitoring system in place for the surveillance of identified components of biodiversity according to Art. 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. For the monitoring of biodiversity, including causes and effects of changes, the concept for a biodiversity-monitoring in Austria will provide a proposal for an appropriate set (MOBI-e).</p> <p>A number of ongoing projects (mostly at regional level) are dealing with the recording of trends of some aspects of biodiversity.</p> <p><u>Forest sector:</u></p> <p>COST Action E27 Protected forest areas in Europe – analysis and harmonisation: Frank et al.: National Report, in press.</p> <p>Schwarzl &amp; Aubrecht 2003: Forests in Protected Areas in Austria Classification of Protected Forest Areas according to the Criteria of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). Federal Environment Agency Ltd. Vienna.</p>	

**Box XLIII.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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**Decisions on Taxonomy**

**24.?** Has your country developed a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1? (decision IV/1)

a) No	X
b) No, but a plan is under development	
c) Yes, a plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, reports on implementation available (please provide details below)	

Further information on a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1.

But several specific programmes exist, which contribute to the implementation of the decision.

E.g:

The Green Network (Netzwerk Natur), the Vienna species and Habitat Protection Programme has the aim to promote and preserve key species of endangered animal and plant species.

**25.?** Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections? (decision IV/1)

a) No	x
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on investment on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections.

However, within the elaboration of an Austrian node to the GBIF a study has been carried out to identify such needs. The study is available on [www.biodiv.at](http://www.biodiv.at) (GBIF)

**26.?** Does your country provide training programmes in taxonomy and work to increase its capacity of taxonomic research? (decision IV/1)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	x

Further information on training programmes in taxonomy and efforts to increase the capacity of taxonomic research.

In the course of academic education (biology)

<b>27.?</b> Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	X
b) No, but steps are being considered	
c) Yes, for some institutions	
d) Yes, for all major institutions	

<b>28.*</b> <sup>2</sup> Is your country collaborating with the existing regional, subregional and global initiatives, partnerships and institutions in carrying out the programme of work, including assessing regional taxonomic needs and identifying regional-level priorities? (decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) No, but collaborative programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessments)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessment and priority identification)	
Further information on the collaboration your country is carrying out to implement the programme of work for the GTI, including regional needs assessment and priority identification.	
See Austrian National Report on Taxonomy	

<b>29.*</b> Has your country made an assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities at the national level for the implementation of the Convention? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) Yes, basic assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	X
c) Yes, thorough assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
Further comments on national assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities.	
A basic assessment has been carried out within a preliminary study on the implementation of the Global Strategy of Plant Conservation.	
Further assessments have been made within a feasibility project on Austria's participation in GBIF (See <a href="http://www.biodiv.at">www.biodiv.at</a> GBIF: Feasibility study).	

<sup>2</sup> The questions marked with \* in this section on Taxonomy are similar to some questions contained in the format for a report on the implementation of the programme of work on the Global Taxonomy Initiative. Those countries that have submitted such a report do not need to answer these questions unless they have updated information to provide.



<b>30. *</b> Is your country working on regional or global capacity building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) Yes, relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
Further comments on regional or global capacity-building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties.	
Some collaboration exists with developing countries (e.g. Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela); Furthermore, participation in GBIF, webpages of collections, and other activities contribute to capacity building in order to support access to relevant information	

<b>31. *</b> Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	<b>X</b>
b) Yes, for forest biodiversity (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for marine and coastal biodiversity (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for dry and sub-humid lands (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for inland waters biodiversity (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for mountain biodiversity (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for protected areas (please provide details below)	
h) Yes, for agricultural biodiversity (please provide details below)	
i) Yes, for island biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention.	
Although the question has to be answered with "no", because no directly linked programmes have been established, relevant infrastructure has already been in place for a long time (museums, various institutes). Austrian universities carry out various activities, e.g. collaboration with Madagascar on <i>Bulbophyllum</i> (orchids).	

<b>32. *</b> Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8?	
a) No	
b) Yes, for access and benefit-sharing (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, for Article 8(j) (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for the ecosystem approach (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for impact assessment, monitoring and indicators (please provide details below)	X
f) Yes, for invasive alien species (please provide details below)	X
g) Yes, for others (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention.	
<p>Bulbophyllum-check list,</p> <p>IPEN-activities of Botanical Gardens: The base of IPEN (International Plant Exchange Network) is the registration of botanic gardens declaring their adoption of a common policy (Code of Conduct) which is in compliance with the obligations of the CBD. This registration is limited to botanic gardens only. The IPEN covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transfer of living plant material from countries of origin to botanic gardens</li> <li>• plant exchange between registered botanic gardens</li> <li>• supply of plant material to not registered gardens and other institutions</li> <li>• sharing of benefits arising from non-commercial use (e.g. basic research).</li> </ul> <p>Exchange and supply within the IPEN is only applicable for non-commercial purposes. For commercial purposes, individual agreements between the countries of origin and the users are obligatory.</p>	

**Article 8 - *In-situ* conservation**  
**[excluding paragraphs (a) to (e), (h) and (j)]**

<b>33. ?</b> On Article 8(i), has your country endeavored to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are being identified	
c) Yes, some measures undertaken (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.	
<p>Examples:</p> <p>According to The Viennese Act on Nature Conservation and Viennese National Park Act Management Plans for NATURA 2000 areas and the National Park Lobau are in preparation. The Voluntary Agreements for Nature Conservation (Vertragsnaturschutz) is another important measure (habitat for hedges, vineyards or acres)</p> <p>In Styria management plans for NATURA 2000 sites provide the technical background for sustainable</p>	

use.

Financially supported voluntary agreements with landowners serve as the major instrument in implementing sustainable use compatible with conserving biological diversity.

**34. ?** On Article 8(k), has your country developed or maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations?

a) No	
b) No, but legislation is being developed	
c) Yes, legislation or other measures are in place (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>

Further information on the legislation and/or regulations for the protection of threatened species and populations.

EU – legislation: Fauna-Flora-Habitat-Directive, Birds-Directive

EU-legislation is implemented by inclusion in existing nature conservation acts and other relevant legislation of the nine Austrian Provinces:

Examples:

§§ 9 ff. “Wiener Naturschutzgesetz”, LGBl. Für Wien Nr. 45/1998 i.d.F. 92/2001: Legal requirements for the protection of threatened species and populations in various provincial laws on nature protection.

„Wiener Naturschutzverordnung“, LGBl. für Wien Nr. 05/2000 i.d.F. 13/2000

**35. ?** On Article 8(l), does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity?

a) No	<b>x</b>
b) No, but relevant processes and categories of activities being identified	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>

Further comments on the regulation or management of the processes and categories of activities identified by Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biodiversity.

d) as far as forests are concerned

**Box XLIV.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation

### Programme of Work on Protected Areas (Article 8 (a) to (e))

<b>36. Has your country established suitable time bound and measurable national-level protected areas targets and indicators? (decision VII/28)</b>	
a) No (please specify reasons)	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes, some targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	
Further comments on targets and indicators for protected areas.	
<p>Within the establishment of the NATURA 2000 network (which is almost completed) management plans are established or under development;</p> <p>The national forest programme, which currently is being elaborated within the Austrian Forest Dialogue, will include targets and indicators for forest protected areas;</p> <p>Network of Alpine Protected Areas in the frame of the Alpine Convention (Protocol on Nature Protection)</p> <p>National Parks and within various other (local) initiatives, e.g. Netzwerk Natur (Green Network)</p>	

<b>37. Has your country taken action to establish or expand protected areas in any large or relatively unfragmented natural area or areas under high threat, including securing threatened species? (decision VII/28)</b>	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on actions taken to establish or expand protected areas.	
<p>Various projects at provincial and/or local level: e.g. Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald, National Parks, Natural Forest Reserves, Prebersee, LIFE-Project Wenger Moor; Netzwerk Natur (Green Network); "Salzachauen" (nominated for European Diploma of Protected Areas / Council of Europe), LIFE-Project "Weismoos" (measure are set out in order to improve habitat conditions); new Ramsar sites "Wasenmoos am Pass Thurn" and "Überlingmoore" (cooperation with Austrian State Forests "ÖBF AG"); etc.</p> <p>Natural forest reserves have been established:</p> <p>The Austrian Natural Forest Reserve Programme was launched in 1995. It foresees the systematic establishment of a representative network of natural forest reserves. Up to now 180 reserves covering an area of 8300 hectares have been established on a voluntary basis by means of contracts between the Republic of Austria and forest owners.</p> <p>Natural forest reserves are forested areas which are dedicated to the natural development of the ecological forest system in the absence of any direct human intervention.</p> <p>Furthermore, within the process of establishing the NATURA 2000 network and designation of Ramsar sites such actions have been taken.</p>	

<b>38. Has your country taken any action to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)</b>	
a) No	
b) Not applicable	
c) No, but relevant actions are being considered	
d) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on actions taken to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas.	
The NATURA 2000 network and newly designated Ramsar sites comprise a significant amount of inland water ecosystems (17 Ramsar sites / January 2005).	
Austrian Act on the Protection of Lakes ("Seenschutzverordnung" 2003): Protection of 15 lakes	

<b>39. Has your country identified and implemented practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures? (decision VII/28)</b>	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	x
Further comments on practical steps for improving integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures.	
Spatial planning and river basin management takes protected areas into consideration, such as Biosphere Reserves, NATURA 2000 sites, Natural Forest Reserves; Management Plans for NATURA 2000 sites, National Parks, Netzwerk Natur (Green Network)	

<b>40. Is your country applying environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas? (decision VII/28)</b>	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant EIA guidelines are under development	
c) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to some projects or plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to all relevant projects or plans (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on application of environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas.	
Legislation on environmental impact assessment exists:	
Environmental Impact Assessment Law: "Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungsgesetz", BGBl. 773/1996 i.d.F. 14/2005,	
Provincial laws on nature protection contain also relevant provisions: e.g.	

„Wiener Naturschutzgesetz“, LGBl. Für Wien Nr. 45/1998 i.d.F. 92/2001 and  
 „Wiener Naturschutzverordnung“, LGBl. für Wien Nr. 05/2000 i.d.F. 13/2000

**41.** Has your country identified legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but relevant work is under way	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, some gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, many gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further comments on identification of legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas.

**42.** Has your country undertaken national protected-area capacity needs assessments and established capacity building programmes? (decision VII/28)

a) No	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but assessments are under way	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, a basic assessment undertaken and some programmes established (please provide details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, a thorough assessment undertaken and comprehensive programmes established (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further comments on protected-area capacity needs assessment and establishment of capacity building programmes.

Examples: in the context of NATURA 2000, National Forest Reserves Programme

**43.** Is your country implementing country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but relevant plan is under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, relevant plan is in place (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, relevant plan is being implemented (please provide details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Further comments on implementation of country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas.

Protected areas are mainly financed through the regular budget allocations of the nine Austrian provinces.

National parks receive funding from the federal government as well (Art. 15b of the Austrian Constitution provides the basis for contractual cooperation between the federal government and provinces).

With regard to the financing of the Natura 2000 network discussion is still going on. Cost estimates exist.

The Austrian Nature Forest Reserve Programme is based on the principles of co-operation and voluntariness. The Republic of Austria concludes with the forest owners legally binding contracts under private law. The annual expenses are about € 755,000. An extension of this programme is

intended.

**44.** Is your country implementing appropriate methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant methods, standards, criteria and indicators are under development	
c) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use and some international methods, standards, criteria and indicators in use (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
Further comments on methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance.	
Implementation of the EU legislation: FFH-, Birds- and Water Frame Directive (Assessment, Key species, Monitoring, Management Plans, National Forest Reserves Programme ;	

**Box XLV.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

**Article 8(h) - Alien species**

**45.** Has your country identified alien species introduced into its territory and established a system for tracking the introduction of alien species?

a) No	
b) Yes, some alien species identified but a tracking system not yet established	
c) Yes, some alien species identified and tracking system in place	
d) Yes, alien species of major concern identified and tracking system in place	<b>X</b> (but no tracking system is in place yet))

**46. ?** Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?

a) No	
b) Yes, but only for some alien species of concern (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, for most alien species (please provide details below)	

Further information on the assessment of the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species.

A national action plan on invasive alien species has been established (available at Austrian CHM: [www.biodiv.at](http://www.biodiv.at)). Investigations concerning the economic / ecological effects of a limited number of invasive alien species are available.

**47. ?** Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate, those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under consideration	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

A National Action Plan on invasive alien species has been established (2004), providing a framework for action & counter measures

Various local measures: e.g. in National Park Donau Auen

Some legislation at state level control and prevent the introduction of IAS

**48. ?** In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed, or involved itself in, mechanisms for international cooperation, including the exchange of best practices? (decision V/8)

a) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation	
c) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation	X
d) Yes, multilateral cooperation	

**49. ?** Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species? (decision V/8)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the use of the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches in work on alien invasive species.

Example: In Styria the intended introduction of alien wild fauna is largely regulated by the Styrian nature conservation act. Permission for introduction requires a careful expert assessment taking into



account the ecosystem approach and the precautionary principle.

**50. Has your country identified national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)**

a) No	
b) No, but needs and priorities are being identified	
c) Yes, national needs and priorities have been identified (please provide below a list of needs and priorities identified)	X

Further comments on the identification of national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles.

The National Action Plan on IAS is based on the CBD Guiding Principles. It involves a detailed set of activities and an assessment of priorities (low to high).

**51. Has your country created mechanisms to coordinate national programmes for applying the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)**

a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the mechanisms created to coordinate national programmes for implementing the Guiding Principles.

The National Action Plan on Invasive Alien Species provides a framework for activities.

**52. Has your country reviewed relevant policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles, and adjusted or developed policies, legislation and institutions? (decision VI/23)**

a) No	
b) No, but review under way	X
c) Yes, review completed and adjustment proposed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, adjustment and development ongoing	
e) Yes, some adjustments and development completed (please provide details below)	

Further information on the review, adjustment or development of policies, legislation and institutions in light of the Guiding Principles.

Some analyses have been made; As many relevant issues are organized in Austria at subnational level, harmonization is complicated and has been only done to a very limited extend so far.

<b>53. Is your country enhancing cooperation between various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species? (decision VI/23)</b>	
a) No	
b) No, but potential coordination mechanisms are under consideration	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on cooperation between various sectors.	
The National Action Plan on IAS was discussed with relevant stakeholders and adopted by the National Commission on Biodiversity, which is in charge of all issues related to the CBD in Austria.	

<b>54. Is your country collaborating with trading partners and neighboring countries to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity in ecosystems that cross international boundaries? (decision VI/23)</b>	
a) No	
b) Yes, relevant collaborative programmes are under development	
c) Yes, relevant programmes are in place (please specify below the measures taken for this purpose)	X
Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighboring countries.	
Examples: Cooperation with Germany regarding the Asian Longhorn Beetle; Cooperation with Switzerland on phytosanitary issues;	

<b>55. Is your country developing capacity to use risk assessment to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity and incorporate such methodologies in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA)? (decision VI/23)</b>	
a) No	X
b) No, but programmes for this purpose are under development	
c) Yes, some activities for developing capacity in this field are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further information on capacity development to address threats of invasive alien species.	

<b>56.</b> Has your country developed financial measures and other policies and tools to promote activities to reduce the threats of invasive species? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures and policies are under development	
c) Yes, some measures, policies and tools are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures and tools are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of financial measures and other policies and tools for the promotion of activities to reduce the threats of invasive species.	
Studies (e.g. inventory on IAS in Austria), research activities (e.g. alien species under climate change in Austria) have been financed by governmental and research bodies.	

**Box XLVI.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>
<p>The outcome and impact of the actions taken is significant at national level. This issue is now regarded as being of high importance for conservation of biodiversity. Thus, the topic of alien species is strongly integrated in the national biodiversity strategy and an action plan was formulated.</p> <p>Main constraints are lack of sufficient funding and the decentralised political and governmental structure, influencing cooperation on alien species at national and supranational level. Furthermore, different interests of different stakeholder (e.g. farmer and conservationists) concerning several alien species have appeared.</p>

**Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions**

**GURTS**

<b>57.</b> Has your country created and developed capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to GURTs.	

Austria is supporting various environmental and agricultural NGOs. Especially within these NGOs and their public communication strategies there have been some discussions on GURTs involving also local communities and small holder farmers.

### Status and Trends

**58.** Has your country supported indigenous and local communities in undertaking field studies to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)

a) No	<b>x</b>
b) No, but support to relevant studies is being considered	
c) Yes (please provide information on the studies undertaken)	X

Further information on the studies undertaken to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and priority actions identified.

Not relevant for Austria

**But:**

Austrian Development Co-operation supports indigenous and local community based organisations in Brazil, which are conducting studies to assess local knowledge, tradition and practices with in order to be able to apply identified traditional knowledge and practices in rural development programmes.

Studies conducted by local partners, in most cases community based organisations, form an important part of integrated rural development programmes e.g. in Austrian projects in Burkina Faso, Senegal, Ethiopia, and the Himalaya region.

### Akwé:Kon Guidelines

**59.** Has your country initiated a legal and institutional review of matters related to cultural, environmental and social impact assessment, with a view to incorporating the Akwé:Kon Guidelines into national legislation, policies, and procedures?

a) No	<b>x</b>
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, a review undertaken (please provide details on the review)	

Further information on the review.

Not relevant

**60.** Has your country used the Akwé:Kon Guidelines in any project proposed to take place on sacred sites and/or land and waters traditionally occupied by indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)

a) No	<b>x</b>
b) No, but a review of the Akwé: Kon guidelines is under way	
c) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further information on the projects where the Akwé:Kon Guidelines are applied.

**Not relevant**

## Capacity Building and Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities

**61.** Has your country undertaken any measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities to be effectively involved in decision-making related to the use of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/16)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes being developed	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities.

### **Local Agendas 21, several subsidies, etc...**

Most management of privately owned land relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is carried out by voluntary mutual agreements with stakeholders with the provision of financial incentives.

**Development Co-operation:** there are no projects aiming specifically at strengthening indigenous and local communities, but participation, capacity building and empowerment of local and indigenous communities are some of the underlying principles for all interventions of Austrian Development Co-operation, as also stated in the Austrian Development Co-operation Act.

**62.** Has your country developed appropriate mechanisms, guidelines, legislation or other initiatives to foster and promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in decision making, policy planning and development and implementation of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at international, regional, subregional, national and local levels? (decision V/16)

a) No	<b>x</b>
b) No, but relevant mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are under development	
c) Yes, some mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are in place (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>

Further information on the mechanisms, guidelines and legislation developed.

### **Not relevant for Austria**

#### **BUT:**

**Development Co-operation:** in West Africa, Austria is supporting local planning initiatives through "Fond Development Local" approaches.

In Burkina Faso Austria is supporting local village committees and their participation in the planning and decision making process aiming at fostering sustainable use of natural resources.

<b>63.</b> Has your country developed mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities with specific provisions for the full, active and effective participation of women in all elements of the programme of work? (decision V/16, annex)	
a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are being developed	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all elements of the programme of work.	
<b>Not relevant</b>	

### Support to implementation

<b>64.</b> Has your country established national, subregional and/or regional indigenous and local community biodiversity advisory committees?	
a) No	<b>x</b>
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes	

<b>65.</b> Has your country assisted indigenous and local community organizations to hold regional meetings to discuss the outcomes of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and to prepare for meetings under the Convention?	
a) No	<b>X</b>
b) Yes (please provide details about the outcome of meetings)	
Further information on the outcome of regional meetings.	

<b>66.</b> Has your country supported, financially and otherwise, indigenous and local communities in formulating their own community development and biodiversity conservation plans that will enable such communities to adopt a culturally appropriate strategic, integrated and phased approach to their development needs in line with community goals and objectives?	
a) No	
b) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the support provided.	
<p><b>Development Co-operation:</b> Support to local communities for developing sustainable local community development plans plays a vital role in integrated rural development programmes. Those plans are no specific biodiversity conservation plans but community development plans where a component among others is sustainable use of biodiversity. For example FOIRN, a local indigenous organisation, supported by Austrian Development Co-operation, has developed a regional development plan as basis for their livelihood development.</p> <p>In west Africa local communities elaborate land use plans as base for further activities.</p>	

**Box XLVII.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Austrian Development Co-operation in relation to article 8j focuses on the institutional support of indigenous and local community interest groups, the promotion of a careful and responsible, economically and socially sustainable natural resource use and on the backing and encouragement of traditional know-how and knowledge systems, and adapted innovative technologies. The approach of providing institutional support to local community based organisations as a way of local empowerment to enhance sustainable use of biological diversity has showed some encouraging results. In Brazil for example the Austrian supported organisations FOIRN and CNS were able to participate strongly in local and regional planning and decision making processes, and will soon be able to continue their work without further support.

All those support programmes have a strong focus on poverty reduction and thus contribute to the achievement of MDG goal one. The empowerment and capacity building of indigenous and local communities also strengthen their ability to conserve and sustainable use their resource base and therefore also contributes to the achievement of MDG goal 7.

### **Article 9 - *Ex-situ* conservation**

**67. ?** On Article 9(a) and (b), has your country adopted measures for the *ex-situ* conservation of components of biological diversity native to your country and originating outside your country?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures adopted for the *ex-situ* conservation of components of biodiversity native to your country and originating outside your country.

There is a series of gene-banks and collections in Austria, which are conserving genetic resources. Below a survey of the major collections:

**AGES, Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety - Agrobiologie Linz,**  
*Aegilops, Allium, Avena, Hordeum, Linum, Papaver, Pisum, Phaseolus, Secale, Triticosecale, Triticum, Vicia, Zea, Malus, Prunus, Pyrus.*

*Triticum, Triticosecale, Hordeum, Avena, Vicia faba*  
 Medicinal and spice plants, oleaginous plants

**Bundesland Tirol (Federal State Tirol)**

*Triticum, Hordeum, Secale, Avena, Zea, Fagopyrum esc., Panicum/Sorghum, Papaver, Phaseolus, Linum, Vicia, Pisum, Brassica.*

**Landesversuchsanlage für Spezialkulturen, Wies, Styria**

*Medicinal and spice plants, vegetables, dyer's plants*

**University for Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna**

*Malus, Prunus, Pyrus, Juglans.*

**Höhere Bundeslehranstalt und Bundesamt für Wein- und Obstbau, Klosterneuburg/Lower Austria**

*Malus, Pyrus, Juglans, various berries, Vitis (Division for Vine Breeding).*

**Höhere Bundeslehr- und Forschungsanstalt für Landwirtschaft Raumberg-Gumpenstein**

grasses (Gräser), legumes (Leguminosen), herbal plants for meadows and pastures und alpine areas.

**Landesversuchsanlage für Obst- und Weinbau, Haidegg/ Styria**

*Malus, Prunus.*

**Saatzucht Gleisdorf GesmbH., Carinthia**

*Vicia, Cucurbita, Panicum, Setaria.*

**Kärntner Saatzbau GenmbH, Klagenfurt/Carinthia**

*Triticum, Hordeum, Avena.*

**Arche Noah, Schiltern/Lower Austria**

*Triticum, Hordeum, Secale, Avena, various vegetables.*

Predominantly, public institutions attend to the conservation of plant genetic resources. These are services at federal and provincial level and university institutions (e. g. for the conservation of cultivars important for agriculture and horticulture, grape- and fruit trees, seed orchards, domesticated animal breeds, gene bank forests). Besides, there are collections held by plant breeding enterprises and privately organized groups as well as assortments of agricultural schools and botanical gardens.

Since the end of the 60ies there has been ex-situ conservation of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) in Austria; now coordination is carried out by AGES (Agency for Health and Food Safety). Besides, also other Federal Offices and NGOs deal with this matter. At present there are about 6800 samples in the Austrian Gene banks (cereals 3200, large sized legumes 760, fodder crops 150, oil seeds 120, special crops 520, vegetables 200, medical and spice plants 600, fruits 660, vine 620)

Outside the country:

The Austrian Genebanks are integrated into international networks on genetic resources for food and agriculture, especially into the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR) which was founded on the basis of the recommendations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Genebank Committee of the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA).

Austria also takes part in the EURISCO-project which was set up to create a European Plant Genetic Resources Search Catalogue with passport data on ex situ collections maintained in Europe.

Austria is member of the "Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research" (CGIAR) since 1976 and the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety is co-operating with the CGIAR-Genebanks.

As for PGRFA conservation of old varieties and varieties which were deleted from the variety list takes place.

Some projects are in place at the Zoo Vienna (e.g. the Noriker breeding programs, black rhinos are in preparation).

Participation of Austrian Botanic Gardens in the "ENSCONET" - EU Project "European Native Seed Conservaton Network.



**68. ?** On Article 9(c), has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions.	
Reintroduction of alpin grasses Reintroduction of the Bearded Vulture, European Brown Bear	

**69. ?** On Article 9(d), has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex-situ* conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and *in-situ* populations of species?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for <i>ex-situ</i> conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and <i>in-situ</i> populations of species.	
e.g. through CITES; Endangered species are protected by the conservation acts of the nine Austrian states.	

**Box XLVIII .**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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## Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

**70. ?** On Article 10(a), has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making?

a) No	
b) No, but steps are being taken	
c) Yes, in some relevant sectors (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, in most relevant sectors (please provide details below)	

Further information on integrating consideration of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making.

The Austrian Sustainable Development Strategy contains inter alia the key objectives:

- Preserving the diversity of Species and Landscapes and
- Responsible use of land and regional development

Austrian Forest Act: Nature and environmental protection issues have been taken up by forest legislation with regard to the following aspects: the habitat effect of forests as programmatic goal in the Forest Act (§1); forests with specific habitats can be released from forest management duties (§32a).; the forest authority shall take into consideration interests of nature protection in weighting up public interests for permitting the clearing of forests for other uses; the maintenance of forest genetic resources as well as the support for natural regeneration and mixed stands.

Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is supported by a system of forest subsidies.

In order to avoid any conflicts of interest between the many forest "users", interdisciplinary planning and control have become a necessity. Presenting and describing the whole of Austria`s forests, the Forest Development Plan (WEP – "Waldentwicklungsplan" ) is currently the most important tool for assessing forest functions of public interest.

Agriculture: Mainly through the agri-environmental programme: Austrian Programme on an environmentally sound and sustainable agriculture (ÖPUL)

**71. ?** On Article 10(b), has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures adopted relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity.

Forest sector: Austrian Forest Act

Agriculture: The Austrian Programme on an environmentally sound and sustainable agriculture (ÖPUL) is a national-wide programme offered by the Government according to EU-Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1257/99 on agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the protection of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside.

The individual measures of the agri-environmental programme operate at different levels. These can be differentiated as farm, production, crop type, individual area, animal, and personnel-related measures. Corresponding to the philosophy that policy should not only help to reduce damage, but

also serve to avoid damage according to the principle of prevention, the programme is broken down into six sub-groups:

- Extensive forms of cultivation (total holding or category-related)
- Specific area related extensive use of arable land
- Specific area related extensive use of grassland
- Special landscape conservation and cultivation methods, and conservation of biodiversity
- New structures and maintenance of landscape elements
- Educational measures

One of the main objectives is to promote methods of cultivation of agricultural areas compatible with protection and improvement of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside, landscape, natural resources, soil and genetic diversity.

Though all of the measures have some direct or indirect impact on biodiversity in different forms and levels of intensity, the following measures were specially designed for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity:

- a. **EXTENSIVE FORMS OF CULTIVATION:** Organic cultivation methods; Refraining from use of specified yield-increasing inputs in grassland and arable land as well as for fruits, vine and ornamental plant growing; Extensive grassland cultivation in traditional areas
- b. **EXTENSIVE GRASSLAND USE:** Adherence to mowing restrictions
- c. **LANDSCAPE-CONSERVATION AND SECURING OF GENETIC DIVERSITY:** Keeping and rearing endangered animal species; Cultivation of rare agricultural crops; Mowing of steep slopes and mountain meadows; Alpine pasturing and herding; Tending of ecologically valuable areas;
- d. **NEW STRUCTURES AND CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND LANDSCAPE:** By means of long-term set-aside of agricultural areas for reasons of environmental protection, areas are exempt from agricultural use and e.g. biotopes are established or belts of woodland are planted, the conditions for which are laid down within the framework of environmental protection projects. Or the agricultural utilisation of moist meadows, dry meadows etc. is adapted to the requirements of nature conservation and thus these areas are preserved. Special projects for environmentally compatible agriculture and extensive farming to promote biodiversity (genetic diversity and diversity of habitats), e.g. by means of a high share of landscape elements and the maintenance of extensive sites (moist meadows, dry meadows).

Those measures mainly effecting biodiversity include about 1.1 million ha or 32 % of Austria's total agricultural area.

ÖPUL in general is good in supporting farming in marginal areas which are prone to abandonment. In regions with intensive agricultural production, there is still a high potential to foster the overall biodiversity.

Besides this agri-environmental programme information is missing on e.g. political tools or activities for fostering public awareness, enhance land use planning and development of infrastructures.

**72. ?** On Article 10(c), has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements.

Some parts of the Austrian Programme on an environmentally sound and sustainable Agriculture

(ÖPUL, based on EU Council Regulations No. 1257/99 and No. 1783/03) are specially designed to protect and encourage customary and sustainable use of biological resources:

e.g. Support of mowing of slopes and mountain meadows; alpine pasturing and herding; Tending of ecologically valuable areas; Cultivation of rare agricultural crops; Keeping and rearing endangered breeds.

The ÖPUL-programme has been evaluated (midterm evaluation in 2003), and the high acceptance and important economic role is being highly agreed on. Certain positive effects on selected groups of wild species can be shown and without doubt ÖPUL is an important instrument to facilitate complementary payments to farmers in protected areas and mainly outside of protected areas.

The Provincial Government of Styria carries out a programme that supports the traditional management of high biodiversity grassland.

**73. ?** On Article 10(d), has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biodiversity has been reduced.

As for agriculture: According to the principle of prevention Austria supports special production systems to avoid degradation and biodiversity loss. E.g. through the agri-environmental programme (tending of ecologically valuable areas) and also through programmes for farmers in less-favoured and mountainous areas.

**74. ?** Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)

a) No	
b) No, but assessment of potential indicators and incentive measures is under way	X
c) Yes, indicators and incentive measures identified (please describe below)	

Further comments on the identification of indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

<b>75. ?</b> Has your country implemented sustainable use practices, programmes and policies for the sustainable use of biological diversity, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, programmes and policies are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on sustainable use programmes and policies.	
<p>As an industrialized country Austria is not confronted with poverty as a main problem. Since people living on small farms and in remote mountainous areas tend to be threatened by poverty, especially programmes for less favoured areas in combination with agri-environmental payments are designed in such a way that they support small farms in a more targeted way concerning the distributive effects. For less favoured areas and areas with environmental restrictions the new compensation payments are based on area, land type, holding type and the level of natural handicap. Two levels of aid are paid: area aid I (higher rate for the first six hectares) and area aid II (progressively reduced from 60 up to 100 hectares).</p> <p>The support of holdings in Less-favoured Areas within the framework of the Rural Development Programme has been of high importance in Austria. According to the list of less-favoured farm areas of the European Union 81% of Austria's federal territory are located in Less-favoured Areas, 70% in mountain areas. Mountain areas thus rank high within Less-favoured Areas. Mountain farming plays a vital key role in safeguarding the sensitive ecosystem of mountain areas.</p>	

<b>76. ?</b> Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please describe below)	X
Further comments on the development of mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity.	
<p>The Austrian Nature Forest Reserve Programme is based on the principles of co-operation and voluntariness. The Republic of Austria concludes with the forest owners legally binding contracts under private law. An extension of this programme is intended.</p> <p>There are very limited examples in combining intensive tourism with landscape conservation. E.g. a programme is operated by a community because its landscape, consisting of a specific type of architecture and surrounding farmlands, is a vital resource for the tourism industry.</p> <p>A private community program taxes tourists who stay within the community. Farmers who observe special landscape cultivation guidelines are paid for traditional practices (indirect links to biodiversity exist; implementation only in intensive tourism areas possible).</p>	

<b>77. Has your country initiated a process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)</b>	
a) No	
b) No, but the principles and guidelines are under review	
c) Yes, a process is being planned	
d) Yes, a process has been initiated (please provide detailed information)	x
Further information on the process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.	
Relevant principles have been incorporated in the national biodiversity strategy.	

<b>78. Has your country taken any initiative or action to develop and transfer technologies and provide financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)</b>	
a) No	x
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some technologies developed and transferred and limited financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many technologies developed and transferred and significant financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development and transfer of technologies and provision of financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.	

### Biodiversity and Tourism

<b>79. ? Has your country established mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity?</b>	
a) No	X
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please specify below)	
d) Yes, existing mechanisms are under review	
Further comments on the establishment of mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity.	

**80. ?** Has your country provided educational and training programmes to the tourism operators so as to increase their awareness of the impacts of tourism on biodiversity and upgrade the technical capacity at the local level to minimize the impacts? (decision V/25)

a) No	X
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please describe below)	
Further comments on educational and training programmes provided to tourism operators.	

**81.** Does your country provide indigenous and local communities with capacity-building and financial resources to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management? (decision VII/14)

a) No	x
b) No, but relevant programmes are being considered	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments in the capacity-building and financial resources provided to indigenous and local communities to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management.	

**82.** Has your country integrated the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development in the development or review of national strategies and plans for tourism development, national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, and other related sectoral strategies? (decision VII/14)

a) No, but the guidelines are under review	
b) No, but a plan is under consideration to integrate some principles of the guidelines into relevant strategies	X
c) Yes, a few principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	
d) Yes, many principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	
Further information on the sectors where the principles of the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development are integrated.	

**Box XLIX.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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**Article 11 - Incentive measures**

**83. ?** Has your country established programmes to identify and adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the programmes to identify and adopt incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

In addition to ecological aspects, the conservation of biodiversity at landscape-level is a socio-political problem. The established programmes of contractual nature protection are the important measure to attain this. Following measures are supported financially: Active measures for conservation and improvement of valuable biotops, the decrease of farming intensity and other measures that can only be successful if they are carried out in cooperation with the population. Legal basis: § 2 Abs. 5,6 and § 60 Salzburger Naturschutzgesetz.

Forest sector:

- Beside the Austrian Forestry Law and other policy instruments like the national forest programme, the most important instrument is a well-established system of forest subsidies; e.g. incentive measures and subsidies on rare tree species, dead wood
- Maintenance and sustainable development of the multiple functions of forests, in particular with respect to their economic, ecological and social functions
- Integration of forestry into the activities promoting the preservation and sustainable development of rural areas
- Conservation, development and sustainable management of forests

Coherence with other Community policies and compliance with Community law

Agricultural sector:

Especially for agriculture agri-environmental programmes with special respect to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity had been developed:

The Austrian Programme on an environmentally sound and sustainable Agriculture (ÖPUL) is a



nation-wide programme offered by the Government according to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1257/99 on agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the protection of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside.

The individual measures of the agri-environmental programme operate on different levels. These can be differentiated as farm, production, crop type, individual area, animal, and personnel-related measures. Corresponding to the philosophy that policy should not only help to reduce damage, but also serve to avoid damage according to the principle of prevention, the programme is broken down into six sub-groups:

- Extensive forms of cultivation (total holding or category-related)
- Specific area related extensive use of arable land
- Specific area related extensive use of grassland
- Special landscape conservation and cultivation methods, and conservation of biodiversity
- New structures and maintenance of landscape elements
- Educational measures

One of the main objectives is to promote methods of cultivation of agricultural areas compatible with protection and improvement of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside, landscape, natural resources, soil and genetic diversity.

Though all of the measures have some direct or indirect impact on biodiversity in different forms and levels of intensity, the following measures were specially designed for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity:

- a. **EXTENSIVE FORMS OF CULTIVATION:** Organic cultivation methods; Refraining from use of specified yield-increasing inputs in grassland and arable land as well as for fruits, vine and ornamental plant growing; Extensive grassland cultivation in traditional areas
- b. **EXTENSIVE GRASSLAND USE:** Adherence to mowing restrictions
- c. **LANDSCAPE-CONSERVATION AND SECURING OF GENETIC DIVERSITY:** Keeping and rearing endangered animal species; Cultivation of rare agricultural crops; Mowing of steep slopes and mountain meadows; Alpine pasturing and herding; Tending of ecologically valuable areas;
- d. **NEW STRUCTURES AND CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND LANDSCAPE:** By means of long-term set-aside of agricultural areas for reasons of environmental protection, areas are exempt from agricultural use and e.g. biotopes are established or belts of woodland are planted, the conditions for which are laid down within the framework of environmental protection projects. Or the agricultural utilisation of moist meadows, dry meadows etc. is adapted to the requirements of nature conservation and thus these areas are preserved. Special projects for environmentally compatible agriculture and extensive farming to promote biodiversity (genetic diversity and diversity of habitats), e.g. by means of a high share of landscape elements and the maintenance of extensive sites (moist meadows, dry meadows).

Those measures mainly effecting biodiversity include about 1.1 million ha or 32 % of Austria's total agricultural area.

Another Example: The Provincial Government of Styria provides funding for land-use practices that are essential for the conservation of biodiversity. The programme requires a mutual agreement between the landowner and the nature conservation authority and has a legal basis in the Styrian Nature Conservation Act.

ÖPUL in general plays an important role in supporting farming in marginal areas which are prone to abandonment. In regions with intensive agricultural production, there is still a high potential to foster the overall biodiversity.

<b>84. ?</b> Has your country developed the mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas? (decisions III/18 and IV/10)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, review of impact of mechanisms available (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanism or approaches to incorporate market and non-market values of biodiversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes.	
<p>Some Studies using methods for valuating biodiversity and its social and economic aspects may have influenced decision making – sometimes in a more direct way but mainly in an indirect way. References:</p> <p>OECD (2002): Biodiversity, landscapes and ecosystem services of agriculture and forestry in the austrian alpine region - An approach to economic (e)valuation. - OECD-Case Study for the Working Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity, OECD-Dokument: ENV/EPOC/GEEI/BIO(2001)4/FINAL, Wien - Paris 2002.</p> <p>KLETZAN, D., KRATENA, K. (1999): Evaluierung der ökonomischen Effekte von Nationalparks. Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Jugend und Familie, Abt. II/5, Wien.</p> <p>JUNGMEIER et al. (1999): Machbarkeitsstudie Nationalpark Gesäuse. Endbericht, Klagenfurt</p> <p>OECD (1998): Rural Amenity in Austria – a Case Study of Cultural Landscape. Paris 1998.</p> <p>PRUCKNER G., HOFREITHER, M., SCHNEIDER F. (1991): Bewertung überbetrieblicher Leistungen und negativer externer Effekte der Landwirtschaft. Bericht zum Forschungsprojekt Nr. 546 des Bundesministeriums für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Wien 1991 [Evaluation of supra -operational services and negative external effects of agriculture]</p> <p>PRUCKNER G. (1992): Touristische Präferenzen für eine gepflegte Landschaft – Empirische Ergebnisse einer Kontingenzbefragung an Österreich-Urlaubern. Ergänzungsbericht zum Forschungsprojekt Nr. L 546 des Bundesministeriums für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Wien 1992 [Tourist preferences for a well-managed landscape]</p> <p>PRUCKNER G (1994): Die ökonomische Quantifizierung natürlicher Ressourcen. Europäische Hochschulschriften, Lang, Wien.</p> <p>PUWEIN, W., TÖGLHOFER, W., WÖRGÖTTER, A. (1993): Überbetriebliche Leistungen der österreichischen Land- und Forstwirtschaft. Institut für Höhere Studien, Projektbericht erstellt im Auftrag des Bundesministeriums für Land- und Forstwirtschaft. Wien. [Supra-operational services of Austrian agriculture and forestry]</p> <p>PUWEIN, W. (1993): Maßnahmen zur Erhaltung der Kulturlandschaft in Österreich. In: WIFOMonatsberichte Nr. 5/93, Wien. [Measures for preserving Austria's cultivated landscape]</p> <p>SCHÖNBÄCK, W. et al. (1994): Kosten-Nutzen-Analyse ausgewählter Varianten eines Nationalparks Donau-Auen – Endbericht. Betriebsgesellschaft Marchfeld-Kanal – Nationalparkplanung Donau-Auen, Deutsch Wagram, Wien.</p>	

<b>85. ?</b> Has your country developed training and capacity-building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives? (decision III/18)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place	X
d) Yes, many programmes are in place	

<b>86.</b> Does your country take into consideration the proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures as contained in Annex I to decision VI/15 when designing and implementing incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision VI/15)	
a) No	<b>x</b>
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the proposals considered when designing and implementing the incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
Ad capacity building in agriculture: Special support programmes for educational and training programmes are in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- for organic farming;</li> <li>- for nature protection</li> <li>- and extension services and consulting in agri-environmental measures (see also Question above)</li> </ul>	

<b>87.</b> Has your country made any progress in removing or mitigating policies or practices that generate perverse incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (decision VII/18)	
a) No	
b) No, but identification of such policies and practices is under way	
c) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified but not entirely removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
d) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified and removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
Further information on perverse incentives identified and/or removed or mitigated.	
<u>Forest sector:</u> e.g. re-afforestation programmes in densely wooded areas: subsidies were cancelled	
<u>Agricultural sector:</u> Some studies on environmentally counterproductive support measures have been conducted and discussed: e.g. HOFREITER, M.F. et al.: Environmentally counterproductive support measures in Austria: Agriculture. Research Report for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management - Document: WPR-Research-Report BMLFUW -2002-03f, Vienna March 2002. PRETTENTHALER et al.: Environmentally counterproductive support measures: Traffic - ENDBERICHT Eine Studie im Auftrag des BMLFUW; Universität Graz, Institut für Volkswirtschaftslehre Joanneum Research, Institut für Technologie- und Regionalpolitik; Graz Februar 2002.	

## Box L.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

### Concerning Agriculture:

#### The agri-environmental programme (ÖPUL):

At an international level the Austrian Programme on an environmentally sound and sustainable Agriculture (ÖPUL) is integrated into rural development scheme and environmental policies of the European Union and aims to promote an environmentally sustainable agricultural sector, while maintaining the importance of family farms. At national level it is integrated into the National Biodiversity Strategy aiming to protect and improve the environment and the maintenance of the countryside, landscape, natural resources, soil and genetic diversity. This programme, as a part of the National Biodiversity Strategy, is also linked together with the overall national Strategy for Sustainable Development.

Nature protection is manifold linked to regulations and programmes to support agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the protection of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside (especially Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1257/99). Additionally to EU-NATURA 2000 Directives, most of these interactions are also related to national laws and regulations of nature protection. Nature protection mainly is focused on extensive semi-natural habitats within national parks or other nature - or bird - protection areas (but also small areas covered by contract nature protection). Also extensive grassland areas like salt meadows, dry or wet grassland and alpine pastures are most relevant for the interactions with agri-environmental programmes. Direct interrelationship between agriculture and nature protection applies to following categories of areas:

- Nature protection areas (legal regulations)
- Contracted nature protection areas
- Agricultural areas within NATURA 2000 (new)

In this context nature protection objectives are implemented by regulations enacted by national park acts or other legal regulations. Agriculture (mostly high nature value farming systems) has to keep to defined restrictions, which guarantee the achievement of maintenance or improvement of biodiversity and (semi-) natural habitats. In some cases, farmers are granted special subsidies or compensation payments for special services contracted with national or nature park management. In this case, interactions of these payments with relevant agri-environmental schemes/measures are of special interest.

In Austria, for example, there are synergy effects between national park regulations and the Alpine pasture measure of ÖPUL. On the one hand farmers in national parks either get compensation payments on alpine pastures e.g. for keeping to the guidelines of organic farming, restrictions on infrastructure and certain cultivation restrictions/prohibitions on environmentally high valuable areas. These standards are lying above those of the comparable ÖPUL-guideline, so both complement each other.

In the context of contracted nature protection there is also a special relationship. This addresses the sphere of nature protection where small areas of high ecological value are protected in the way that nature protection authorities conclude contracts with farmers providing special management requirements and compensation payments. In the course of the introduction of the environmental programme ÖPUL in Austria, many of these contracts have been combined with agri-environmental measures, because ÖPUL - premiums are more attractive than the traditional nature protection contracts. In the implementation of agri-environmental measures relevant to nature protection (especially concerning "adherence to mowing restrictions" and "tending of ecologically valuable areas") the type of respective tending measures are established in consultation with the administration of

nature protection.

For protection of valuable habitats and flora and fauna, EU established the NATURA 2000 network (based on FFH- and Birds-Directives) to designate an EU-wide network of nature protection areas. Relatively small natural ecosystems as well as bigger, semi-natural agricultural landscapes are covered by the NATURA 2000 programme, and different management requirements are implemented in the way of either obligatory restrictions (with compensation) or voluntary subsidies. Although implementation of EU-NATURA 2000 has just started a few years ago and the evaluation and documentation of concrete interactions is too early, the question how to integrate agri-environmental schemes and -payments into this new programme and how to adjust to conservation objectives is still of crucial importance. The actual agri-environmental programme includes special, nature protection oriented regional programmes to face this challenge.

The ÖPUL-programme has been evaluated (midterm evaluation in 2003), and the high acceptance and important economic role is being highly agreed on. Certain positive effects on selected groups of wild species can be shown and without doubt ÖPUL is an important instrument to facilitate complementary payments to farmers in protected areas but mainly outside of protected areas. The second goal in ÖPUL is to ensure an live sustaining income for farmers and to support the existence of agricultural lifestyle as such.

### Effects and impacts of the Austrian agri-environmental programme (ÖPUL)

In Austria about 136,000 holdings, which are almost 75 % of all agricultural and forestry enterprises, with an area of about 2.25 million hectares, which are about 88 % of the utilised agricultural area, participate in the Austrian programme to promote agriculture production methods compatible with the requirements of the protection of the environment, extensive production and the maintenance of the countryside (ÖPUL). Since Austria's accession to the EU the Austrian Agri- Environmental Programme ÖPUL has been one of the most important subsidisation measures for the Austrian agriculture and forestry. In the year 2002 the payments within the framework of this programme, amounted to about € 628 million and thus to about 30 % of the overall subsidies for the Austrian agriculture and forestry.

The analysis of the areas participating in this programme shows, however, in particular in measures having a provable positive influence on various protection goods (e.g. erosion protection measures, organic farming, and project-related nature conservation measures) an increase, mainly in the field of arable farming, where there has been, from the point of view of soil, water and biodiversity protection, a need for improvement in previous programmes.

#### Reduction of yield increasing inputs:

Table 1: Arable and grassland, orchards and vinards without use of easily soluble commercial fertilisers (nitrogen)

ÖPUL-Measure	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
UAA in Hectar (without alpine pasturing and herding)	632.554	633.804	617.908	766.037	787.357
% der potentiellen Fläche	25	25	24	30	31

Quelle: INVEKOS-Datenpool, BMLFUW 2003.

Summing up, on about 30 % of Utilized Agricultural Area (UAA) of Austria (without alpine pastures and high alpine meadows) no chemical nitrogen-fertilizer and no other easily soluble commercial fertilisers were used (according to Annex II of Reg. 2092/91 for organic farming). On another 30 % of UAA a reduction in chemical nitrogen fertilizer was observed and/or the application time was limited. At the same time also an essential reduction in overall pesticide use took place mainly effecting herbicides, fungicides and sulphur preparations.

#### Measures directly effecting biodiversity:

Table 2: Utilized Agricultural Areas in the agri-environmental programme (ÖPUL) with significant effects on biodiversity (in ha)

Measures	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Organic production method	264.697	267.993	253.893	250.002	266.208	296.059
Alpine pasturing a. herding (in LU)	270.544	265.326	265.190	261.919	261.351	

Tending of meadows in tradit. orchards				13.397	13.391	14.899
Crop rotation stabilisation:	1.072.609	1.053.512	1.048.131	982.982	1.060.031	1.066.337
Small scaled structures (in landscapes)				4.729	5.955	10.366
Tending of ecologically valuable areas	45.394	42.967	41.075	38.347	43.124	47.257
Designing new landscape elements	7.373	7.890	8.571	5.693	7.037	7.795
Reg. project: Lower Austria- ecopoints	26.179	31.327	42.433	55.739	62.154	68.760
Nature protection management plan				1.897	3.439	5.587
Regional Project: Salzburg	25.185	25.849	26.903	28.671	28.610	

Quelle: INVEKOS, BMLFUW.

The relationship between the various agri-environmental measures and biodiversity has been extensively evaluated both at species and habitat level. In table 2 the measures with significant impact on biodiversity together with the corresponding areas are listed. Though the measures have different dimensions to impact on biodiversity most of them are effective on species as well as habitat level. Especially measure, like "Tending of meadows in traditional orchards", "Small scaled structures elements in landscapes", "Tending of ecologically valuable areas" and "Designing new landscape elements", have a direct impact on biodiversity and they represent 3 % of all UAA in Austria.

But also the support of organic farming methods which covers actually about 300.000 ha has an overall impact on species biodiversity. In a research project, comparing organic and conventional areas side by side, it could be demonstrated that the associated plant species in organic plots of winter crop are significantly increased compared to conventional production (increase of herbal plants to more than 100%). Specifically analyzed according to the threatened species in Austria, 26 of these herbal species had been within the Austrian Red Lists. 18 of these threatened herbs had been found only on organic cultivated land, 7 species both on organic and conventional land and one species on conventional farmed land only.

Measures like "Alpine pasturing and herding", "Mowing of steep slopes of mountain meadows" but also "Tending of ecologically valuable areas" contribute to farming in remote areas and are thus counterbalancing land abandonment and the loss habitat diversity.

#### **In-situ conservation:**

##### Animal Genetic Resources - Keeping and rearing endangered animal species:

With the first agri-environmental ÖPUL programme starting in 1995 the interest in endangered breeds of all species grew towards sustainable conservation. In Situ or On Farm Conservation is the main method of gene conservation schemes in Austria. To keep the breed in its natural habitat and use it in the traditional way is regarded to be the best approach to a sustainable conservation. But on farm conservation of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) can only be successful if a market for the products exists and if it is supported according to the loss of productivity compared to modern high yielding breeds.

In the first programme-period (ÖPUL-95) more than 3500 farms took part in "Keeping and rearing endangered breeds". This program succeeded in preventing a further drop in population figures of all endangered breeds in the program. However it was not feasible in promoting sustainable gene conservation programs as pure breeding was the only requirement for joining the program. Furthermore the head count for breeds to be ranked as highly endangered was too restrictive and the list of eligible species and breeds was not complete. For the second period (ÖPUL2000) the programme had to be adjusted and the measure was reorganized.

The ÖNGENE (an association of representatives of the Animal Breeding Departments of the Provinces, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW), the Universities for Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, breeders associations and the biggest NGO dealing with conservation of endangered AnGR in Austria) developed a coherent system for gene conservation programs which was acknowledged by the BMLFUW. For each endangered breed an Organisation in Charge (OC) was nominated. The OC is an acknowledged breeders association either official or a NGO and is responsible for the breeding standard, the breeding goal and the gene conservation program regardless in which Province in Austria the animals are situated.

Main results:

In 2003 more than 4.300 farms with more than 18.600 animals took part in the programme, so participation and acceptance as well as the efficiency of the programme on AnGR could be increased. Many populations could be stabilised and the diversity of breeding lines within larger populations could be preserved. There is a need for a long term project in the conservation of endangered species.

Description of the measure:

**Measure Keeping and rearing endangered breeds**

Object of aid: Keeping of endangered agricultural breeds

Aid conditions: - Keeping of pure-bred animals of species listed in the EU-approved breed list.

A regionally specific qualification of the breed list is possible.

- Conservation programme for genetic resources for each breed managed by the Ministry of Agriculture is necessary– according to ÖPUL 2000.
- Confirmation of the breed and numbers by the responsible breeders' association or, if none exists, by the responsible Chamber of Agriculture.
- Mating only with a pure-bred sire of the same breed.

Premium: 145,35 EURO per animal and year for cows, serviced mares, and stud-horses from the age of 3 years

436,03 EURO breeding bulls

43,69 EURO breeding sows

130,80 EURO boars

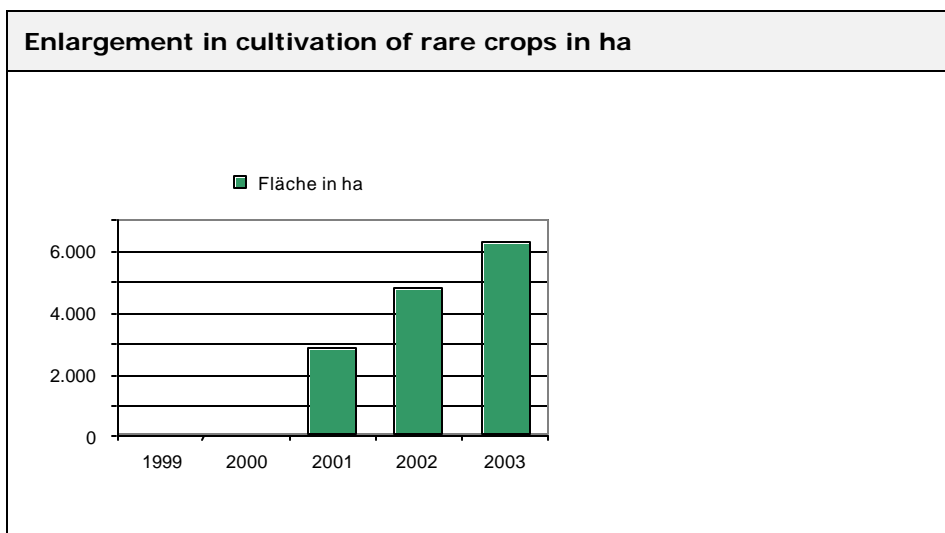
21,80 EURO per animal and year for ewes, she-goats, rams and he-goats from the age of 1 year respectively.

Additionally for especially endangered breeds 145,35 EURO for cattle and horses/ and 43,69 EURO for breeding sows/ and 21,80 EURO per animal and year for ewes, she-goats, rams and he-goats

Plant Genetic resources: Cultivation of rare agricultural crops:

The planting of rare agricultural crops had been incorporated into the ÖPUL at the beginning in 1995 and it was thought to enhance in-situ and/or on farm conservation of plant genetic resources. But since there had been some restrictions combined to this measure, the level of acceptance was very low. With the re-adjustment and re-organization of ÖPUL in 2000 the measure could be joined with organic farming or with the measures like "refraining and/or reduction from the use of specified yield-raising farming substances on arable land" and thus the level of acceptance grew rapidly (Figure 1). The main objective of the measure is to increase the planting of regionally valuable crops threatened with extinction.

The programme is adjoined by monitoring and research through the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES). The AGES also lays down the list of varieties/landraces of rare agricultural crops and after evaluating the measure and in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture can adjust the list year by year if necessary.



The planting of rare agricultural crops could be increased both by species and varieties and thus the measure was quite successful. Additionally the associated knowledge about the cultivation of rare crops could be distributed among many farmers. Also in combination with organic farming new cereal products based on traditional rare crops could be developed (e.g. new forms of spelt bread).

But it is not always clear why some species and varieties have a rather high acceptance whereas other are scarcely used. This may depend on certain knowledge of breeders as well as some skills in organisation and marketing of the people involved. So the development of single species and varieties is also depend on the economic paths chosen.

The strong dependence on markets and market creation mechanism makes it hard to re-adjust the variety lists through a short term evaluation. Though some varieties have quite a dynamic development it does not make sense to reduce the support within a short term. Till now only an expansion of the variety list was possible.

Description of measures:

**Measure Cultivation of rare agricultural crops**

Object of aid: The growing of regionally valuable crops threatened with extinction

Aid conditions:

- Growing of certain strains (according to an ANNEX with six lists from A to F)
- Taking part in measure –“organic farming” or measure “Refraining from the use of specified yield-raising farming substances on arable land” or measure “Reduction of the use of specified yield-raising farming substances on arable land”.

Premium: List A (grain, maize and millet) 145,35 EURO  
List B to F (others according lists) 290,69 EURO

Special support of farms in less-favoured areas:

The support of holdings in Less-favoured Areas within the framework of the Rural Development Programme has been of high importance in Austria. According to the list of less-favoured farm areas of the European Union 81% of Austria’s federal territory are located in Less-favoured Areas, 70% in mountain areas. Mountain areas thus rank high within Less-favoured Areas. Mountain farming plays a vital key role in safeguarding the sensitive ecosystem of mountain areas.

For less favoured areas and areas with environmental restrictions the new compensation payments are based on area, land type, holding type and the level of natural handicap. Two levels of aid are paid: area aid I (higher rate for the first six hectares) and area aid II (progressively reduced from 60 up to 100 hectares).

## Article 12 - Research and training

**88. ?** On Article 12(a), has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components?

a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

Further information on the programmes for scientific and technical education and training in the measures for identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Since 2000, Austria is actively involved in the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN). a collaborative mechanism among 29 European countries to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources. EUFORGEN's main tasks are to coordinate and promote the in situ and ex situ conservation of Europe's forest genetic resources, to facilitate the exchange of genetic material and information, and to increase public awareness of the need to conserve forest genetic resources. The EUFORGEN Network structure has also been revised for phase III (2005-2009) following the Steering Committee decision in May 2004. A new thematic Forest Management Network is currently being established and the work on various forest tree species will continue



through three species-oriented Networks (cf corresponding Question above).

Various measures are also carried out by NGOs, especially for vegetables and fruit trees.

Several courses at Austrian Universities provide for the scientific and technical education and training for identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

**89. ?** On Article 12(b), does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

X

Further information on the research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Research policy and grants are largely regulated in Austria by the "Forschungsorganisationsgesetz", the UOG-University organisation law, FFG- Research founding law, the Laws for the Federal Ministries etc.

Next to the Austrian Network for the protection of genetic resources for Agriculture with ex situ protection in gene banks the research and development activities are based on the Program for Research and Development in the "Lebensministerium" "PFEIL 05"

<http://www.lebensministerium.at/land/Forschung> .

The Austrian Joint Research Programme "Cultural Landscape Research (CLR)", which was set up for the time period 1995 – 2004, established the scientific foundation for the sustainable development of landscapes and regions in Austria. The guiding principle of cultural landscape research is sustainability. Sustainability raises questions relating to the buffering capacity of ecosystems, the quality of life, equitable distribution of benefits and burdens.

Further information: [www.klf.at](http://www.klf.at)

**90. ?** On Article 12(c), does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources?

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

X

Further information on the use of scientific advances in biodiversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The Austrian Joint Research Programme "Cultural Landscape Research (CLR)" is also concerned with the implementation of research results. Projects focusing on participation, public relations, and research marketing were undertaken in order to find answers for putting results actually into practise and to support the implementation of process. Further information: [www.klf.at](http://www.klf.at)

Case Studies from Austria with special references to genetic resources and economic problems were conducted according to requests from the OECD Working Party on Economic and Environment policy Integration, Working Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity:

- Case Study on the applied evaluation of biodiversity ENV/EPOC/GEEI/BIO(2001)4/FINAL
- Case Study on the Austrian Program on an environmentally sound and sustainable Agriculture, based an EU regulation 2078/92; Experience and consequences on sustainable use of biodiversity in Austrian Agriculture ENV/EPOC/GEEI/BIO(98)12
- Austrian Case Study on economic incentive measures in the creation of the national park Neusiedler See – Seewinkel ENV/EPOC/GEEI/BIO(99)1/FINAL
- A new Tweed from "Forest Sheep" Wool – Quality production and the use of a sheep genetic resource from extensive Pasturing, under OECD review (2003)

**Box LI.**

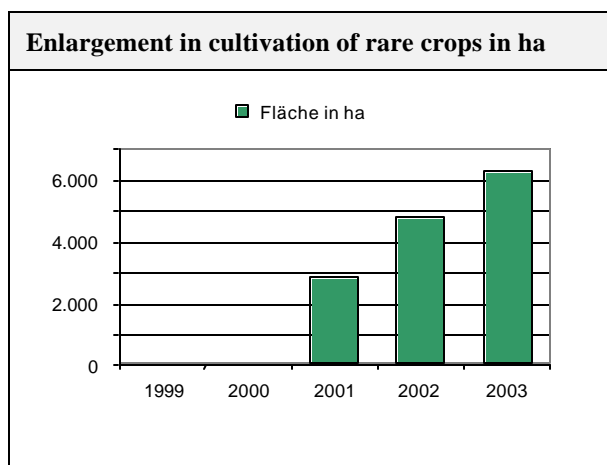
Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Since 1995 in line with EU Regulation No. 2078/92 in situ protection runs under the Austrian agri-environmental Programme (ÖPUL). Since 2001 there exists the new regulation ÖPUL 2000 based on EU RL 1257/99. <http://www.lebensministerium.at/land/> ([http://gpool.lfrz.at/gpool/main.cgi?catid=20539&rq=cat&tfqs=catt&catt=\\_land&yh\\_order=title](http://gpool.lfrz.at/gpool/main.cgi?catid=20539&rq=cat&tfqs=catt&catt=_land&yh_order=title))

The direct support of use of Plant genetic resources and the keeping of endangered breeds are an integral part of the ÖPUL programme:

For example the enlargement in cultivation of rare crops.



**Article 13 - Public education and awareness**

**91.** Is your country implementing a communication, education and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation in support of the Convention? (Goal 4.1 of the Strategic Plan)

a) No	<b>x</b>
b) No, but a CEPA strategy is under development	
c) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a limited extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the implementation of a CEPA strategy and the promotion of public participation in support of the Convention.

Although no such strategy exists, a lot of initiative and projects (e.g. brochures, workshops, press releases) are carried out in order raise the public awareness of biodiversity issues and the 2010 target in Austria.

<b>92.</b> Is your country undertaking any activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness as contained in the annex to decision VI/19? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	<b>x</b>
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on CEPA.	
See also answer to question 91	

<b>93.</b> Is your country strongly and effectively promoting biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
Further comments on the promotion of biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level.	
<p>A wide range of activities is taking place. E.G. several folders (eg "Biodiversity in Austria, Protected Areas in Austria, Alien Species in Austria), Day of Biodiversity, Day of Nature, Television, Netzwerk Natur (Green Network), Voluntary Agreements for Nature Conservation (Vertragsnaturschutz) (habitat for hedges, vineyards or acres) and "Wildwuchs", a programme to promote the Viennese Wilderness within the city .</p> <p>A brochure on the National Biodiversity Strategy is in process, which should make the broad public aware of both the importance of biodiversity and the national goals and activities aiming at implementing the CBD in Austria, thus protecting the biodiversity in Austria .</p>	

<b>94.</b> Does your country promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
Further information on the efforts to promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level.	
<p>A recently started project is aiming at collecting best practice examples of biodiversity related projects at the local level in Austria. The collection of projects, including a kind of manual for local activities on biodiversity, will be published.</p> <p>The Provincial Government of Styria presents an annual award for best practice in the management of biodiversity-rich meadows as well as an annual award for best practice of environmental protection.</p>	

<b>95.</b> Is your country supporting national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	<b>x</b>
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities supported (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many activities supported (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the support of national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness.	

<b>96.</b> Has your country developed adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness?	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness.	
Examples from provinces: Viennese Environment Education Programme "Owl", "Bat", „Wildwuchs“-catalogue, various nature guides such as "Gstättenführer", .....	
Styria publishes a quarterly journal on the activities of nature conservation and an annual report on environmental protection.	

<b>97.</b> Does your country promote cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness at the national, regional and international levels? (decisions IV /10 and VI/19)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
Further comments on the promotion of cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness, at the national, regional and international levels.	

<b>98.</b> Is your country undertaking some CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention?	
a) No (please specify reasons below)	<b>x</b>
b) Yes, some activities undertaken for some issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, many activities undertaken for most issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for all issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention.	

<b>99. ?</b> Does your country support initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes as well as into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision IV/10 and Goal 4.4 of the Strategic Plan)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
Further comments on the initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biodiversity conservation in their practice and education programmes as well as their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	
Examples:	
- BIOSA: a voluntary association of land owners who have agreed to dedicate a selected area of their lands either for cultural landscape research, scientific projects or the development of a new form of dynamic conservation	
- Various initiatives on forest education	
At the provincial and federal levels financial support is given to various local and national NGOs in their efforts to promote nature conservation	

<b>100.</b> Is your country communicating the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and establishing appropriate linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in the implementation of your national CEPA programmes and activities? (decision VII/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	<b>x</b>
c) Yes, some programmes developed and activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes developed and many activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the communication of the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and the establishment of linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.	

**Box LII .**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

**Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts**

**101. ?** On Article 14.1(a), has your country developed legislation requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity?

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| a) No   |          |
| b) No, legislation is still in early stages of development                |          |
| c) No, but legislation is in advanced stages of development               |          |
| d) Yes, legislation is in place (please provide details below)            | <b>x</b> |
| e) Yes, review of implementation available (please provide details below) |          |

Further information on the legislation requiring EIA of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biodiversity.

**102. ?** On Article 14.1(b), has your country developed mechanisms to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity?

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| a) No  |          |
| b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development     |          |
| c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development    | <b>X</b> |
| d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below) |          |

Further comments on the mechanisms developed to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity.

**103. ?** On Article 14.1(c), is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction?

a) No	
b) No, but assessment of options is in progress	
c) Yes, some completed, others in progress (please provide details below)	
d) Yes (please provide details below)	x

Further information on the bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biodiversity outside your country's jurisdiction.

1997 Austria ratified the ESPOO-Convention (Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context) and implemented it through UVP-G 2000, Art. 10 (Environmental Impact Assessment Act, Art. 10).

**104. ?** On Article 14.1(d), has your country put mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your territory to biological diversity in the territory of other Parties or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction?

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place based on current scientific knowledge	x

**105. ?** On Article 14.1(e), has your country established national mechanisms for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	x
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on national mechanisms for emergency response to the activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biodiversity.

<b>106.</b> Is your country applying the Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environment-Impact-Assessment Legislation or Processes and in Strategic Impact Assessment as contained in the annex to decision VI/7 in the context of the implementation of paragraph 1 of Article 14? (decision VI/7)	
a) No	
b) No, but application of the guidelines under consideration	
c) Yes, some aspects being applied (please specify below)	X
d) Yes, major aspects being applied (please specify below)	
Further comments on application of the guidelines.	

<b>107.</b> On Article 14 (2), has your country put in place national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity? (decision VI/11)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please specify the measures)	X
Further comments on national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity.	
<p><u>Forest Sector:</u>  Austrian Forest Act (§16) – Any measures detrimental or destructive to forests are prohibited. This provision not only addresses forest owners, but everybody (§17) – The use of forest soil for other purposes than those of forest cultivation is prohibited. The authority may issue a permit for clearing, if this does not conflict with special public interest in maintaining this area as forest.  The nature conservation acts of the Austrian Provinces provide for penalties for activities damaging wildlife.</p> <p><u>Agricultural Sector:</u>  With regard to GMOs the Austrian Law on Genetic Engineering has been revised in order to incorporate provisions for liability and redress.</p> <p><u>Environmental Policy:</u>  Implementation of the Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage</p>	

<b>108.</b> Has your country put in place any measures to prevent damage to biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being developed	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	x
Further information on the measures in place to prevent damage to biological diversity.	
Provincial Laws on Nature Protection Water Act Environmental Impact Assessment Law	



Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage

**109.** Is your country cooperating with other Parties to strengthen capacities at the national level for the prevention of damage to biodiversity, establishment and implementation of national legislative regimes, policy and administrative measures on liability and redress? (decision VI/11)

a) No	
b) No, but cooperation is under consideration	
c) No, but cooperative programmes are under development	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, comprehensive cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on cooperation with other Parties to strengthen capacities for the prevention of damage to biodiversity.	
Within various EU "Twinning Projects"	

**Box LIII.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

## Article 15 - Access to genetic resources

**110. ?** Has your country endeavored to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Parties, on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms, in accordance with paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of Article 15?

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

**X**

Further information on the efforts taken by your country to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Parties, on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms.

In Austria, approximately 0.5 % of the forests are identified as seed stands (basic material) for harvesting forest reproductive material. Since the majority of the genetic resources are privately owned, access may be restricted by the owner. Besides seeds stands, seed orchards are very valuable forest genetic resources. Since 1986 Austria is running a programme to enhance genetic richness in forests. Within the framework of this programme forest seeds are produced in order to provide end-users with the most appropriate genetic resources and to discourage the use of allochthonous material.

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was signed 2002 and will be ratified by Austria in 2005. Public gene banks are open for material transfer.

**111. ?** Has your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Parties, in accordance with Article 15(6)?

a) No

b) No, but potential measures are under review

c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)

d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)

**X**

Further information on the measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Contracting Parties.

The Austrian Botanic Garden Working Group has participated in the development of IPEN (International Plant Exchange Network), a best practice example for the use of plant material for scientific purposes in accordance with relevant CBD regulations. This system is open for Botanic Gardens holding scientific collections and binds its participants to e.g. PIC and other CBD regulations. This non-legally binding system has proved to be very practical and efficient.

Participation in working groups and task forces within the ECP/GR (European Cooperating Programme on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

<b>112. ?</b> Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and of the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources, in accordance with Article 15(7)?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the type of measures taken.	
Benefit sharing under the Multilateral System by the International Treaty on PGR	
See answer to question above	

<b>113. ?</b> In developing national measures to address access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, has your country taken into account the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further information on national measures taken which consider the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing as set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.	
Further measures will be taken as soon as the Standard Material Transfer Agreement is finalized	

<b>114.</b> Is your country using the Bonn Guidelines when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and/or when negotiating contracts and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for access and benefit-sharing? (decision VII/19A)	
a) No	
b) No, but steps being taken to do so (please provide details below)	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Please provide details and specify successes and constraints in the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines.	
In the context of IPEN activities (see question 111). Currently a draft MTA is used and will be adopted as soon as the Standard MTA is in force. Example from a provincial government: It is implemented in the Viennese act for nature protection, in as much as it is within the competence of the state of Vienna.	

**115.** Has your country adopted national policies or measures, including legislation, which address the role of intellectual property rights in access and benefit-sharing arrangements (i.e. the issue of disclosure of origin/source/legal provenance of genetic resources in applications for intellectual property rights where the subject matter of the application concerns, or makes use of, genetic resources in its development)?

a) No	
b) No, but potential policies or measures have been identified (please specify below)	X
c) No, but relevant policies or measures are under development (please specify below)	
d) Yes, some policies or measures are in place (please specify below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive policies or measures adopted (please specify below)	

Further information on policies or measures that address the role of IPR in access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

Within relevant OECD Working Group

Austria ratified the UPOV Act in 1991

**116.** Has your country been involved in capacity-building activities related to access and benefit-sharing?

a) Yes (please provide details below)	X
b) No	

Please provide further information on capacity-building activities (your involvement as donor or recipient, key actors involved, target audience, time period, goals and objectives of the capacity-building activities, main capacity-building areas covered, nature of activities). Please also specify whether these activities took into account the Action Plan on capacity-building for access and benefit-sharing adopted at COP VII and available in annex to decision VII/19F.

Some single activities, e.g. within the members of the Botanic Gardens Working Group

**Box LIV.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

## Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology

**117. ?** On Article 16(1), has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.

There are no systematic measures or mechanisms in place, but access to technologies is facilitated on a case by case basis.

Austrian Development Co-operation is funding various post graduate university courses related to sustainable resource use, e.g. a post graduate course in limnology or a master programme in mountain forestry. In addition Austrian PHD scholarship programmes support PHD students who are working inter alia in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Forest Sector:

The Austrian Research and Training Centre for Forest, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW), in collaboration with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) initiated a Research Fellowship on the conservation of forest genetic resources (duration 2004-2009). An individual work programme will be elaborated and will include data gathering and preparation of research material in the home country. DNA technologies and modern molecular methods will be used. To promote sustainability of the research skills acquired, each fellow will receive coaching following his/her return to the home institute at the end of the fellowship. The research will focus on topics relevant to the applicant's home country.

**118. ?** On Article 16(3), has your country taken measures so that Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative arrangements are in place	
g) Not applicable	

**119. ?** On Article 16(4), has your country taken measures so that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of Government institutions and the private sector of developing countries?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	

Further information on the measures taken.

Austrian Development Co-operation has recently established guidelines and mechanisms to promote private sector engagement in development activities through e.g. public private partnerships. One of the priority areas for PPPs are co-operations in the environmental sector. Compliance with international environmental standards is a key requirement of any cooperation under these mechanisms.

**Box LV.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Austrian funded PHD scholarships have been quite successful due to the fact that applicants are preferred, who are already working in local research institutions or authorities. They are able to conduct their research on problems relevant to those institutions and are able to apply their findings after their return at their respective work places.

**Programme of Work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation**

**120.** Has your country provided financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation? (decision VII/29)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the provision of financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation.

Within some EU-initiatives, Rumania-cooperation (EU "Twinning-projects") for the implementation of the EU-directives, which are relevant for nature protection

<b>121.</b> Is your country taking any measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation? (decision VII/29)	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures being considered	X
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation.	
Measures are being considered within European Research Framework Programme 6 and relevant ERA-NET activities	

<b>122.</b> Has your country made any technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building? (annex to decision VII/29)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, basic assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, thorough assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building.	
Answer is c): Within some Subsidies Programmes of the Vienna Business Agency (biotechnology)	

<b>123.</b> Has your country made any assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies? (annex to decision VII/29)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies.	
Within some subsidies programmes of the Vienna Business Agency (biotechnology), SUPer NOW (Strategische Umweltprüfung - Nordosten Wien). Studies on genetically modified organism	

**124.** Has your country identified and implemented any measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation, including assessing capacity building needs? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but some programmes are under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, some programmes are in place and being implemented (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation.	

**125.** Has your country taken any of the measures specified under Target 3.2 of the programme of work as a preparatory phase to the development and implementation of national institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation as well as access to and adaptation of technologies of relevance to the Convention? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but a few measures being considered	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, some measures taken (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, many measures taken (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on the measures taken as a preparatory phase to the development and implementation of national institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation as well as access to and adaptation of technologies of relevance to the Convention.	

**Box LVI.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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## Article 17 - Exchange of information

<b>126. ?</b> On Article 17(1), has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources with a view to assist with the implementation of the Convention and promote technical and scientific cooperation?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	

### *The following question (127) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES*

<b>127. ?</b> On Article 17(1), do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries and include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?	
a) No	
b) Yes, but they do not include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	
c) Yes, and they include categories of information listed in Article 17 (2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	X

### **Box LVII .**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>

## Article 18 - Technical and scientific cooperation

<b>128. ?</b> On Article 18(1), has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation.	
<p>International co-operation is based on EU-RL 1467/94, European cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources ECP/GR and the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.</p> <p>CITES activities, such as collaboration with Madagascar on <i>Bulbophyllum</i>, collaboration with Costa Rica (project called "Rainforest of the Austrians"), and many others.</p> <p><u>Forest sector:</u></p> <p>COST action E27 Protected forest areas in Europe –analysis and harmonisation (PROFOR)</p> <p>COST action E43 Harmonisation of National Forest Inventories in Europe: Techniques for Common Reporting</p> <p>BEAR project: Biodiversity Evaluation Tools for European Forests</p> <p>(cf. corresponding Questions above)</p>	

<b>129. ?</b> On Article 18(4), has your country encouraged and developed methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant methods are under development	
c) Yes, methods are in place	X

<b>130. ?</b> On Article 18(5), has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention?	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide some examples below)	X
Examples for the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention.	
<p>European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources ECP/GR and the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.</p> <p><u>Forest sector:</u></p> <p>COST action E27 Protected forest areas in Europe –analysis and harmonisation (PROFOR)</p> <p>COST action E43 Harmonisation of National Forest Inventories in Europe: Techniques for Common Reporting</p> <p>BEAR project: Biodiversity Evaluation Tools for European Forests</p> <p><u>Agricultural sector:</u></p> <p>Projects for the collection, conservation, evaluation and utilization of PGR: Agricultural varieties in</p>	

South Tyrol and North Tyrol; fruit trees in Styria and Slovenia; potatoes in Czech Republic and Austria ;

**131.** Has your country established links to non-governmental organizations, private sector and other institutions holding important databases or undertaking significant work on biological diversity through the CHM? (decision V/14)

a) No	
b) No, but coordination with relevant NGOs, private sector and other institutions under way	
c) Yes, links established with relevant NGOs, private sector and institutions	X

***The following question (132) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES***

**132.** Has your country further developed the CHM to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation? (decision V/14)

a) No	
b) Yes, by using funding opportunities	
c) Yes, by means of access to, and transfer of technology	X
d) Yes, by using research cooperation facilities	
e) Yes, by using repatriation of information	X
f) Yes, by using training opportunities	
g) Yes, by using promotion of contacts with relevant institutions, organizations and the private sector	
h) Yes, by using other means (please specify below)	

Further comments on CHM developments to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation.

**133.** Has your country used CHM to make information available more useful for researchers and decision-makers? (decision V/14)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant initiatives under consideration	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on development of relevant initiatives.

The following information has been made available: Information on biodiversity indicators and relevant initiatives at european and global level; biodiversity monitoring; Biodiversity monitoring project in Austria and other countries; effects of human activities on biodiversity; etc.

<b>134.</b> Has your country developed, provided and shared services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of the CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions? (decision V/14)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please specify services and tools below)	X
Further comments on services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions.	
See <a href="http://www.biodiv.at">www.biodiv.at</a>	

**Box LVIII.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>
<p>Ad c) The Austrian CHM-Internet site provides information on a workshop convened on activities in Austria to reach the 2010 target. The results of the workshop have been incorporated in the Austrian Biodiversity Strategy.</p>

**Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits**

<b>135. ?</b> On Article 19(1), has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research?	
a) No	x
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation are in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy and subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place	

**136. ?** On Article 19(2), has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access by Parties, on a fair and equitable basis, to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Parties?

a) No	x
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	

**Box LIX.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

## Article 20 – Financial resources

**Box LX.**

Please describe for each of the following items the quantity of financial resources, both internal and external, that have been utilized, received or provided, as applicable, to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, on an annual basis, since your country became a Party to the Convention.

a) Budgetary allocations by national and local Governments as well as different sectoral ministries	<p>Allocations in federal agricultural and environment budgets: agrarian environment measures 316 Mio. € (budget item 1/60366), 191 Mio. € (budget item 1/60376) and within environmental expenses (budget item 1/61208);</p> <p>All nine Austrian Provincial Governments have individual annual budgets allocated to nature conservation;</p>
b) Extra-budgetary resources (identified by donor agencies)	
c) Bilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	<p>1998: 1.126.148,30 €            1999: 3.147.414,40 €            2000: 2.536.891,00 €            2001: 5.119.801,00 €            2002: 3.270.714,00 €            2003: 3.052.594,00 €</p> <p>The above figures indicate the total amount of money disbursed through Austrian bilateral projects in the respective years as reported to OECD DAC, applying the CBD Rio- marker</p>

	criteria. Co-financing of projects relevant to biodiversity by the EU, e.g. LIFE, Interreg
d) Regional channels (identified by donor agencies)	
e) Multilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	National contribution to GEF-3 replenishment for inter alia biodiversity-relevant operational programmes #1, #2, #3, #4, #13
f) Private sources (identified by donor agencies)	
g) Resources generated through financial instruments, such as charges for use of biodiversity	Federal revenue from national parks; negligible

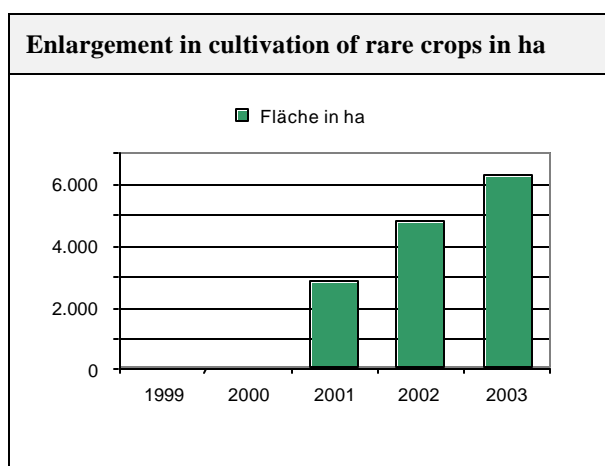
#### Box LXI.

Please describe in detail below any major financing programmes, such as biodiversity trust funds or specific programmes that have been established in your country.

Since 1995 in line with EU Regulation No. 2078/92 in situ protection runs under the Austrian agri-environmental Programme (ÖPUL). Since 2001 there exists the new regulation ÖPUL 2000 based on EU RL 1257/99. <http://www.lebensministerium.at/land/> ([http://gpool.lfrz.at/gpool/main.cgi?catid=20539&rq=cat&tfqs=catt&catt=land&yh\\_order=titel](http://gpool.lfrz.at/gpool/main.cgi?catid=20539&rq=cat&tfqs=catt&catt=land&yh_order=titel))

The direct support of use of Plant genetic resources and the keeping of endangered breeds are an integral part of the "ÖPUL"- programme:

For example the enlargement in cultivation of rare crops.



#### **Measure Growing of rare agricultural crops**

Object of aid: The growing of regionally valuable crops threatened with extinction

Aid conditions:

- Growing of certain strains (according to an ANNEX with six lists from A to F)
- Taking part in measure –"organic farming" or measure "Refraining from the use of specified yield-raising farming substances on arable land" or measure "Reduction of the use of specified yield-raising farming substances on arable land".

**Premium:** List A (grain, maize and millet) 145,35 EURO  
 List B to F (others according lists) 290,69 EURO

**Measure Keeping and rearing endangered breeds**

**Object of aid:** Keeping of endangered agricultural breeds

**Aid conditions:** - Keeping of pure -bred animals of species listed in the EU-approved breed list.

- A regionally specific qualification of the breed list is possible.
- Conservation programme for genetic resources for each breed managed by the Ministry of Agriculture is necessary– according to ÖPUL 2000.
- Confirmation of the breed and numbers by the responsible breeders' association or, if none exists, by the responsible Chamber of Agriculture.
- Mating only with a pure-bred sire of the same breed.

**Premium:** 145,35 EURO per animal and year for cows, serviced mares, and stud-horses from the age of 3 years  
 436,03 EURO breeding bulls  
 43,69 EURO breeding sows  
 130,80 EURO boars  
 21,80 EURO per animal and year for ewes, she-goats, rams and he-goats from the age of 1 year respectively.

Additionally for especially endangered breeds 145,35 EURO for cattle and horses/ and 43,69 EURO for breeding sows/ and 21,80 EURO per animal and year for ewes, she-goats, rams and he-goats

**Bilateral Development Co-operation:** There are no specific programmes aimed at supporting the implementation of the convention on biodiversity. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are seen as crosscutting issues which are mainstreamed into all Austrian programmes and projects. Biodiversity related measures play a vital role in most integrated rural development programmes.

The amount of bilateral financial resources contributing to the implementation of the Convention has been systematically monitored only since 1998 with the introduction of the OECD DAC Rio Markers. Earlier projects might have contributed to the goals of the convention as well but no statistical data is available.

Major support to CBD-goals was achieved by a € 13 mill. National Initiative on Rainforests from 1993-1996. Within this initiative, more than 30 projects in the field of forest conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable management were funded.

**137. ?** On Article 20(1), has your country provided financial support and incentives to those national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes, incentives only (please provide a list of such incentives below)	
c) Yes, financial support only	
d) Yes, financial support and incentives (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on financial support and incentives provided.

See also box above

Financial support for the establishment and running of the Austrian CHM and for activities according to GBIF ([www.biodiv.at](http://www.biodiv.at))

**The next question (138) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

<b>138. ?</b> On Article 20(2), has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please indicate the amount, on an annual basis, of new and additional financial resources your country has provided)	
Further comments on new and additional financial resources provided.	
None within CBD framework; other Rio conventions: in preparation (cf. Bonn Declaration under UNFCCC)	

**The next question (139) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION**

<b>139. ?</b> On Article 20(2), has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable it to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?	
a) No	
b) Yes	

<b>140. ?</b> Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector? (decision V/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but procedures being established	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on processes to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector.	
All government expenditure is being monitored, including biodiversity spending as detailed under Box I. No additional (and possibly redundant) process is envisaged to be established.	
<u>Examples:</u>	
Within the evaluation of the "ÖPUL"	
<u>Development co-operation:</u> since 1998 Austria is systematically marking its bilateral technical development projects aiming at or contributing to the implementation of the UN CBD, applying the criteria for the CBD Rio-marker, as defined by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).	



<b>141. ?</b> Has your country considered any measures like tax exemptions in national taxation systems to encourage financial support to biodiversity? (decision V/11)	
a) No	X
b) No, but exemptions are under development (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, exemptions are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on tax exemptions for biodiversity-related donations.	
Certain donations including but not specific to biodiversity are deductible	

<b>142.</b> Has your country reviewed national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance allocated to biodiversity, with particular attention paid to positive incentives and their performance as well as perverse incentives and ways and means for their removal or mitigation? (decision VI/16)	
a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes (please provide results of review below)	X
Further comments on review of national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance.	
Within the evaluation of the "ÖPUL"	
Annual nature protection reports of provinces, e.g. of Vienna	

<b>143.</b> Is your country taking concrete actions to review and further integrate biodiversity considerations in the development and implementation of major international development initiatives, as well as in national sustainable development plans and relevant sectoral policies and plans? (decisions VI/16 and VII/21)	
a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, in some initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on review and integration of biodiversity considerations in relevant initiatives, policies and plans.	
Following provisions of pertinent EU Acquis	
The Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development – An initiative of the Federal Government (further information: <a href="http://www.nachhaltigkeit.at">www.nachhaltigkeit.at</a> )	
Provincial level: Netzwerk Natur (Green Network), Umweltleitbild (Environmental Strategy Plan) is in progress	

<b>144.</b> Is your country enhancing the integration of biological diversity into the sectoral development and assistance programmes? (decision VII/21)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, into some sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
d) Yes, into major sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity into sectoral development and assistance programmes	
<p><b>Federal level:</b> Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development</p> <p><b>Austrian Development Co-operation:</b> sectoral programmes and country strategy planning procedures integrate environmental considerations which also include biodiversity issues.</p> <p><b>Provincial level:</b> e.g. the Viennese Strategy Plan</p> <p>According to provisions of NATURA 2000 regime</p>	

***The next question (145) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES***

<b>145.</b> Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which area your country has provided financial support to developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.	
A r e a s	Support provided
a) Undertaking national or regional assessments within the framework of MEA (decision VI/8)	
b) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)	<b>x</b>
c) Enhance national capacity to establish and maintain the mechanisms to protect traditional knowledge (decision VI/10)	
d) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation (decision V/26)	<b>x</b>
e) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)	
f) Implementation of the Bonn Guidelines (decision VI/24)	
g) Implementation of programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (decision V/5)	<b>x</b>
h) Preparation of first report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources (decision VI/17)	
i) Support to work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and development of regional and sub regional networks or processes (decision VI/27)	

j) Development of partnerships and other means to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the programme of work on dry and subhumid lands biological diversity (decision VII/2)	X
k) Financial support for the operations of the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VII/9)	
l) Support to the implementation of the Action Plan on Capacity Building as contained in the annex to decision VII/19 (decision VII/19)	X
m) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity (decision VII/27)	X
n) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas (decision VII/28)	X
o) Support to the development of national indicators (decision VII/30)	
p) Others (please specify)	X
Further information on financial support provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.	
b) Research project support	
d) IPGRI	
<u>Traditional knowledge:</u> Austrian development co-operation supports institutional strengthening of local community based organisations, i.a. indigenous organisations, working on traditional knowledge practices and tradition. (see also questions related to article 8(j)).	

**The next question (146) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION**

<b>146.</b> Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which areas your country has applied for funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), from developed countries and/or from other sources. The same area may have more than one source of financial support. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.			
Areas	Applied for funds from		
	GEF	Bilateral	Other
a) Preparation of national biodiversity strategies or action plans			
b) National capacity self-assessment for implementation of Convention (decision VI/27)			
c) Priority actions to implement the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision V/9)			
d) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)			
e) Development of national strategies or action plans to deal with alien species (decision VI/23)			
f) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation, establishment and maintenance of <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation facilities (decision V/26)			

g) Projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 (Education and Public Awareness) (decision VI/19)			
h) Preparation of national reports (decisions III/9, V/19 and VI/25)			
i) Projects for conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity (decision IV/4)			
j) Activities for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity (decision V/5)			
k) Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision VI/26)			
l) Implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative			
m) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity			
n) Others (please specify)			
Further information on application for financial support.			

**Box LXII .**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Austrian Development Co-operation considers the protection or conservation of biological diversity not primarily a technical issue, but closely related to questions of livelihood security, socio-cultural strength and political power of local societies in sensitive regions and ecosystems. Sound natural environment and sustainable resource management are intrinsically linked to economic and social development. After all, integrative, participatory approaches in rural development programs, capacity building and local empowerment initiatives play a fundamental role for the resolution of critical ecological issues.

Accordingly, Austrian Development Co-operation incorporates activities related to biodiversity protection into wider integrated rural development projects, aiming mainly at improving the livelihoods of local communities and thus contributing to sustainable use of natural resources. Ideally activities related to conservation and use of biological diversity can serve as an instrument for poverty reduction. Successful examples of such Austrian funded projects are the indigenous honeybee project in the Himalayas or the Simien Mountain National Park Project in Ethiopia. Biodiversity related activities therefore equally contribute to goal one and goal seven of the MDGs

On the other hand environment and biodiversity are seen as cross cutting issues, which are mainstreamed into all strategies, programmes and projects. Mainstreaming in this case not only refers to mitigating negative effects to the environment and biodiversity but also to contributing to positively enhance the state of the environment. In this context Austrian development co-operation is contributing to the progress towards the 2010 target.

Through EIA processes all programmes and projects are screened towards their compliance with and support to relevant national strategies and action plans, including the biodiversity plans.

Still the capacities of Austrian Development Co-operation are rather limited. As a relatively small donor Austria is not able to provide capacity building and support to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity on a national level. Austrian support is mostly limited to a decentralized approach providing support at the district or local level.

## D. THEMATIC AREAS

**147.** Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the thematic programmes of work of the Convention (marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands and mountain biodiversity).

3 = High Challenge	1 = Low Challenge
2 = Medium Challenge	0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome
N/A = Not applicable	

Challenges	Programme of Work					
	Agricultural	Forest	Marine and coastal	Inland water ecosystem	Dry and subhumid lands	Mountain
(a) Lack of political will and support	0	0	N/A	0	1	1
(b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	1	0	N/A	0	1	1
(c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	2	1	N/A	1	1	2
(d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	1	1	N/A	1	1	1
(e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	1	1	N/A	0	0	0
(f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	1	1	N/A	0	0	0
(g) Loss of traditional knowledge	1	2	N/A	2	2	2
(h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	1	1	N/A	0	0	1
(i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	1	1	N/A	0	0	1

(j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	2	1	N/A	1	2	2
(k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	1	2	N/A	2	2	2
(l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	1	1	N/A	1	1	1
(m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	1	1	N/A	1	1	1
(n) Lack of economic incentive measures	1	2	N/A	1	1	1
(o) Lack of benefit-sharing	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
(p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	1	2	N/A	0	1	1
(q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	1	2	N/A	1	1	1
(r) Lack of effective partnerships	1	1	N/A	1	1	1
(s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	1	1	N/A	0	0	1
(t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	1	0	N/A	0	1	1
(u) Poverty	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
(v) Population pressure	N/A	1	N/A	1	1	1
(w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	2	1	N/A	1	2	2
(x) Lack of capacities for local communities	1	1	N/A	0	1	2
(y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	1	1	N/A	0	1	1
(z) Weak law enforcement capacity	0	1	N/A	0	0	2
(aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	2	1	N/A	1	1	2
(bb) Others (please specify)						

### Inland water ecosystems

**148.** Has your country incorporated the objectives and relevant activities of the programme of work into the following and implemented them? (decision VII/4)

Strategies, policies, plans and activities	No	Yes, partially, integrated but not implemented	Yes, fully integrated and implemented	N/A
a) Your biodiversity strategies and action plans				
b) Wetland policies and strategies		x		
c) Integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans being developed in line with paragraph 25 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development				
d) Enhanced coordination and cooperation between national actors responsible for inland water ecosystems and biological diversity				

Further comments on incorporation of the objectives and activities of the programme of work

- Austrian Wetland Strategy:

The strategy was adopted by the nine Austrian provincial governments and the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management ("Lebensministerium"). It provides an overview on the status of wetlands in Austria, shows general tendencies in the development of Austrian wetlands and sets up objectives for wetland conservation:

Maintenance of wetland areas and their ecological quality

Improvement of wetlands components and their quality

Implementation of "wise use" in wetlands

The implementation of the strategy should follow the principles of cooperation, participation and efficiency.

- Implementation of Water Frame Work Directive
- Reconstruction of heavily modified waterbodies (LIFE –project: ENV Living River Liesing), (Wienfluss)
- Ecological Monitoring for evaluation of the reconstruction work

<b>149.</b> Has your country identified priorities for each activity in the programme of work, including timescales, in relation to outcome oriented targets? (decision VII/4 )	
a) No	
b) Outcome oriented targets developed but priority activities not developed	
c) Priority activities developed but not outcome oriented targets	x
d) Yes, comprehensive outcome oriented targets and priority activities developed	
Further comments on the adoption of outcome oriented targets and priorities for activities, including providing a list of targets (if developed).	

<b>150.</b> Is your country promoting synergies between this programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level? (decision VII/4 )	
a) Not applicable (not Party to Ramsar Convention)	
b) No	
c) No, but potential measures were identified for synergy and joint implementation	x
d) Yes, some measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	
Further comments on the promotion of synergies between the programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level.	

<b>151.</b> Has your country taken steps to improve national data on: (decision VII/4 )			
Issues	Yes	No	No, but development is under way
a) Goods and services provided by inland water ecosystems?	x		
b) The uses and related socioeconomic variables of such goods and services?	x		
c) Basic hydrological aspects of water supply as they relate to maintaining ecosystem function?	x		
d) Species and all taxonomic levels?	x		
e) On threats to which inland water ecosystems are subjected?	x		



Further comments on the development of data sets, in particular a list of data sets developed in case you have replied "YES" above.

**152.** Has your country promoted the application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems? (decision VII/4 )

a) No, the guidelines have not been reviewed	<b>x</b>
b) No, the guidelines have been reviewed and found inappropriate	
c) Yes, the guidelines have been reviewed and application/promotion is pending	
d) Yes, the guidelines promoted and applied	

Further comments on the promotion and application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

**Box LXIII.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

**Marine and coastal biological diversity**

**General**

**153.** Do your country's strategies and action plans include the following? Please use an "X" to indicate your response. (decisions II/10 and IV/15)

a) Developing new marine and coastal protected areas	
b) Improving the management of existing marine and coastal protected areas	
c) Building capacity within the country for management of marine and coastal resources, including through educational programmes and targeted research initiatives (if yes, please elaborate on types of initiatives in the box below)	
d) Instituting improved integrated marine and coastal area management (including catchments management) in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loads into the marine environment	

e) Protection of areas important for reproduction, such as spawning and nursery areas	
f) Improving sewage and other waste treatment	
g) Controlling excessive fishing and destructive fishing practices	
h) Developing a comprehensive oceans policy (if yes, please indicate current stage of development in the box below)	
i) Incorporation of local and traditional knowledge into management of marine and coastal resources (if yes, please elaborate on types of management arrangements in the box below)	
j) Others (please specify below)	
k) Not applicable	<b>x</b>
Please elaborate on the above activities and list any other priority actions relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.	

### Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

<b>154.</b> Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) Early stages of development	
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	<b>x</b>
Further comments on the current status of implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management.	

<b>155.</b> Has your country implemented ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal resources, for example through integration of coastal management and watershed management, or through integrated multidisciplinary coastal and ocean management?	
a) No	
b) Early stages of development	
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	<b>x</b>
Further comments on the current status of application of the ecosystem to management of marine and coastal resources.	

### Marine and Coastal Living Resources

**156.** Has your country identified components of your marine and coastal ecosystems, which are critical for their functioning, as well as key threats to those ecosystems?

a) No	
b) Plans for a comprehensive assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
c) A comprehensive assessment is currently in progress	
d) Critical ecosystem components have been identified, and management plans for them are being developed (please provide details below)	
e) Management plans for important components of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of assessment, monitoring and research relating to marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as key threats to them

**N/A**

**157.** Is your country undertaking the following activities to implement the Convention's work plan on coral reefs? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.

Activities	Not implemented nor a priority	Not implemented but a priority	Currently implemented	Not applicable
a) Ecological assessment and monitoring of reefs				X
b) Socio-economic assessment and monitoring of communities and stakeholders				X
c) Management, particularly through application of integrated coastal management and marine and coastal protected areas in coral reef environments				X
d) Identification and implementation of additional and alternative measures for securing livelihoods of people who directly depend on coral reef services				X
e) Stakeholder partnerships, community participation programmes and public education campaigns				X
f) Provision of training and career opportunities for marine taxonomists and ecologists				X

g) Development of early warning systems of coral bleaching				<b>X</b>
h) Development of a rapid response capability to document coral bleaching and mortality				<b>X</b>
i) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded coral reef habitats				<b>X</b>
j) Others (please specify below)				<b>X</b>
Please elaborate on ongoing activities.				

### Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

<b>158.</b> Which of the following statements can best describe the current status of marine and coastal protected areas in your country? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.	
a) Marine and coastal protected areas have been declared and gazetted (please indicate below how many)	
b) Management plans for these marine and coastal protected areas have been developed with involvement of all stakeholders	
c) Effective management with enforcement and monitoring has been put in place	
d) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas is under development	
e) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas has been put in place	
f) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas managed for purpose of sustainable use, which may allow extractive activities	
g) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas which exclude extractive uses	
h) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas is surrounded by sustainable management practices over the wider marine and coastal environment.	
i) Other (please describe below)	
j) Not applicable	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the current status of marine and coastal protected areas.	

### Mariculture

159. Is your country applying the following techniques aimed at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity? Please check all that apply.	
a) Application of environmental impact assessments for mariculture developments	
b) Development and application of effective site selection methods in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management	
c) Development of effective methods for effluent and waste control	
d) Development of appropriate genetic resource management plans at the hatchery level	
e) Development of controlled hatchery and genetically sound reproduction methods in order to avoid seed collection from nature.	
f) If seed collection from nature cannot be avoided, development of environmentally sound practices for spat collecting operations, including use of selective fishing gear to avoid by-catch	
g) Use of native species and subspecies in mariculture	
h) Implementation of effective measures to prevent the inadvertent release of mariculture species and fertile polypoids.	
i) Use of proper methods of breeding and proper places of releasing in order to protect genetic diversity	
j) Minimizing the use of antibiotics through better husbandry techniques	
k) Use of selective methods in commercial fishing to avoid or minimize by-catch	
l) Considering traditional knowledge, where applicable, as a source to develop sustainable mariculture techniques	
m) Not applicable	<b>x</b>
Further comments on techniques that aim at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.	

### Alien Species and Genotypes

<b>160.</b> Has your country put in place mechanisms to control pathways of introduction of alien species in the marine and coastal environment? Please check all that apply and elaborate on types of measures in the space below.	
a) No	
b) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from ballast water have been put in place (please provide details below)	
c) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from hull fouling have been put in place (please provide details below)	
d) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from aquaculture have been put in place (please provide details below)	
e) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from accidental releases, such as aquarium releases, have been put in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	<b>x</b>
Further comments on the current status of activities relating to prevention of introductions of alien species in the marine and coastal environment, as well as any eradication activities.	

**Box LXIV.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>

### Agricultural biological diversity

<b>161. ?</b> Has your country developed national strategies, programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components? (decisions III/11 and IV/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but strategies, programmes and plans are under development	
c) Yes, some strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>
Further comments on agrobiodiversity components in national strategies, programmes and plans.	
<p>A special national biodiversity action plan for agriculture to implement agriculture-specific provisions of the National Biodiversity Strategy will be developed.</p> <p>The Austrian Programme on an environmentally sound and sustainable Agriculture (ÖPUL) is a nation-wide programme offered by the Government according to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1257/99 on agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the protection of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside.</p>	

<b>162. ?</b> Has your country identified ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>In-situ</i> and <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity? (decision V/5)	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures identified (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures identified (please provide details below)	
Further information on ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>In-situ</i> and <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.	
<p>Austria has actively monitored studies and followed the international discussion on the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs). With reference Ref. SCBD/STTM/MG/ia/32371 Austria submitted its views on GURTs:</p> <p>Abstract: Especially V-GURTs are likely to harm indigenous and local communities. As we are not able to solve the socio-economic problems with high-tech approaches, it is very likely that the introduction of V-GURTs will have an enormous negative impact on the poor subsistence farmers in developing countries and will enhance the likelihood of local and global food crises. Especially local and indigenous communities will be stricken very hard and most times they will be driven out of their land and add to the mass of landless farmers.</p> <p>GURTs have a high technological risk – indigenous and local communities usually do not have the means of control and counterbalancing possible harms – and have a high social and political risk – if we think of war, terrorism, local conflicts or unjust dependencies.</p>	

## Annex to decision V/5 - Programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

Programme element 1 – Assessment	
<b>163.</b> Has your country undertaken specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity such as on plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are in progress (please specify components below)	X
c) Yes, assessments completed (please specify components and results of assessments below)	
Further comments on specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity.	
<p>Since the end of the 60ies there has been ex-situ conservation of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) in Austria; now coordination is carried out by AGES (Agency for Health and Food Safety). Besides, also other Federal Offices and NGOs deal with this matter. At present there are about 6800 samples in the Austrian Gene banks (cereals 3200, large sized legumes 760, fodder crops 150, oil seeds 120, special crops 520, vegetables 200, medical and spice plants 600, fruits 660, vine 620)</p> <p>The Austrian Genebanks are integrated into international networks on genetic resources for food and agriculture, especially into the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR) which was founded on the basis of the recommendations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Genebank Committee of the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA).</p> <p>Austria also takes part in the EURISCO-project which was set up to create a European Plant Genetic Resources Search Catalogue with passport data on ex situ collections maintained in Europe.</p> <p>Austria is member of the "Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research" (CGIAR) since 1976 and the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety is co-operating with the CGIAR-Genebanks.</p>	

<b>164.</b> Is your country undertaking assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity referred to in Annex I of the Convention (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance)?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments completed (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments completed (please provide details below)	
Further comments on assessment of biodiversity components (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance).	
<p>This is one of the main tasks of evaluating the agri-environmental programme ÖPUL (see BOX IV). As a basis for this ongoing evaluation a lot of special research projects had been designed:</p> <p>Some results:</p> <p>The relationship between the various agri-environmental measures and biodiversity has been extensively evaluated both at species and habitat level. Though the measures have different dimensions to impact on biodiversity most of them are effective on species as well as habitat level. Especially measure, like "Tending of meadows in traditional orchards", "Small scaled structures elements in landscapes", "Tending of ecologically valuable areas" and "Designing new landscape</p>	



elements", have a direct impact on biodiversity and they represent 3 % of all UAA in Austria.

But also the support of organic farming methods which covers actually about 300.000 ha has an overall impact on species biodiversity. In a research project, comparing organic and conventional areas side by side, it could be demonstrated that the associated plant species in organic plots of winter crop are significantly increased compared to conventional production (increase of herbal plants to more than 100%). Specifically analyzed according to the threatened species in Austria, 26 of these herbal species had been within the Austrian Red Lists. 18 of these threatened herbs had been found only on organic cultivated land, 7 species both on organic and conventional land and only one species on conventional farmed land.

Measures like "Alpine pasturing and herding", "Mowing of steep slopes of mountain meadows" but also "Tending of ecologically valuable areas" contribute to farming in remote areas and are thus counterbalancing land abandonment and the loss habitat diversity.

Additionally a special national biodiversity monitoring programme (MOBI-e) is being developed.

**165.** Has your country carried out an assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for food production and food security?

a) No	
b) Yes, assessment is under way	X
c) Yes, assessment completed (please specify where information can be retrieved below)	

Further comments on assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities.

Concerning Traditional Knowledge (TK):

In Austria TK of PGR for food and agriculture cannot be assigned to ethnic groups but to people realising traditional professions related to PGR, e.g. small farmers, hunters, artisans, gatherers, herders, artisan food processors, etc.

In Austria TK cannot be localized in specific areas. Depending on the topic in all areas/regions TK can be found, which is related to PGR for food (e.g. use of pumpkin seeds of a local cultivator for seed oil)

Documentation of such traditional knowledge takes place, but only in a rather limited scope concerning scientific studies.

e.g. references:

Vogl-Lukasser, B., C. R. Vogl & H. Bolhar-Nordenkampf (2002): The composition of Homegardens on small peasant farms in the Alpine regions of Osttirol (Austria) and their function in sustainable rural development. In: Stepp, J.R., Wyndham, F.S., and R.K. Zarger (eds.). *Ethnobiology and Biocultural Diversity*. p. 648 – 659. University of Georgia Press; Athens, Georgia, USA.

Vogl-Lukasser, B. & C. R. Vogl (2002): Ethnobotany as an Interdisciplinary Tool for the Study of the Biocultural Management of Agrobiodiversity in Homegardens of Alpine Farmers in Eastern Tyrol, In: *Interdisciplinary Mountain Research*; Roberta Bottarin & Ulrike Tappeiner (eds.), p. 264 – 273. Blackwell Science, London.

Also a broad spectrum of descriptive documentation exists (but this is more "romantic" or used for museums); e.g. documentation

- i. on hand made tools or architecture of local buildings,
- ii. on management of traditional crops and cultivars;
- iii. on traditional food and processing

**166.** Has your country been monitoring an overall degradation, status quo or restoration/rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity since 1993 when the Convention entered into force?

a) No	X (only to some extend)
b) Yes, no change found (status quo)	
c) Yes, overall degradation found (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below)	

Further comments on observations.

A special national biodiversity monitoring programme is being developed (MOBI-e), which will provide information on this.

As for agriculture: According to the principle of prevention Austria supports special production systems to avoid degradation and loss of biodiversity. E.g. through the agri-environmental programme ÖPUL (e.g. Tending of ecologically valuable areas) and also through programmes for farms in less-favoured and mountainous areas.

### Programme element 2 - Adaptive management

**167.** Has your country identified management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive, and mitigate the negative, impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods?

a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, technologies and policies being identified	
c) Yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	

Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies.

This is one of the main tasks of evaluating the agri-environmental programme ÖPUL (see BOX IV). As a basis for this ongoing evaluation a lot of special research projects had been designed:

See also respective Question above

### Programme element 3 - Capacity-building

**168.** Has your country increased the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainable agricultural biodiversity and to develop strategies and methodologies for *In-situ* conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biological diversity?

a) No	
b) Yes (please specify area/component and target groups with increased capacity)	x

Further comments on increased capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their

organizations and other stakeholders.

Ad capacity building in agriculture: Special support programmes of educational and training programmes are in place: – for organic farming; - for nature protection – and for extension services and consulting in agri-environmental measures.

Vocational training in combination with environmental issues is an integrated part of the ÖPUL.

Some evaluation results: Educational measures play an important role in the implementation of programmes as the acceptance of other programme chapters rises as a result of accompanying education and training measures. The measure vocational training has contributed essentially to the improvement of the situation of Rural Areas, respectively of the people living in Rural Areas. Primarily the discussions with persons responsible for education have shown very clearly that the measure vocational training, which has been newly introduced in this period of the programme, has given rise to an education offensive. For the first time also more courses were offered on topics going beyond the simple optimisation of operating results, like the protection of the environment and the conservation of resources, provisions on animal hygiene and nature protection, and due to the subsidised fees these courses have been accepted very well. Expensive and time-consuming more comprehensive courses have become within the reach of everybody as a result of the aids for farmers. Moreover, by widening target groups it has become possible to extend educational offers in this programme period and to achieve even broader effects.

The funds spent so far have mainly been used for education and training projects, higher qualification, and special programmes e.g. for organic farming. Of the 9.6 million euro of the funds provided for the support of participants and organisers, 40% were used for courses on farm management, 20% for EDP courses, and 11.5% for courses on issues relating to the environment and organic farming.

Other training programmes operate at federal, provincial and regional levels.

E.g. training and seminar programmes for organic farming (similar projects also exist for integrating other environmental issues into the agricultural knowledge base.)

- i. Training plan for teachers and extension service providers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) with events for organic farming and species-appropriate animal keeping (special seminars and an extension service day of its own)
- ii. Education and training (as required) for organic farmers through official extension services, training institutes, organic farming associations as well as environmental counselling (partly also addressing consumers) – compulsory 3-day introductory courses on conversion to organic farming (associations, chambers of agriculture or jointly)
- ii. Special extension service training for organic farming since 1995 – organised by the BMLFUW
- v. General promotion of extension service providers; official extension services (provincial chambers of agriculture).
- v. Environmental counselling Austria
- vi. Currently, approx. 50 full-time extension service providers work for organic farming in the various associations and chambers of agriculture
- ii. Extension services provided by regional and specialised work groups in the individual associations and provinces
- ii. "Bildungsinitiative Organic Farming Tyrol": basic courses, further training courses, conferences, skilled worker groups, information system - various regional development projects including agricultural projects
- x. Farmers as organic extension service providers in Carinthia
- x. Organic consumer farmers, training seminar for organic farmers in Lower Austria and Burgenland

<b>169.</b> Has your country put in place operational mechanisms for participation by a wide range of stakeholder groups to develop genuine partnerships contributing to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential mechanisms being identified	
c) No, but mechanisms are under development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place	<b>x</b>

<b>170.</b> Has your country improved the policy environment, including benefit-sharing arrangements and incentive measures, to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures and arrangements being identified	
c) No, but measures and arrangements are under development	
d) Yes, measures and arrangements are being implemented (please specify below)	<b>x</b>

Further comments on the measures taken to improve the policy environment.

Ad Question 169:

As a co-ordination body, responsible for the development and implementation of the CBD and the Biodiversity Action Plans, the National Commission on Biological Diversity (NBCD) has been established in 1995. It constitutes a platform for regular information exchange, for co-ordinating the various programmes relevant for biodiversity, including the implementation of COP decisions as well as the preparation of national reports to the CBD. All relevant stakeholders are represented in the National Commission (federal and provincial governments, NGOs, scientists, public and private interest groups, etc.), which is also in charge of evaluation, further development etc. of the NBS. Decision-making of the Commission is generally based on consensus.

The evaluation of the agri-environmental programme has been supervised by the so-called "Evaluation board" ("Evaluierungsbeirat") consisting representatives of the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments, NGOs, scientists) since 1996. As regards NGOs, they are mainly active in environmental issues (WWF, Birdlife, etc.) and have a special focus on biodiversity.

<b>Programme element 4 – Mainstreaming</b>	
<b>171.</b> Is your country mainstreaming or integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes?	
a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) No, but potential frameworks and mechanisms are being identified	
d) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed and integrated into some sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
e) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed into major sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on mainstreaming and integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes.	
Concerning agriculture and the agri-environmental programme ÖPUL:	

At an international level the Austrian Programme on an environmentally sound and sustainable Agriculture (ÖPUL) is integrated into rural development scheme and environmental policies of the European Union and aims to promote an environmentally sustainable agricultural sector, while maintaining the importance of family farms. At national level it is integrated into the National Biodiversity Strategy aiming to protect and improve the environment and the maintenance of the countryside, landscape, natural resources, soil and genetic diversity. This programme, as a part of the National Biodiversity Strategy, is also linked together with the overall national Strategy for Sustainable Development.

**172.** Is your country supporting the institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans, and its integration into wider strategies and action plans for biodiversity?

a) No	
b) Yes, by supporting institutions in undertaking relevant assessments	X
c) Yes, by developing policy and planning guidelines	X
d) Yes, by developing training material	X
e) Yes, by supporting capacity-building at policy, technical and local levels	X
f) Yes, by promoting synergy in the implementation of agreed plans of action and between ongoing assessment and intergovernmental processes.	X

Further comments on support for institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms.

**173.** In the case of centers of origin in your country, is your country promoting activities for the conservation, on farm, *In-situ*, and *Ex-situ*, of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including their wild relatives?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on of the conservation of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture in their center of origin.

Concerning agriculture:

The centres of origin and diversity of important crop plants cultivated in Austria are situated in different climatic zones. However, many crop and vegetable plants have relatives in the wild. Among the grassland plants utilized in agriculture, many grasses and fodder plants are an original part of the indigenous flora or there are wild relatives of the same species or variety. The fruit species cultivated in Austria also frequently have wild relatives, which belong to the forest plants. Thus wild forms of apple, pear or sweet cherry are indigenous in our forests; berries, such as raspberries or blackberries occur in our forests as brushwood zone.

Wild fruit species, (e.g. bilberry, cowberry, sea buckthorn, elder berry), vegetables (mushrooms), and the diversified group of medicinal and spice plants (yellow gentian, arnica, chamomile, juniper) are directly utilized.

Landraces are varieties of cultivated plants, which have always or for a long time been cultivated in a certain area or originate from there. In order to find out the possibilities of promotion according to EC regulation 2078/94, an expertise of "officially recognized, threatened valuable crop plants" was prepared in Austria in 1994. This list of varieties – which was and is updated from time to time - includes varieties of agricultural and horticultural cropplants, which:

- are threatened by extinction
- have properties worth to be preserved
- and are still of (mostly low) importance in present farming practice.

The above varieties are representatives of the categories indigenous varieties, elder selections of indigenous varieties, elder cultivars, exceptionally more modern cultivars with specific properties (e.g. naked oats).

Austrian landraces are found among all grain species cultivated in the country, maize and millet, potatoes, many vegetable species (onions, garlic, garden bean, lettuce, tomatoes, radish, cabbage, etc.) as well as among special crops, such as medicinal and spice plants. In particular in case of grains they are partly of local significance for biological farming and second generations.

Landraces of vegetable and fruit species are found in farm gardens and scattered orchards - often for self-supply. Apart from these varieties, which are still utilized, landraces of many species are stored in the Austrian genebanks, which in the future may not be important for direct cultivation, but for plant breeding.

#### ex-situ conservation:

Since the end of the 60ies there has been ex-situ conservation of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) in Austria; now coordination is carried out by AGES (Agency for Health and Food Safety). Besides, also other Federal Offices and NGOs deal with this matter. At present there are about 6800 samples in the Austrian Gene banks (cereals 3200, large sized legumes 760, fodder crops 150, oil seeds 120, special crops 520, vegetables 200, medical and spice plants 600, fruits 660, vine 620)

#### Outside the country – ex-situ networks:

The Austrian Genebanks are integrated into international networks on genetic resources for food and agriculture, especially into the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR) which was founded on the basis of the recommendations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Genebank Committee of the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA).

Austria also takes part in the EURISCO-project which was set up to create a European Plant Genetic Resources Search Catalogue with passport data on ex situ collections maintained in Europe.

Austria is member of the "Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research" (CGIAR) since 1976 and the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety is co-operating with the CGIAR-Genebanks.

#### In-situ conservation within ÖPUL:

##### A) Animal Genetic Resources - Keeping and rearing endangered animal species:

With the first agri-environmental ÖPUL programme starting in 1995 the interest in endangered breeds of all species grew towards sustainable conservation. In Situ or On Farm Conservation is the main method of gene conservation schemes in Austria. To keep the breed in its natural habitat and use it in the traditional way is regarded to be the best approach to a sustainable conservation. But on farm conservation of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) can only be successful if a market for the products exists and if it supported according to the loss of productivity compared to modern high yielding breeds.

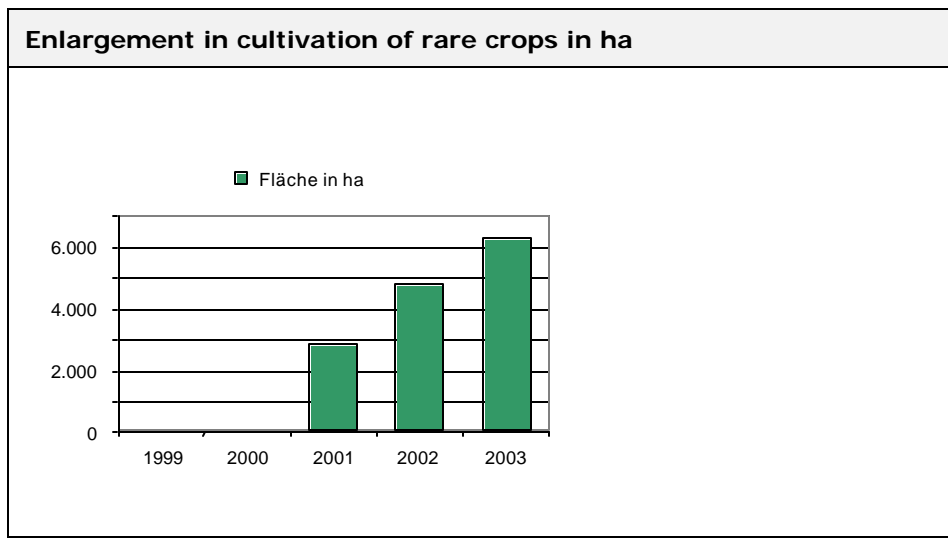
In the first programme-period (ÖPUL-95) more than 3500 farms took part in "Keeping and rearing endangered breeds". This program succeeded in preventing a further drop in population figures of all endangered breeds in the program. However it was not feasible in promoting sustainable gene conservation programs as pure breeding was the only requirement for joining the program. Furthermore the head count for breeds to be ranked as highly endangered was too restrictive and the list of eligible species and breeds was not complete. For the second period (ÖPUL2000) the programme had to be adjusted and the measure was reorganized.

In 2003 more than 4.300 farms with more than 18.600 animals took part in the programme, so participation and acceptance as well as the efficiency of the programme on AnGR could be increased. Many populations could be stabilised and the diversity of breeding lines within larger populations could be preserved. There is a need for a long term project in the conservation of endangered

species.

**B) Plant Genetic resources: Cultivation of rare agricultural crops:**

The planting of rare agricultural crops had been incorporated into the ÖPUL at the beginning in 1995 and it was thought to enhance in-situ and/or on farm conservation of plant genetic resources. But since there had been some restrictions combined to this measure, the level of acceptance was very low. With the re-adjustment and re-organization of ÖPUL in 2000 the measure could be joined with organic farming or with the measures like "refraining and/or reduction from the use of specified yield-raising farming substances on arable land" and thus the level of acceptance grew rapidly (Figure 1). The main objective of the measure is to increase the planting of regionally valuable crops threatened with extinction.



**Box LXV.**

Please provide information concerning the actions taken by your country to implement the Plan of Action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.

**Box LXVI.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- constraints encountered in implementation.

## Forest Biological Diversity

### General

<b>174.</b> Has your country incorporated relevant parts of the work programme into your national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes?	
a) No	
b) Yes, please describe the process used	Recently the Austrian Implementation Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity was further developed and updated. During this participatory process members of the Austrian National Biodiversity Commission were invited to discuss and prepare targets for the further developed biodiversity strategy.
c) Yes, please describe constraints/obstacles encountered in the process	X
d) Yes, please describe lessons learned	X
e) Yes, please describe targets for priority actions in the programme of work	X
Further comments on the incorporation of relevant parts of the work programme into your NBSAP and forest programmes	
<p>In 2003 a case-study was finalised on the "Evaluation of the Implementation of CBD Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity and the IPF- and IFF- Proposals for Action in Austria" commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and carried out by the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (2003). This study identified several areas (goals, objectives, activities), which should be addressed in the further implementation of the work programme. However, the process of setting up goals, objectives and activities has not been finalized yet.</p> <p>Furthermore, synergies and differences in the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on forest biological diversity and the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action were identified.</p> <p>(PÜLZL, H. (2003): Evaluierung der Umsetzung des erweiterten Arbeitsprogramms für die biologische Vielfalt der Wälder und der IPF/IFF-Aktionsvorschläge in Österreich. Endbericht des Instituts f. Sozioökonomik der Forst- und Holzwirtschaft. Wien.)</p> <p>The Austrian implementation strategy for CBD of 1998 is currently being further developed.</p> <p>Both, the national biodiversity strategies and the national forestry programme recognize the importance of forest genetic resources for Austria. Genetic diversity, i.e. diversity at the subspecies</p>	



(= intraspecific) level is a critical component of biodiversity in its totality because it allows the species to evolve over time and in space and thus plays a key role for the long-term survival of a given species or population and ecosystem stability. The genetic loss has been an acknowledged preoccupation in society, however, its long-term relevance of forest genetic resources for human welfare is not always recognized in Austria. To make a better use of existing potentials and to minimize negative impacts of genetic impoverishment in forests, there is a need for a sound management of their genetic resources.

Austrian Forest Dialogue:

To help in reconciling the diverse demand placed on forests now and in the future, and to comply with international obligations to promote sustainable forest management, the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management officially launched the Austrian Forest Dialogue on the 9th of April 2003. The Austrian Forest Dialogue serves as the framework to develop an Austrian Forest Action Programme.

The Austrian Forest Dialogue aims to reach a social consensus with respect to an ecologically, socio-cultural, and economically sustainable forest management and to emphasize the vital role that the forestry sector can play within the framework of sustainable development. The Austrian Forest Programme as an outcome of the dialogue-process thus constitutes an essential part of the Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development.

The Austrian Forest Programme will not only contain principals, goals and recommendations for action, but constitutes also the framework for concrete forest political measures. Hence it is the objective of the Forest Action Programme to formulate operational guidelines on discussion areas, which will help to shape the short-, medium- or long-term future development of forestry policy in Austria.

At the time being, four principles and seven goals are dedicated to forest biodiversity. These principles and goals are strongly related to the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity.

**Box LXVII.**

Please indicate what recently applied tools (policy, planning, management, assessment and measurement) and measures, if any, your country is using to implement and assess the programme of work. Please indicate what tools and measures would assist the implementation.

**Box LXVIII.**

Please indicate to what extent and how your country has involved indigenous and local communities, and respected their rights and interests, in implementing the programme of work.

In general Austrian policy has a number of participatory mechanisms in place, which secure proper participation in decisions also relevant to biodiversity aspects. A specific form is the legally based so called "social partnership" providing structures and procedures for balancing diverging interests of different groups of society, represented by chambers and similar organisations (for agriculture and forestry, commerce and trade, labour etc.). They have a strong impact on the formulation of policy programmes and legislation.

## Box LXIX.

Please indicate what efforts your country has made towards capacity building in human and capital resources for the implementation of the programme of work.

- The Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Federal Austrian Government in April 2002 aims to stop or reverse unsustainable trends in order to guarantee an ecologically, economically and socially successful future. It also stipulates the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity of forests in order to safeguard quality, health and vitality of forests.
- In August 2002, the Austrian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management launched the Austrian Forest Dialogue, a process according to the internationally agreed principles for national forest programmes (NFPs), in order to develop a Forest Programme for Austria (for more information see above).
- Beside the Austrian Forestry Law and other policy instruments like the national forest programme, the most important instrument is a well-established system of forest subsidies. Austria provides forest owners with a measure of support from public funds of around 18 million EURO a year for specific activities. The Austrian Rural Development Programme ("Österreichisches Programm für die Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums"), under Council Regulation EC No 1257/99, comprises all measures which, from 2000 onward, are to be offered in Austria within the framework of the relevant Council Regulation.

Within this programme forest grants pursues the following goals:

- Maintenance and sustainable development of the multiple functions of forests, in particular with respect to their economic, ecological and social functions
- Integration of forestry into the activities promoting the preservation and sustainable development of rural areas
- Conservation, development and sustainable management of forests
- Coherence with other Community policies and compliance with Community law
- The variety of genetic properties of forests is a precondition for their adaptation to future burdens and environmental changes and, consequently, for their survival. The Federal Office and Research Center of Forests has therefore prepared a plan for the maintenance of the genetic resources of the forest tree population. Alpine adaptation forms and rare indigenous tree species are given special consideration. Gene reserves are selected and looked after for the forest of tomorrow, forest seeds are long-term stored and seed plantations installed for the production of high-quality seed.
- The Alpine Convention signed by the eight Alpine countries is an instrument to balance economy and ecology in a mountain region. It is a framework convention for the protection and sustainable development of the Alpine region, with implementing protocols on the 8 topics, including mountain forests. In December 2002 the protocols entered into force and are currently under implementation process in Austria.
- Regarding the conservation of forests in Austria, the "Natural Forest Reserves Programme", was launched in 1995. The programme was established also in order to implement the Helsinki Resolution H2 and aims at establishing a representative network of natural forest reserves. These reserves are established on a voluntary basis, by contracts between the Republic of Austria and forest owners, which commit themselves – for a period of 20 years - to refrain from the use or management activities (except hunting). Forest owners are compensated for their services rendered and for their loss of profit. Up till now, 180 reserves are established covering an area of about 8,300 ha.
- Protection/restoration of forest biological diversity is one of the major objectives of National Parks in Austria, especially in those with large forest areas or dominated by forests (Donau-Auen, Kalkhochalpen, Thayatal, Hohe Tauern).
- The EU Network NATURA 2000, based on Nature Protection Directives of the EU, namely the Birds- and the Fauna/Flora/Habitats- Directives, will significantly contribute to the conservation of forest biological diversity in Austria. At the moment Austria has designated about 16 % of its territory as conservation areas, nearly half of these areas are forests.

Since 1994 the Minister responsible for Forestry has awarded forest owners managing their forests in an exemplary sustainable manner with the State Prize of Exemplary Forest Management. By means of accompanying public relations and information activities their successful work is made accessible to the broad public. This initiative also contributes to programmes and policies aiming at promoting sustainable forest management.

**Box LXX.**

Please indicate how your country has collaborated and cooperated (e.g., south-south, north-south, south-north, north-north) with other governments, regional or international organizations in implementing the programme of work. Please also indicate what are the constraints and/or needs identified.

Since 1990, Austria is actively involved in the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) and currently shapes together with other Parties several EUFORGEN-networks on forest genetic resources. Several networks have been chaired or co-chaired by Austrian forest geneticists. Currently Austria takes part in following networks: (1) conifers, (2) broadleaves with scattered distribution (3) broadleaves with wide distribution, (4) forest management and (5) information.

**Expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity**

<b>Programme element 1 – Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing</b>	
<b>175.</b> Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?	
a) No (please provide reasons below)	
b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below)	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impact on forest management, constraints, needs, tools, and targets).	
<p>A comprehensive study was published by the Austrian Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt) that explores basic issues of a future application of the ecosystem approach in the specific context of Austrian forest ecosystems. The study also features two Austrian case studies on community level. It was conducted by the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.</p> <p>HECKL, F., LEXER, W., VACIK, H., WOLFSLEHNER, B., HACKL, J. (2003): Grundlagen für die Umsetzung des Ökosystemaren Ansatzes des „Übereinkommens über die biologische Vielfalt“ - Aspekte des Schutzes und der nachhaltigen Nutzung der biologischen Vielfalt am Beispiel des österreichischen Waldes. Umweltbundesamt Bericht, Bd. BE-153. Umweltbundesamt, Wien. [<i>Foundations for the implementation of Ecosystem Approach defined under the CBD – Aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity illustrated by the example of Austrian forests</i>]  <a href="http://www.biodiv.at/chm/berichte/BE153/BE153.pdf">[http://www.biodiv.at/chm/berichte/BE153/BE153.pdf]</a></p> <p>An extensive summary of the study has been submitted to the Secretariat of the CBD and included in its list of international case study examples on the CBD website <a href="http://www.biodiv.org/doc/case-studies/esys/cs-esys-at-fea-en.pdf">[http://www.biodiv.org/doc/case-studies/esys/cs-esys-at-fea-en.pdf]</a>.</p> <p>On regional level Austria participates in the MCPFE/PEBLDS framework agreement, which also includes further work on the implementation of the ecosystem approach at regional level.</p>	

In general, it is felt very important to make the concept of the ecosystem more practicable and in particular clearly clarify the links between the concepts of the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management.

176. Has your country undertaken measures to reduce the threats to, and mitigate its impacts on forest biodiversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions

The Austrian Parliament has adopted a significant amendment of the Austrian Forest Law in 2002. It has been amended in accordance with current national and international developments in particular with regard to the Resolutions of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe (MCPFE). Nature and environmental protection issues have been taken up by forest legislation with regard to the following aspects: the habitat effect of forests as programmatic goal in the Forest Act (§1), forests with specific habitats can be released from forest management duties (§32a), the district forest authority shall take into consideration interests of nature protection in weighting up public interests for permitting the clearing of forests for other uses (§17), the maintenance of forest genetic resources as well as the support for natural regeneration and mixed stands. With regard to ecological goals, such as the recognition of the variety of ecosystems, the maintenance of biodiversity as well as the preservation of forest lands for reasons of nature and landscape protection, it has to be noted that these mainly are regulated in the nature protection laws of the Austrian provinces.

#### Objective 1: Invasive Alien Species

The knowledge about alien species is differing widely between different taxonomic groups. Relatively well-known are vascular plants, poorly known are e.g. algae and fungi. The knowledge existing is the result of many scientific projects and special emphasis should be put on this field in coming years. E.g. thesis at universities or projects should be dedicated to the most harmful and problematic alien plant species in Austria. But intense research in this field requires better financial support.

A first inventory of alien plant species has recently been produced. There is a great necessity (based on reliable scientific data) to investigate the threats alien plant species pose on the diversity of the autochthonous flora.

Law: The introduction of alien plant species requires a permission in 8 of the 9 Austrian „provinces“. Above that, in 6 „provinces“ „modern“ agriculture and forestry is exempted from this obligation.

Awareness raising: Various activities have been carried out to raise general awareness on this issue (booklet, expert meeting, internet). The issue is considered in the National Strategy for the Implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity. The Austrian Biodiversity Commission developed an action plan to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of alien invasive species in Austria.

#### Objective 2: Impact of pollution

- The Austrian Forest Act amended in 2002 regulates the atmospheric pollution which is damaging to the forests. The respective paragraphs are dedicated to prevent measurable damages to the forest, soil or plant cover (forest vegetation).
- Forest Damaging monitoring system
- National Environment Programme

See target 7.2. Emission levels of many forest-effective air pollutants have been considerably reduced during the last decades.

#### Objective3: Negative impacts of climate change

- Austrian Climate Strategy
- Implementation of MCPFE Resolution V5 on Climate Change and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe.

The Austrian Climate Change Strategy to meet the Kyoto goals contains a cluster of forestry related measures in order to increase overall forest ecosystem stability and adaptivity. Guidelines for the financial support of reforestation and afforestation measures are strongly oriented towards the potentially natural vegetation since 1999. However, studies have started that priority restoration measures need to be taken in secondary coniferous forests in the lowlands which already show destabilisation symptoms induced by climate change (e.g. LEXER et al., 2001).

#### Objective4: Forest fires

- Due to extreme climate conditions during the last years forest fires are becoming also a problem in Austria. In Austria there are regulations in regards to the prevention of forest fires. The state covers to some extent the forest fire insurance costs.
- The forest act regulates also the forest fire prevention.

#### Objective5: Loss of natural disturbances

The corresponding objective of the Programme of Work is relevant to Austria in so far as the predominant portion of the Austrian forests is being utilized for timber production purposes. In these forests the dynamics of natural ecological processes, succession cycles and natural disturbances, as they are typical of primeval and natural forests (e.g. natural collapsing of very old stands, gaps created by the collapse of individual trees or of small clusters of trees, natural regeneration of areas affected by windthrows or other natural catastrophes, high percentage of old wood and dead wood, etc.), have been affected by management practices. Also the natural flood dynamics of floodplain forests has been considerably reduced by regulation of river systems and the building of hydro-electric power plants. (See also protected areas and forest nature reserves (Box above)).

#### Objective6: Fragmentation and conversion to other land use:

Conversion to other land use is to a large extent prohibited by the National Forest Act. However, as a consequence of the latest amendment to the Forest Act clearings below the size of 1.000 m<sup>2</sup> now no longer require formal permission from the authorities, but need to register the intended clearing fellings with the forest authority. Measures undertaken to reduce forest fragmentation include, e.g., Environmental Impact Assessments for infrastructure projects according to the national EIA act, implementation of the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in various federal and provincial laws, scientific studies with recommendations to conserve and restore (forest) landscape connectivity for wildlife (VÖLK et al., 2001; GRILLMAYER et al., 2002). Work on the identification of supra-regional wildlife ecological corridors as well as on the re-development of guidelines for road planners with respect to wildlife passages (RVS "Wildlife Protection") is in progress. The implementation of MCPFE Resolution V4, para. 11 contributes to the achievement of this objective.

b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to reduce threats to, and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
<p>According to the Austrian Forest Act only a certain spectrum of tree species is allowed to be planted. However, this list of tree species contains some alien species (Source: Austrian Inventory on IAS) on account of economic reasons. Some of these species are classified as "invasive" (e.g. Robinia pseudoacacia) or potentially "invasive" (e.g. Pinus strobus).</p> <p>Examples of measures that have been taken to mitigate the effects of loss of disturbances include, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Installation of a network of nature forest reserves aiming at, inter alia, investigating natural ecological processes and developing respective methods of close-to-nature silviculture.</li> <li>• In nature protection areas under nature conservation legislation, such as national parks, the toleration of natural succession cycles and related disturbances is possible.</li> <li>• The Austrian Forest Act amended in 2002 grants exceptions to certain regulations in forests within nature protection areas which can be used to allow more natural processes to take place. For instance, after bark beetle attacks or windthrows it is now possible to leave a larger amount of dead wood in these forests without instantly having to remove it.</li> <li>• Activities to restore some of the regulated floodplain forest ecosystems to some extent are taking place.</li> <li>• Deregulations of river systems and close-to-nature river regulation techniques are being applied.</li> <li>• Soft", close-to-nature techniques of torrent and avalanche control are being applied which allow natural ecological disturbances to a limited extent</li> </ul> <p>Manifold measures have been taken in Austria to protect or sustainably use forest biodiversity. A positive long-term trend can be seen towards an increase in the proportions of deciduous tress, natural regeneration and small-scale use.</p>		

<b>177.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity?		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities

		<p>The Austrian Forest Act amended in 2002 puts stronger emphasis on the conservation of biological diversity.</p> <p>Restrictions regarding forest management inside nature protection areas are possible according to ordinances. Designation of protected areas includes forests (e.g. in National Parks). The Natura I Forest Reserves Programme consists of 180 forest reserves, covering a total of 8,272 ha (2004).</p> <p>Objective 2: bogs and swamps programme of Austrian State Forests Ltd., capercaillie programmes</p> <p>Objective 3: National Forest Reserves Programme, various other PFAs</p> <p>In Lower Austria a riparian ecosystem has been restored with appropriate genetic plant material. Black poplar – IUCN red listed – is threatened by extensive use hybrids and habitat loss. Austria holds one of the European black poplar collections identified by means of DNA analysis. Plant material originating from this clone collection was used for this restoration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulations of the Forest Act</li> <li>• Implementation of respective MCPFE Resolutions and support of the framework for co-operation between MCPFE and PEBLDS</li> <li>• Forest subsidies dedicated to foster especially rare and biological valuable species</li> <li>• Implementation of NATURA 2000: Management plans for forest NATURA 2000 sites are in place or being developed.</li> <li>• National Parks</li> <li>• Austrian Forest nature reserves network</li> </ul> <p>For more information see also box above!</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>
<p>Further comments on measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).</p> <p>Yes, e.g. Nature Forest Protection Programme (Naturwaldreservate - Programm);</p>		

<b>178.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures to promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity?		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes	X	Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities

In the Austrian Forest Act amended in 2002 the ensuring of sustainable forest management is defined as an objective. As an objective of sustainable forest management the long-term conservation of forest biological diversity is set out. The regulation does not have directly legally binding effects on the practice of forest management, but has to be understood as a programmatic declaration. The amendment of the Forest Act puts stronger emphasis on the promotion of biological diversity, but the actual effects of individual regulations on biodiversity have not been evaluated yet.

With regard to the harvesting of non-timber forest resources, from regionally high levels of forest damage caused by ungulates it must be concluded that sustainability of hunting management has not been accomplished everywhere yet. A change of practice, such as following the trends of sustainable hunting and wildlife ecological spatial planning, is recommended as a suitable solution.

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a subject of the Austrian Forest Dialogue which will lead to the Austrian National Forest Programme (Autumn 2005). Specific principle, targets and measurements have been defined and elaborated.

#### National Programme on Forest genetic richness:

Since the mid-eighties, Austria took specific measures to implement the national programme on forest genetic richness. In doing so the ecological and economic importance of genetic resources for political action was recognized. In order to insure adaptational processes over tree generations and thus evolution of forest tree species over time, *in situ* measures were strongly favoured as dynamic means. Since data on adaptive genetic variation were not available, a network of genetic reserves distributed along environmental gradients was established. Today, this network represents forests from many ecoregions and comprises 312 conservation units totalling 8.900 hectares. As static means, *ex situ* measures were chosen and a seed bank and 67 conservation orchards comprising 21 tree species, 53 provenances with a total area of 115 hectares were established.

New international commitments, growing knowledge in conservation genetics and related fields, changes in the dynamics of forest health conditions and different future risks including climate change require an update of the programme. The conservation of genetic resources is still an important political goal. Hence, the "Agrarrechtsänderungsgesetz" explicitly mentions as one of the tasks the implementation of forest genetic conservation or the EU- Council Directive 1999/105 puts emphasis on the genetic diversity when moving forest reproductive material in trade. The initial priority to maintain the adaptability as the main prerequisite to ensure evolutionary processes and therefore the maintenance of adaptability is still valid in an unrestricted manner. In the last decades, the importance of certain threats has changed. Global climate change, loss and alteration of habitats, bottleneck of regional supplies of appropriate forest reproductive material, natural regeneration of genetically inferior stands, inappropriate use of forest reproductive material and especially overstocking of game species impel conservation means. Additional *in situ* genetic reserves should be identified in following ecoregions: *Pannonisches Tiefland*, *Pannonisches Hügelland*, *Mühlviertel* and *Nördliches Alpenvorland*. Certain *ex situ* measures (seed storages in the seed bank) will not be longer maintained and the management intensity of certain seed orchards will be restricted in the future. National Parks and the core zones of Biosphere Parks should be declared as gene protection areas where autochthonous forest reproductive material is exclusively used. To achieve adaptable and genetically sustainable forests, genetic aspects should increasingly be embedded in regular forest management. Currently it is proposed that the conservation of forest genetic resources follows the principles of a Passive Adaptive Management. An important component is that selected forest enterprises are involved. Reforestation that is subsidized should be evaluated from a genetical point of view and the data obtained should be used for monitoring and modelling. Supplemental data could be collected within the framework of controlling the domestic trade with forest reproductive material and could be used as additional input for the Adaptive Management. It is further proposed that data on the movement of forest reproductive material in trade, especially within the EU is used as additional information source. The revised programme 'Sustained Utilisation of Forest Genetic Resources' should be one important element of the National Forest Programme of Austria as it was addressed in the Resolution 4 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests (Vienna 2003) in Europe.

- Forest subsidies dedicated to foster especially rare and biological valuable species
- Forest subsidies dedicated to silvicultural methods promoting biological diversity; Subsidies for close to nature silviculture measures are granted by the government
- Extension work; advisory activities to promote forest biological diversity
- Fostering the development of Technical Forestry Plans to support the sustainable use of forest biological diversity



b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the promotion of the sustainable use of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
In addition to various regional and provincial programmes (e.g. Viennese Woods Declaration) as well as Provincial Laws on Nature Protection promote the sustainable use.		

<b>179.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures to promote access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 5 and describe measures undertaken
		Plants which have been reproduced by scientific institutions are integrated into forest and/or already existing individual stands or trees are deliberately preserved and naturally regenerated. The variety of genetic properties of forests is a precondition for their adaptation to future burdens and environmental changes and, consequently, for their survival. The Federal Office and Research Center of Forests has therefore prepared a plan for the maintenance of the genetic resources of the forest tree population. Alpine adaptation forms and rare indigenous tree species are given special consideration. Gene reserves are selected and looked after for the forests of tomorrow, forest seeds are long-term stored and seed plantations installed for the production of high-quality seed.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the promotion of access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources. (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets)		
However, this objective has not yet been dealt with in detail.		

<b>Programme element 2 – Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment</b>		
<b>180.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures to enhance the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing?		
Options	X	Details

a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Austrian Forest Act</li> <li>• Austrian Forest Dialogue</li> <li>• Alpine convention</li> <li>• Framework for cooperation between MCPFE and PEBLDS</li> <li>• Austrian Biodiversity Commission</li> <li>• Impact assessment law and regulations</li> </ul>
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the enhancement of the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

<b>181.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures to address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity?		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
		Please see remarks above!
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on review of socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

**182.** Is your country undertaking any measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity?

Options	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes	<b>X</b>	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest Dialogue</li> <li>• Forest-related education is a new priority of the Austrian Forestry Policy. It aims at developing an understanding for the relation "forest-human-environment"</li> <li>• Various publications related to forest biodiversity</li> <li>• Public relation to enhance the public awareness regarding the ecological, economic and social functions of forests.</li> <li>• Week of the forests – has become an annual fixed date in the timetable of events of forestry public relation</li> <li>• Action "Tree of the Year"</li> <li>• Since 1994 the Minister responsible for Forestry has awarded forest owners managing their forests in an exemplary sustainable manner with the State Prize of Exemplary Forest Management. By means of accompanying public relations and information activities their successful work is made accessible to the broad public. This initiative also contributes to programmes and policies aiming at promoting sustainable forest management.</li> <li>• Waldschule ("forest school")</li> </ul>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>
<p>Further comments on measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).</p>		

**Programme element 3 – Knowledge, assessment and monitoring**

**183.** Is your country undertaking any measures to characterize forest ecosystems at various scales in order to improve the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to give answer to the question, to which extend man has influenced the forest ecosystems (“naturalness of forests”) a research project was carried out within the UNESCO Programme “Man and the Biosphere: the Naturalness of Austria’s Forests and Forest Ecosystems</li> <li>• Implementation of the MCPFE Resolution V4</li> <li>• Forest natural reserves network</li> </ul> <p>The Austrian Forest Inventory provides in-situ data on forested land, growing stock, increment, etc., but also offers valuable information to answer questions about forest status development and forest biological diversity. Apart from the sustainability of timber production, primarily non-market forest functions such as biodiversity conservation, ecological stability and the status of regeneration are being assessed by means of „ecological“ parameters and, sometimes, using surveying methods from other biophysical sciences.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

Further comments on characterization of forest ecosystems at various scales (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

A classification system is in place: forest ecosystem types according to Annex 1 of the fauna-flora-habitat-directive of the EU

ESSL, F., EGGER, G., ELLMAUER, Th., AIGNER, S. (2002): Rote Liste der gefährdeten Biotoptypen Österreichs. Wälder, Forste, Vorwälder. Umweltbundesamt Monographie, Bd. M-156. Wien. (ESSL, F., EGGER, G., ELLMAUER, Th., AIGNER, S. (2002): Red List of Threatened Biotope Types in Austria. Forests, plantations and advanced stands. Umweltbundesamt Monographie, Bd. M-156. Wien)

184. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve knowledge on, and methods for, the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>The Austrian Forest Inventory has incorporated parameters appropriate to describe biodiversity aspects during its last two inventory periods. Appropriate technical analysis and interpretation of these biodiversity-related data may contribute to increasing the understanding of some causes of biodiversity losses to a limited extent, although this is not the main task of the inventory.</p> <p>In 2003, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry Environment and Water management commissioned a research project to develop a concept for a biodiversity monitoring in Austria (MOBI-e), building on the results available in Austria and taking into consideration experience gained in other countries.</p> <p>Furthermore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of MCPFE Resolution L2</li> <li>- Implementation of MCPFE Criteria</li> <li>- Austrian Forest Report: issued on a regular basis; it gives an overview of the status quo of the Austrian forests</li> </ul>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>
<p>Further comments on improvement of knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).</p>		

185. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Austrian Forest Dialogue</li> <li>- A range of scientific studies are carried out by different Austrian research institutions</li> <li>- Implementation of MCPFE Resolution V4 Para 17 "Conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity in Europe"</li> </ul>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

Further comments on the improvement of the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).	

<b>186.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures at national level to improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biodiversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
		<p>The Austrian Forest Inventory is the most intensive monitoring system in Austrian forests. It was initiated 40 years ago. Given the vital economic and ecological importance of forests the Federal Forest Research Centre in Vienna installed a special research institute to conduct these investigations. The Austrian Forest Inventory has been adapted to specific MCPFE C &amp; I requirements (e.g. deadwood).</p> <p>The Austrian Forest Inventory provides data on forested land, growing stock, increment, etc., but also offers valuable information to answer questions about forest status development and forest biological diversity. Apart from the sustainability of timber production, primarily non-market forest functions such as biodiversity conservation, ecological stability and the status of regeneration are being assessed by means of „ecological“ parameters and, sometimes, using surveying methods from other biophysical sciences. Since 2002 it has been collected key ecological and economic data on more than 11,000 monitoring plots all over Austria in order to provide forest policy, forest economy and forest science with updated basic information for legal and planning measures. GPS technology is used in order to allow the combination of terrestrial data with information from satellites imagery in the future.</p> <p>In addition, the Federal Ministry for Agriculture also monitors all tree fellings on an annual basis .</p> <p>In order to avoid any conflicts of interest between the many forest „users“, interdisciplinary planning and control have become a necessity. Presenting and describing the whole of Austria’s forests, the Forest Development Plan (WEP) is currently the most important tool for assessing forest functions of public interest. A special form of the Forest Development Plan is the Technical Forestry Plan. It is a plan drafted by the owner of the forest or by offices appropriate for this purpose, which includes representations and plans for the area of interest of the party responsible for the planning.</p>
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the improvement of the infrastructure for data and information management (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

**Box LXXI.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

**Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands**

**187.** Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work? (decisions V/23 and VII/2 )

a) No

x

b) Yes (please provide details below)

Further comments on scientific, technical and financial support, at the national and regional levels, to the activities identified in the programme of work.

**188.** Has your country integrated actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)

a) No

x

b) Yes (please provide details below)

Further comments on actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands integrated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD.

<b>189.</b> Has your country undertaken measures to ensure synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD process and other processes under related environmental conventions? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)	
a) No	x
b) Yes, some linkages established (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, extensive linkages established (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to ensure the synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD processes and other processes under related environmental conventions.	

<b>Programme Part A: Assessment</b>	
<b>190.</b> Has your country assessed and analyzed information on the state of dryland biological diversity and the pressures on it, disseminated existing knowledge and best practices, and filled knowledge gaps in order to determine adequate activities? (Decision V/23, Part A: Assessment, Operational objective, activities 1 to 6)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessment is ongoing	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive assessment undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the relevant information on assessments of the status and trends and dissemination of existing knowledge and best practices.	
Austrian Dry Grasslands Atlas ( "Trockenrasenatlas")	

<b>Programme Part B: Targeted Actions</b>	
<b>191.</b> Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences? (part B of annex I of decision V/23, activities 7 to 9)	
a) No	x
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences.	



<b>192.</b> Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) No	x
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, all identified capacity needs met (please provide details below)	
Further comments on measures taken to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work.	

**Box LXXII.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>
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**Dry grasslands are conserved within the EU-Network NATURA 2000.**  
**Several initiatives aiming at raising public awareness of dry grasslands and other ecosystems in the sub continental region have been carried out, e.g. exhibitions, publications.**

**Mountain Biodiversity**

Detailed information can also be drawn from the Austrian Thematic Report on the Mountain Ecosystems, which was submitted to the CBD Secretariat in October 2002, as well as in other also for mountain ecosystems relevant thematic reports (e.g. protected areas, forest biodiversity).

<b>Programme Element 1. Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use ad benefit sharing</b>	
<b>193.</b> Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the measures taken to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity	
Implementation of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols; Establishment of nature reserves, national parks, supportive measures like contractual nature	

protection, biotope mapping, Federal Law on Genetically Modified Organism, Federal Forest Act, etc..  
Austrian agri-environmental programme (ÖPUL, see question 71);

**194.** Has your country taken any measures to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	x

Further comments on the measures taken to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity

Implementation of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols;  
Many NATURA 2000 sites and other protected areas are situated in the alpine region;  
Austrian agri-environmental programme (ÖPUL, see question 71);

**195.** Has your country taken any measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems?

a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems

Implementation of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols,  
See also relevant answers given to the questions dealing with forest biodiversity  
Furthermore, management plans for NATURA 2000 sites are aiming at promoting sustainable use of mountain biological diversity.  
Austrian agri-environmental programme (ÖPUL, see question 71);

**196.** Has your country taken any measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources, including preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge?

a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources

Article 11 of the Mountain Agriculture Protocol of the Alpine Convention stipulates the creation of favourable marketing conditions (e.g. by developing a certificate of origin) for productions of mountain agriculture.

**Programme Element 2. Means of implementation for conservation,  
sustainable use and benefit sharing**

**197.** Has your country developed any legal, policy and institutional framework for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing this programme of work?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant frameworks are being developed	
c) Yes, some frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the legal, policy and institutional frameworks for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing the programme of work on mountain biodiversity.

Answer is c):

Implementation of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols (in particular the "Nature and Landscape Protection Protocol");

Close cooperation takes place between the National Commission on Biodiversity, responsible for issues related to the implementation of the CBD and the National Committee on the Alps in order to maximize synergies between the implementation of the CBD programme of work and the Alpine Convention and its Protocols.

Nature conservation acts of the Austrian Provinces.

Austrian agri-environmental programme (ÖPUL, see question 71);

**198.** Has your country been involved in regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some cooperation frameworks are being considered	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on the regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

Answer is c):

Cooperation within the Alpine Convention and its Protocols, CIPRA,

Cooperation within the "Network on Protected Areas" in the alpine region (Netzwerk alpiner Schutzgebiete)

**Programme Element 3. Supporting actions for conservation,  
sustainable use and benefit sharing**

**199.** Has your country taken any measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biodiversity

According to the Soil Protection Protocol of the Alpine Convention permanent monitoring of mountain soil biodiversity currently takes place in 32 specific sites in Austria.

Surveys of habitats and species are carried out in NATURA 2000 sites in mountainous regions;

**200.** Has your country taken any measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

Answer is d)

Research is carried out according to the provisions of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols. The Alpine Convention emphasizes the obligation of its contracting parties to coordinate their activities and to undertake joint actions in the areas of Alpine observation and research (Articles 3 and 4 of the Alpine Convention) relating to all 12 themes covered by the Convention. A system was set up to provide the pertinent information and to disseminate it properly - the System for Observation of and Information on the Alps (SOIA). The SOIA network fulfils the following tasks:

- documentation on research results
- definition and pursuit of priority research topics
- harmonisation of indicators
- definition and pursuit of priority topics for observation
- cartography
- compilation of catalogues of data sources

SOIA national focal point of Austria: Federal Environment Agency

**201.** Has your country taken any measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>

Further comments on the measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems

Cooperation within the frame of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols, CIPRA, etc.

**Box LXXIII .**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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### E. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

**202.** Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention? (decision V/20)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>

Further comments on the regional and subregional activities in which your country has been involved.

Regional level: EU, PEBLDS (regular conferences "Biodiversity in Europe" before the COPs of the CBD), various expert level meetings

National level: National Commission on Biodiversity

**203.** Is your country strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, enhancing integration and promoting synergies with relevant regional and subregional processes? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on regional and subregional cooperation and processes.

The National Commission on Biodiversity puts emphasis on this.

***The following question (204) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES***

**204.** Is your country supporting the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, included in existing cooperation frameworks (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities ongoing (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on support for the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes.

Within the EU and at pan-European level (PEBLDS, Council of Europe)

**205.** Is your country working with other Parties to strengthen the existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	
b) Yes	<b>x</b>

**206.** Has your country contributed to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>x</b>

Further comments on contribution to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms.

Within EU and PEBLDS

**Box LXXIV.**

Please elaborate below on the implementation of the above decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

## F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT

**Box LXXV.**

Please provide below recommendations on how to improve this reporting format.

**It is very complicated and time consuming to fill in the format. Specific topics are addressed several times in various chapters and under different headings. It would have been helpful to cluster the topics more strictly in the format.**

**Although the boxes requesting information on outcomes and impacts of actions taken, their contribution to the 2010 target, to the MDGs etc. would provide very useful information, it would require rather comprehensive evaluation work in order to answer these questions properly. Many activities are still going on, therefore no answers can be given at present.**