

*Please provide the following details on the origin of this report*

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Date of submission:	05 May 2001

*Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report*

The present report reflects above all the achievements of the Republic of Bulgaria in the field of biodiversity conservation during the period following 1998. The great part of the legislation (acts) related to the issue was finalized at that time. The institutions responsible for the biodiversity conservation and management were strengthened in terms of staff and finance. The public awareness basis for the biodiversity conservation was broadened.

The present report was developed by a team of specialists from the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, the scientific research institutes from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Universities and NGOs. Experts from the National Nature Protection Service of the MOEW wrote the final edition of the report.

The main sources used for writing the report are:

The National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy, Washington, D.C.: Biodiversity Support Program c/o World Wildlife Fund, 1994;

The National Biological Biodiversity Conservation Plan, ISBN 954-9724-21-2, UNDP, 2000;

National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Most Important Wetlands in Bulgaria, Ministry of Environment, Sofia, 1995;

First National Report on Biodiversity Conservation, 1998;

The Green Gold of Bulgaria, ISBN 954-748-010-3, USAID, 2001;

From policy to implementation, ISBN 92-807-1923-8, Secretariat of the CBD, 2000;

Annual report for the state of environment in Bulgaria (Green Book), Sofia 1998;

Annual report for the state of environment in Bulgaria (Green Book), Sofia 1999;

Annual report for the state of environment in Bulgaria (Green Book), Sofia 2000

<http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int> ;

Emerald Network Pilot Project in Bulgaria, Report, T-PVS/Emerald (2000) 4;

Spiridonov, G. et al., 1998, Final report and Database of CORINE Biotops Project- Bulgaria;

Reports from international projects;

Scientific and research reports from contracts signed by MOEW.

*Please provide information on any particular circumstances in your country that are relevant to understanding the answers to the questions in this report*

Biodiversity is the most valuable resource for the sustainable development of mankind. It is closely connected to life on the planet and is of essential importance for the present and future generations. With regard to the fact that the threats for the ecosystems and the species have never been so strong, the states in the world came to an agreement in Rio de Janeiro to take the responsibility for biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of the biological resources.

Bulgaria is among Europe's most biodiversity rich countries. Despite the considerable difficulties and challenges in a period of transition to a market economy, the concern for biodiversity conservation is a fact. It has been confirmed both by our national legislation and by Bulgaria's accession to the international acts and initiatives in this field.

According to the Constitution, "The Republic of Bulgaria shall ensure the protection and reproduction of the environment, the maintenance and diversity of living Nature and the sustainable use of the country's natural and other resources" (Article 15)."

The most important recent goal of the Republic of Bulgaria is to join the structures of the EU. The Governmental departments, different NGO's, the local authorities, the municipalities, political parties and non-political unions, the scientific and cultural societies, citizens occupied in the material (economical) and nonmaterial spheres also take part in the process. The endeavors of our country aim at preparing to carry out and at carrying out the European directives in the different fields of the socio-economical and spiritual spheres.

"Environment" is one of the most important chapters in which the starting of negotiations between the EU and Bulgaria is planned during this year. The normative, activities and other requirements connected to the protection of separate components of the environment – air, water, soil, mineral resources, plants and animals – as well as the protection of the nature as a complex of its components, and especially the Biodiversity protection, will be specified within the frames of the "Environment" direction.

Part of the activities of the "Environment" direction, and, namely, those connected to the biodiversity protection, are related to the "Nature" direction. The European legislation includes several directives and regulations on the latter. These are exactly the ones that our legislation must comply with. And, moreover, they are not the only ones. Bulgaria has signed numerous international conventions that are wholly or partially connected to biodiversity protection. According to the Constitution of the Republic, the signed and ratified international contracts are to be kept as strictly as the national laws themselves. Since the statements in these conventions to great extent are general, a national law is required to adapt them to the local conditions. The Biodiversity Act is the means to coordinate the Bulgarian legislation to the European directives and international conventions in the field of biodiversity protection. The first consideration of that Act by the Commission on the Environment at the Bulgarian Parliament took place on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2000. It is presumed that the Act will pass in the Parliament by the end of year 2001.

The main tool to reach the aims of the Biodiversity Act is the establishment of a National Ecological Network of protected areas and protected zones to save the biological diversity in the country.

According to the Protected Areas Act, 1998, as protected areas are treated the national and nature parks, reserves and managed reserves, protected sites and nature monuments. Protected zones is the adopted in Bulgaria equivalent for the well known in Europe Areas of Special Conservation Interests (ASCIs) and the Special Areas for Conservation (SACs). The protected

zones may include protected areas – the latter will form the cores (central parts) of the former. The totality of all protected zones in the country is a part of the National Ecological Network and will represent the national part of the European Ecological Network EMERALD (Emerald Network) and the national part of the NATURA 2000 Network when the country joins the EC. The creation of an Ecological Network of protected zones in the country is a great challenge. Certain premise for the solution of the problem is the gained so far experience, mostly from the development of the Corine Biotopes ecological database, the Emerald Network Pilot Project, the cadastre of protected areas (now under construction).

The COP has established programmes of work that respond to a number of Articles. Please identify the relative priority accorded to each theme and the adequacy of resources. This will allow subsequent information on implementation of each Article to be put into context. There are other questions on implementation of the programmes of work at the end of these guidelines.

***Inland water ecosystems***

1. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
b) Medium	
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	
2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting	

***Marine and coastal biological diversity***

3. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
b) Medium	
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	
4. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting	

***Agricultural biological diversity***

5. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	
b) Medium	X
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	
6. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	

c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting	

***Forest biological diversity***

7. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
b) Medium	
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	
8. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting	

***Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands***

9. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	
b) Medium	X
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	
10. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting	

*Further comments on work programmes and priorities*

1; 3; 5; 7; 9. Bulgaria has very rich biodiversity. The country's conditions allow for the existence of a biota with 94 mammals, 383 birds, 36 reptiles, 16 amphibians, 207 Black-Sea and fresh water fishes, around 27,000 insects and other invertebrates, 3,500-3,750 vascular plant species and more than 6,500 non-vascular plants and fungi.

Endemic plants account for about 5% of the entire flora.

Endemic are also 8.8% of non-insect and 4.3% of the insect species.

Categorized as rare in the flora and fauna have also been more than 700 vascular plants, 567 non-insect invertebrates, more than 1.500 insect species; 29 species of Black Sea and fresh water fishes; 2 species of snakes; 78 birds and at least 10 large mammal species including the Black Sea monk seal, endemic dolphin subspecies – the sea porpoise and the bottle-nosed dolphin, chamois, brown bear, wolf, otter and the European marbled polecat.

As a result of the anthropogenic pressure, a number of Bulgarian species have decreased to a level of becoming extinct during the last decades. They include at least 31 vascular plant species, 7 invertebrates, 3 fish species, 2 snakes, 3 birds, 2 (or, possibly, 3) mammal species and 6 local animal breeds.

Bulgaria is characterized by a large diversity of plant and animal communities and has examples of almost all main types of habitats and biotopes known in Europe. In addition to commercial species (including timber trees, Black Sea and fresh water species fish, more than 200 edible mushroom species and scores of local medicinal plants), Bulgaria is the motherland of many traditional and rare cultivators and breeds, and many wild relatives of domesticated species.

The management of the biodiversity protection and the sustainable use of the biological resources in the country is carried out differentially, based on the specifications of the separate groups of ecosystems. The following groups of ecosystems are subject to the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan:

- Marine ecosystems;
- Coastal ecosystems;
- Wetlands along the Black Sea coastline;
- The Danube and wetlands along the Danube;
- Inland water and wetland ecosystems;
- Forest ecosystems;
- Mountain (pasture) ecosystems;
- Agroecosystems;
- Low-land (grass) ecosystems.

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands is also subject of attention and is considered where these lands are available. The dry and sub-humid lands are present most often in the forest and mountain regions.

All groups of ecosystems include unique habitats and are inhabited by rare, endangered species, representative or economically valuable plant and animal species. If for any economical reason the development of national or international programmes is possible in the future only for some of the ecosystems, the following order of priority may be undertaken:

- Inland water ecosystems;
- Marine and coastal ecosystems;
- Forest ecosystems.

2;4;6;8;10. The national resources for accomplishment of the obligations and recommendations for reaching the aims in any of the ecosystem groups are rather limited than adequate. This is due to both the economical difficulties suffered by the country at the moment and to the character of the nature protection investment process. Though investigations in the field are extremely important, the funds are invested for long terms with small economical efficiency. Foreign donors are sought for the protection of the Bulgarian nature, respectively biodiversity.



**Article 5 Cooperation**

11. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
12. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate	X	c) Limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>11; 12. The aims at biodiversity protection and sustainable use of the biological resources in the different countries in the world cannot be reached without international partnership. That is because the biological diversity is a global phenomenon, and the state borders must not part the countries but unite them for the execution of joint programmes in the field.</p> <p>The international cooperation in the field in question is a high-priority task for Bulgaria. The country resources are adequate for a partnership with closer or more distant countries.</p>					

13. 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) bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
b) international programmes (please give details below)	X
c) international agreements (please give details below)	X

**Decision IV/4. Status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable use**

14. Has your country developed effective cooperation for the sustainable management of transboundary watersheds, catchments, river basins and migratory species through bilateral and multilateral agreements?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	

**Decision IV/15. The relationship of the CBD with the CSD and biodiversity-related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and processes or relevance**

15. Has your country developed management practices for transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

**Decision V/21. Co-operation with other bodies**

16. Has your country collaborated with the International Biodiversity Observation Year of DIVERSITAS, and ensured complementarity with the initiative foreseen to be undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to increase scientific knowledge and public awareness of the crucial role of biodiversity for sustainable development?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	X

**Decision V/27. Contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the ten-year review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development**

17. Is your country planning to highlight and emphasize biological diversity considerations in its contribution to the ten-year review of progress since the Earth Summit?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

**Further comments on implementation of this Article**

<p>13. Bulgaria's cooperation with other countries for the biodiversity protection and sustainable use takes different forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bulgaria has a bilateral partnership with the USA, Switzerland, Monaco, France, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and other countries. The international projects between the governments of Republic of Bulgaria and of the above countries are developed usually on the basis of signed Memorandum of understanding. As Bulgaria's economy is in transition now, most of the resources needed for the execution of these projects are undertaken usually by the foreign participants (see Question 84, please);</li> <li>- Bulgaria takes part in large number of programmes, related to protection of different components of the environment. The relative share of the funds for biodiversity protection in these programmes is not big. Such programmes are those of PHARE, FAO, UNESCO, EU Accession Programme, Cooperative Programme for assessment of the air pollution impact on the forest systems, etc.</li> <li>- Bulgaria is a signatory to the following global or pan-European conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biodiversity Convention;</li> <li>- Convention on the Conservation of the Wild European Flora and Fauna and Natural Habitats (Bern);</li> <li>- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);</li> <li>- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat;</li> <li>- Convention for the Conservation of marine live resources of the Antarctic (ANTCOM);</li> <li>- Convention on the Conservation of the World and Cultural Heritage;</li> <li>- European Convention on Landscape Protection;</li> <li>- UN Convention on Overcome of the Transformation into Deserts of Countries suffering Sever Droughts and/or Transformation into Deserts, and Especially Africa.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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The country fulfills its obligation, originating from the enumerated conventions.

14. Signed and ratified by Bulgaria are the following regional conventions related to biodiversity conservation:

- Convention of 1958 on Fishing in the Danube;
- Convention of 1959 on Fishing in the Black Sea;
- Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution.

Through inclusion into the European ecological networks Emerald and, later, Natura, Bulgaria will undertake obligation for protection of the migratory birds. The criteria for selection of protected areas to be included in the ecological networks, the procedure of announcement, the management and support of the zones are presented in the Biodiversity Act.

15. The Stability Pact of the East-European countries stipulates the establishment of transboundary protected areas:

- In western Stara Planina – with Serbia;
- In the Malashevka mountain – with Macedonia;
- In the Belasica mountain – with Greece and Macedonia.

The establishment of the following transboundary protected areas is at the stage of preliminary negotiations:

- with Romania – along Danube lower basin;
- with Turkey – in the Strandzha mountain;
- with Greece – in the Rhodopes mountains.

16. Bulgaria cooperates with UNESCO. A representative of MOEW is included in the National Commission to UNESCO. The country accomplishes all the recommendations of the international organization, relevant to the world nature heritage protection, and takes part in the UNESCO educational initiatives, in contacting society in order to elucidate to the population the essence of biodiversity and its importance to the sustainable development of the society.

The Pirin National Park and the Srebarna Biosphere Reserve are announced objects of the world heritage.

17 of the Bulgarian reserves and managed reserves are included in the “Man and Biosphere” UNESCO Programme as biosphere reserves.

17. In connection to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rio de Janeiro Conference, Bulgaria is planning the presentation of a review of the country’s achievements in the field of biodiversity protection.

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

18. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>		
19. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
18; 19. The execution of the conditions of Art. 6 of the Biodiversity Convention has the highest priority for Bulgaria. Its successful protection and sustainable use of the biological resources are impossible without a clear view of the goals, without exact definitions of the activities that are to be carried out, without the time schedule of the activities and the legislative, institutional, organizational, staff and financial backup. As the main documents, demanded by that article are already created, it could be accepted that the used for the purpose resources have been sufficient. However, the crucial role of the foreign help must be pointed out (see Question 28, please).							

20. What is the status of your national biodiversity strategy (6a)?	
a) none	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) completed <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) completed and adopted <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) reports on implementation available	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21. What is the status of your national biodiversity action plan (6a)?	
a) none	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) completed <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) completed and adopted <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) reports on implementation available	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22. Do your national strategies and action plans cover all articles of the Convention (6a)?	
a) some articles only	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) most articles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) all articles	<input type="checkbox"/>

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1/ Please provide information requested at the end of these guidelines.

23. Do your national strategies and action plans cover integration of other sectoral activities (6b)?	
a) no	
b) some sectors	
c) all major sectors	X
d) all sectors	

**Decision II/7 and Decision III/9 Consideration of Articles 6 and 8**

24. Is action being taken to exchange information and share experience on the national action planning process with other Contracting Parties?	
a) little or no action	
b) sharing of strategies, plans and/or case-studies	X
c) regional meetings	X
25. Do all of your country's strategies and action plans include an international cooperation component?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
26. Are your country's strategies and action plans coordinated with those of neighbouring countries?	
a) no	
b) bilateral/multilateral discussions under way	
c) coordinated in some areas/themes	X
d) fully coordinated	
e) not applicable	
27. Has your country set measurable targets within its strategies and action plans?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
<b>If a developing country Party or a Party with economy in transition -</b>	
28. Has your country received support from the financial mechanism for the preparation of its national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, which was the Implementing Agency (UNDP/UNEP/World Bank)?	

**Decisions III/21. Relationship of the Convention with the CSD and biodiversity-related conventions**

29. Are the national focal points for the CBD and the competent authorities of the Ramsar Convention, Bonn Convention and CITES cooperating in the implementation of these conventions to avoid duplication?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X

**Further comments on implementation of this Article**

20; 21; 22. The National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (NBCS), developed in 1994 in accordance with the international Convention on Biological Diversity, is the first document of this origin to be created in a country from Central and East Europe. The National strategy defines the main directions for development of biodiversity protection in the country. According to the Strategy, the key elements that demand urgent support from the Bulgarian side and the international society are:

- Scientific backup and support to the nature conservation activities;
- Support to legislative initiatives;
- Enlargement and support to the network of protected areas;
- Ecological education and cooperated consultancy;
- Development and implementation of eco-tourism policy;
- Encouragement of protection of the Black Sea and the biological diversity of the Balkans.

The National Biodiversity Conservation Plan (NBCP) includes 96 concrete activities, connected with biodiversity conservation, to be implemented by the end of 2003.

According to the Plan, the main activities for achieving the country's biodiversity conservation are as follows:

- Drafting of acts and normative documents, creation of monitoring systems, cadastre of the protected areas and geographic-information systems;
- Institutional strengthening of biodiversity conservation in-situ;
- Establishment and maintenance of a National eco-network;
- Restoration and maintenance activities related to the restoration of habitats and to conservation of endangered species and of their genetic resources;
- Strengthening of the scientific base for biodiversity conservation;
- Information, education and training.

The financing of the plan's activities is assigned to different institutions, responsible for the socio-economic sectors in the country. The organization of the national plan's implementation and the mechanism for its actualization allow change in case of implementation conditions' change.

The report on the execution of the activities under the NBCP for the period from its adoption till August 2000 was approved by the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria. Of the 41 tasks included in the plan for implementation, 4 tasks were completed during that period, for 32 of the activities the terms are overdue, and the implementation of 5 of the activities will start in the next term. 5004 thousand levas were spent altogether during the quoted period. 2588 thousand of them were provided by foreign donors and 2123 thousand – by the National Fund for Environment

#### Protection.

The activities, recommended by the NBCS, as well as those included in the NBCP for implementation, cover most of the articles of the Biodiversity Convention.

23. Representatives of the country social-economical sectors took part both in the creation of the Strategy and in the National Plan for Biodiversity Conservation. The institutions in charge of the different sectors have undertaken responsibility for the financing and implementation of the corresponding tasks of the NBCP. Besides the Ministry of Environment and Water, main participants in the implementation of the activities outlined in the NBCP are also the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Education and Science and others.

24; 26. Since Bulgaria is one of the first European countries to develop a Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation, its experience in the field was used by other countries. Bulgaria used the biodiversity protection know-how of some of the leading countries for the Plan's development and coordinated some of the planned activities with the neighbour countries, and especially with Romania and Greece.

27. The aims of the National Strategy are not to be measured. However, the expenses on the implementation of the different activities, enumerated in the plan, are strictly defined.

The "rate of achievement" of the two main goals of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan (by means of implementation of the included therein activities) is determined as follows:

- In the field of biodiversity protection monitoring should be used for the identification of the status, the type and the degree of impact on the biological species and ecosystems;
- Monitoring of the impact on biodiversity;
- Special monitoring and evaluation of the impact of threats on those ecosystems, for which activities are planned or carried out in order to eliminate the threats or diminish their consequences;
- Establishment of database of species;
- Estimation of the status of vegetation in particular areas or throughout the country;
- Data on the status of environment by components:
  - *in the areas of distribution of certain endangered species;*
  - *in the areas of distribution of species of higher economic value*
  - *in other selected areas of the country.*

The data received from the monitoring are kept and updated in a database, the elaboration of which, as well as the establishment and maintenance of GIS for protected areas and biodiversity, is included in the NBCP as activity for implementation.

The work on the creation of the above described monitoring started in 2000.

The main criteria for sustainable use of the biological resources, based mainly on the example of the use of the forest resources, are as follows:

- Maintenance and increase of resources:

Indicators:

- Changes in area covered with various vegetation types, predominantly forests;
- Changes in the biological stock;

-Changes in the age structure of the forests.

- Maintenance of the vitality of the ecosystems:

Indicators:

Changes in defoliation;

Degree of damage due to biotic and abiotic factors (diseases and insects, fires, windfalls, windbreaks, game, etc.)

Changes in the balance of nutrients;

Changes in soil acidity.

- Maintenance and increase in the production functions of the ecosystems:

Indicators:

Balance of growth and use;

Percentage of the area managed under the management plans;

Changes of the total quantity and value of forest and plant and animal products.

- Maintenance, conservation and expansion of the sources of ecological resources:

Indicators:

-Changes in the area covered by natural vegetation;

-Changes of the numbers of endangered species;

-Changes of the share of mixed ecosystems;

-Changes of the area of naturally restorable ecosystems;

-Changes of the nature-conservation status (change of the size of protected areas or of the areas of forest categories by economic purpose).

- Maintenance and improvement of the protection functions and of other socio-economic functions and conditions:

Indicators:

-Area of soil protection systems;

-Area of sanitary water belt ecosystems;

-Area for recreation per capita etc.

28. The foreign financial support for the creation of the main document, related to biodiversity, is distributed as follows:

- for the creation of the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy – from USAID;
- for the creation of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan– from UNDP.

29. There is close coordination between the liaison persons for the general ecological conventions to which Bulgaria is side for all these people are of the National Nature Protection Service at MOEW.



**Article 7 Identification and monitoring**

30. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
31. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>30; 31. There is rich information on the biological characteristics, ecological needs and the distribution of the wild plant and animal species and for their habitats available in the country. The components of different hierarchic levels of the living nature, as well as the abiotic components of the environment, have been identified. The threats for the biological diversity are also identified. The proper preventive activities, the activities for the protection and conservation of the biodiversity, the steps to be taken to reduce the negative effect of the unfavourable and disadvantageous impacts upon the biodiversity have been determined. The monitoring at the species level was established for several key plant and animal groups. Yet the establishment of an integrated biodiversity monitoring system is impending. Since both specialists and equipment are necessary for the creation of the system it can be assumed that the resources for reaching the goal are quite limited at the moment.</p>					

32. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	X
33. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at ecosystem level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	X
c) for major ecosystems	
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	
34. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at genetic level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors	X
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	
35. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	X
c) for a range of major groups	

d) for a comprehensive range of species	
36. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at ecosystem level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	X
c) for major ecosystems	
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	
37. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at genetic level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) minor programme in some sectors	X
c) major programme in some sectors	
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	
38. Has your country identified activities with adverse affects on biodiversity (7c)?	
a) limited understanding	
b) threats well known in some areas, not in others	
c) most threats known, some gaps in knowledge	
d) comprehensive understanding	
e) reports available	X
39. Is your country monitoring these activities and their effects (7c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	X
40. Does your country coordinate information collection and management at the national level (7d)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	X

**Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment**

41. Has your country identified national indicators of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	X
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	
42. Is your country using rapid assessment and remote sensing techniques?	
a) no	X
b) assessing opportunities	
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a major extent	
e) reports on implementation available	
43. Has your country adopted a "step-by-step" approach to implementing Article 7 with initial emphasis on identification of biodiversity components (7a) and activities having adverse effects on them (7c)?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes	X
44. Is your country cooperating with other Contracting Parties on pilot projects to demonstrate the use of assessment and indicator methodologies?	
a) no	
b) yes (if so give details below)	X
45. Has your country prepared any reports of experience with application of assessment methodologies and made these available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
46. Is your country seeking to make taxonomic information held in its collections more widely available?	
a) no relevant collections	
b) no action	X
c) yes (if so, please give details below)	

**Decision V/7. Identification, monitoring and assessment, and indicators**

47. Is your country actively involved in co-operating with other countries in your region in the field of indicators, monitoring and assessment?	
a) no	
b) limited co-operation	X
c) extensive co-operation on some issues	
d) extensive co-operation on a wide range of issues	
48. Has your country made available case studies concerning the development and implementation of assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes?	
a) no	

b) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
c) yes - through the national CHM	
d) yes - other means (please specify)	X
49. Is your country assisting other Parties to increase their capacity to develop indicator and monitoring programmes?	
a) no	
b) providing training	
c) providing direct support	
d) sharing experience	
e) other (please describe)	X

***Further comments on implementation of this Article***

32; 34. The efforts of generations of scientists have contributed to the collection of data on the Bulgarian plant and animal species. The major documents, containing the description of the wild plant and animal species, have been issued by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences: "The Flora of Bulgaria" – 12 volumes so far, "The Fauna of Bulgaria" – 23 volumes, and "The Red Book of the People's Republic of Bulgaria". The genetic specifications of the different species – a part of their complete characteristics – are also presented in the above mentioned documents.

33. There's no summary information regarding the ecosystems and habitats on the whole area of Bulgaria. A project, called "Corine Biotopes", was developed. 85 habitats of the Palearctic Qualification Scheme are included and described in the 165 units of the Project.

35. Monitoring at the species level has been established for key plant and animal groups in Bulgaria:

- The changes of the commercially important trees are monitored for the plant species:
- The statistical account on the forest resources has been carried out since long ago. 7 main forms are filled in, and forms № 1 (total forest fund area division by land type and forest type) and № 5 (use of forests) are filled in annually. Forms №№ 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 (represent the division of the afforested areas or the wood stocks by species, densities, types of stands and bonitets) are filled in every 5 years. The changes in the areas and the wood stocks of the main tree species are determined upon analysis of the data in forms NoNo 2 and 3.
- The monitoring of the health status of the main tree species in the country is developed in the frames of the international cooperative programme "Estimation and Monitoring of the Influence of the Polluted air on the Forest Ecosystems". The health status of the tree species is determined annually by means of measure of the degree of defoliation, determination of the colour of the leaves, physiologic and other measures of single trees of the respective species.
- The changes in the number of the local vertebrate species and of the migratory birds are monitored as follows:
  - The number of the vertebrate species, mostly hunting ones, is estimated through the annual counting, carried out mainly by the state forestry directorates and organized hunters and fishermen.
  - The number of the migratory birds is estimated trough the annual winter-spring counting, carried out mainly by members of nationals and international NGOs.

36. The monitoring at the ecosystem level takes place only in certain ecosystems within protected areas, for example the “Srebarna” maintained reserve, etc.

37. The monitoring at the genetic level of the wild plants and animals is carried out mostly for the commercially important species. The genetic monitoring of domestic plants and animals is carried out mainly by scientific and research institutes of the system of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

38; 39. The determination of the activities that threaten the biodiversity and the monitoring of those ones, for which this is compulsory, is the main function of MOEW and its regional authorities. Such responsibilities are undertaken also by the institutions that govern the socio-economical sectors in the country and which use the biological resources of the wild nature, or pollute the nature by production, construction, transport, etc. MOEW controls the activities of these institutions and their divisions as well as similar activities of the rest physical or juridical persons in the country by means of direct control/overview, the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures and other mechanisms.

40. Most of the information, connected to the nature protection in Bulgaria, is at the national level.

41. A methodical issue in organization of biological monitoring has been developed by a scientific team on MOEW’s demand.

47; 48; 49. The partnership of Bulgaria in the field of determination of indicators, monitoring and assessments as well as the joint case studies is developed mostly with Romania. The partnership projects regard mainly the forest ecosystems, the wetland ecosystems along the Danube river, the control and establishment of the stocks and export quotas for the species *Huso huso*, *Acipenser stellatus* and *Acipenser gueldenstaedti*.

*Decisions on Taxonomy*

**Decision IV/1 Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA  
[part]**

50. Has your country carried out a national taxonomic needs assessment, and/or held workshops to determine national taxonomic priorities?	
a) no	
b) early stages of assessment	
c) advanced stages of assessment	X
d) assessment completed	
51. Has your country developed a national taxonomic action plan?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) action plan in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
52. Is your country making available appropriate resources to enhance the availability of taxonomic information?	
a) no	
b) yes, but this does not cover all known needs adequately	X
c) yes, covering all known needs	
53. Is your country encouraging bilateral and multilateral training and employment opportunities for taxonomists, particularly those dealing with poorly known organisms?	
a) no	
b) some opportunities	X
c) significant opportunities	
54. Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections?	
a) no	
b) some investment	X
c) significant investment	
55. Is your country encouraging partnerships between taxonomic institutions in developed and developing countries?	
a) no	
b) yes - stated policy	X
c) yes - systematic national programme	
56. Has your country adopted any international agreed levels of collection housing?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) being implemented by some collections	X
d) being implemented by all major collections	

57. Has your country provided training programmes in taxonomy?	
a) no	
b) some	X
c) many	
58. Has your country reported on measures adopted to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy, to designate national reference centres, and to make information housed in collections available to countries of origin?	
a) no	
b) yes - in the previous national report	
c) yes - via the clearing-house mechanism	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
59. Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes for some institutions	X
d) yes for all major institutions	
60. Has your country assisted taxonomic institutions to establish consortia to conduct regional projects?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	X
d) yes - significant extent	
61. Has your country given special attention to international funding of fellowships for specialist training abroad or for attracting international experts to national or regional courses?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
62. Has your country provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields?	
a) no	
b) some	X
c) many	

**Decision V/9. Global Taxonomy Initiative: Implementation and further  
advance of the Suggestions for Action**

63. Has your country identified its information requirements in the area of taxonomy, and assessed its national capacity to meet these requirements?	
a) no	
b) basic assessment	X
c) thorough assessment	
64. Has your country established or consolidated taxonomic reference centres?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
65. Has your country worked to increase its capacity in the area of taxonomic research?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
66. Has your country communicated information on programmes, projects and initiatives for consideration as pilot projects under the Global Taxonomy Initiative to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
67. Has your country designated a national Global Taxonomy Initiative focal point linked to other national focal points?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
68. Has your country participated in the development of regional networks to facilitate information-sharing for the Global Taxonomy Initiative?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
<b><i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i></b>	
69. Has your country sought resources through the financial mechanism for the priority actions identified in the decision?	
a) no	X
b) applied for unsuccessfully	
c) applied for successfully	



*Further comments on implementation of these decisions*

50;51. The taxonomic investigations in Bulgaria are at different stage of development. Predominant part of the taxonomic groups of animals and plants are profoundly investigated. The research data are collected in 23 volumes of "Fauna of Bulgaria" and 12 volumes of "Flora of Bulgaria"(see questions 32; 34, please).

Basic evaluation for the state of the taxonomic investigations in the country has been made during the elaboration of the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, 1994. The evaluation has been actualized in 1999/2000 on the occasion of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan 's elaboration. Priority directions and needs for further investigations are determined for each group, but national taxonomic plan of operation according to the requirements of CBD is not yet developed. The investigations are carried out purposeful in frames of the annual plans of academic institutes and universities. Classical as well as state of the art methods are applied at the development of the taxonomic schemes.

No activities are undertaken regarding the initiative for global taxonomy. Bulgaria will need technical, as well as financial support for applying of this initiative(see questions 129; 132; 136, please).

52; 54; 59; 60; 63; 68. The collections of plants and the herbariums at the Institute of Botany, BAS, Botany garden-Sofia, Institute for genetic resources – Sadovo fulfill a role of national plants collections. At the first mentioned collections the infrastructure is moderate developed, while that of the Institute in Sadovo is one of the best on Balkan Peninsula.

The animal collections of National Museum of Natural Science- BAS, Institute of Fishing, Aquacultures and Aquarium – Varna and the Zoo-Sofia fulfill a role of National animal collections (see questions 127; 128; 130; 131; 133; 134, please)

53; 57; 62. Educational and training programs on taxonomy are applied at during the teaching process on biology at some universities (specialized in medicine, forestry etc.)

Taxonomists from abroad have been invited and the world wide experience in taxonomy has been applied for educational, training and for some retraining programmes.

55; 56; 61 See questions 129; 132; 136, please.

58; 64; 65. Every institution, where taxonomic investigations are carried out appears a "center of references", but one centralized institution, fulfilling these functions doesn't exist yet.

Scientists – taxonomists are involved also in other investigations concerning biodiversity.

**Article 8 *In situ* conservation [excluding Articles 8h and 8j]**

70. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
71. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
70; 71. The <i>in situ</i> method is a traditional, priority and the most successful one for the Bulgarian biodiversity conservation. The limited resources for its application result from the economical difficulties in the country under the circumstances of economy in transition.					

72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?	
a) system under development	
b) national review of protected areas coverage available	
c) national protected area systems plan in place	
d) relatively complete system in place	X
73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	
b) no, under development	
c) yes	
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	X
74. Does your country regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use (8c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
e) reports on implementation available	X

75. Has your country undertaken measures that promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings (8d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	X
76. Has your country undertaken measures that promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas (8e)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	X
77. Has your country undertaken measures to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X
78. Has your country undertaken measures to promote the recovery of threatened species (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X
79. Has your country undertaken measures to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology (8g)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
80. Has your country made attempts to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components (8i)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	
81. Has your country developed and maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations (8k)?	

a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	X
82. Does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity (8l)?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a significant extent	X
<b><i>If a developed country Party -</i></b>	
83. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for <i>in-situ</i> conservation particularly to developing countries (8m)?	
<b><i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i></b>	
84. Does your country receive financial and other support for <i>in situ</i> conservation (8m)?	
a) no	
b) yes (if so, please give details below)	X

***Decision II/7 Consideration of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention***

85. Is action being taken to share information and experience on implementation of this Article with other Contracting Parties?	
a) little or no action	
b) sharing of written materials and/or case-studies	X
c) regional meetings	X

**Further comments on implementation of this Article**

72. The System of protected areas has a great importance to the diversity protection in the country. According to the Protected Areas Act adopted by the National Assembly in 1998, 6 categories of protected areas are introduced: reserve, national park, natural monument, maintained reserve, natural park and protected site.

The number and the area (in hectares)\* of the protected areas up to 31.12.2000 are, as follows:

Categories of protected areas:	Number:	Area:
1. Reserves	55	76979.0
2. National parks	3	150362.3
3. Natural monuments	474	23405.0
4. Maintained reserves	35	4517.1
5. Natural parks	11	221171.3
6. Protected sites	132	26291.8
0. Historical sites**	972	12139.4

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1682</b>	<b>514863.9</b>
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\* The area of the national and natural parks does not cover the area of reserves and other protected areas, which are within the borders of the parks.

\*\* These sites are the process of pre-categorization according to the Protected Areas Act and will be classified or not as natural monuments or protected sites by the end of 2001.

Declared reserves (Category I of the IUCN Classification) shall be model natural ecosystems that include typical and/or remarkable wild plant and animal species and their habitats.

The reserves shall be managed for the purpose of:

- Preservation of their natural characteristics;
- Scientific and educational purposes and/or eco-monitoring;
- Genetic resources conservation;
- Conservation of the natural habitats of populations of protected rare, endemic and relic species;
- Development of a network of ecosystems and endangered habitats representative for Bulgaria and Europe.

Declared national parks (Category II of the IUCN Classification) shall be areas without any populated areas and settlement formations within their boundaries that include natural ecosystems with of large diversity of plant and animal species and habitats, with typical and remarkable scenery and abiotic objects of nature. The national parks shall be managed for the purpose of:

- Maintenance of the diversity of the ecosystems and protection of wildlife;
- Conservation and maintenance of the biological diversity within the ecosystems;
- Presentation of opportunities for development of scientific, educational and recreation activities;
- Creation of prerequisites for the development of tourism, environmentally sound livelihood for the population and other activities in harmony with the goals under the preceding items.

Declared natural monuments (Category III of the IUCN Classification) shall be typical or remarkable abiotic objects of nature such as rock formations, rock excavations of scientific value, earth pyramids, caves, caverns, waterfalls, fossil and mineral deposits, sand dunes and others of exceptional value due to their inherent rarity, representativeness, aesthetic quality or of scientific or cultural significance.

The natural monuments shall be managed for the purpose of conservation of their natural features. The natural monuments shall be declared with their adjacent areas needed for their conservation.

Declared maintained reserves (Category IV of the IUCN Classification) shall be ecosystems that include rare and/or endangered wild plant and animal species and their habitats. The maintained reserves shall be managed for the purpose of:

- preservation of the natural characteristics;
- scientific and educational purposes and/or eco-monitoring;
- restoration of populations of plant and animal species and/or the conditions of the habitats thereof;
- conservation of genetic resources.

Declared natural parks (Category V of the IUCN Classification) shall be areas that include diverse ecosystems with multiformity of plant and animal species and habitats thereof, with typical and remarkable scenery and abiotic objects of nature.

The natural parks shall be managed for the purpose of:

- Maintenance of the diversity of ecosystems and conservation of biodiversity therein;
- Presentation of opportunities for development of scientific, educational, and recreational activities;
- Sustainable use of the renewable natural resources while preserving traditional forms of livelihood, and provision of conditions for the development of tourism.

Declared protected sites (Category VI of the IUCN Classification) shall be:

- Areas with typical or remarkable scenery including those that are the result of harmonious existence of man and nature and stand out for their significant aesthetic value;
- Habitats of endangered, rare or vulnerable plant and animal species and communities.

The protected sites shall be managed for the purpose of:

- Preservation of the scenery components;
- Conservation, maintenance or restoration of the habitat conditions that meet the ecological requirements of species and communities under protection;
- Presentation of opportunities for scientific research, education and eco-monitoring;
- Presentation of opportunities for tourism and spiritual gain.

73. The Protected Areas Act, 1998, stipulates the purpose, regime of protection and use of the protected areas, the procedures for their designation and changes within them. The Act sanctions plural property of forests, lands and aquatic areas within protected areas, as well as those that are exclusive state property. Through the Protected Areas Act the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) assumes responsibility for the management, the commissioning of maintenance activities and the guarding of protected areas that are exclusive property of the state; and

responsibility for the management and control of activities in the other protected areas. The Act introduces management plans for protected areas. Secondary legislation listed below is connected with the practical implementation of the Protected Areas Act in different directions, related mainly to the structure and work organization of the regional departments of the MOEW regarding biodiversity conservation, assignment of remediation and supporting activities in national parks and sustained reserves, guarding of the protected areas that are exclusive state property, development of management plans for protected areas, etc.:

- Regulation on the development of management plans for protected areas (State Gazette 13/15.02.2000);
- Ordinance for the national park directorate's organization and activity (State Gazette 68/18.08.2000);
- Ordinance for activities within protected areas that are exclusive state property (State Gazette 68/18.08.2000);
- Tariff for the taxes to be paid for the allowed uses within the protected areas that are exclusive state property; (State Gazette 46/06.06.2000);
- Tariff for the taxes to be paid for collection of medical plants from lands, forests and water objects that are exclusive state property; (State Gazette 46/06.06.2000).

According to the so-called "direct application" of our Main Law, Article 5 has placed the Bulgarian legislative framework in the general global context of biodiversity conservation, provided for in the international agreements (conventions), signed by the country. The international instruments are crucial in the determination of the biodiversity conservation regulatory framework. Bulgaria is a signatory to many global or pan-European conventions (see Question 13, please)

The main administrative and regulatory instruments for biodiversity conservation are:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures;
- The permitting regime for trading in medicinal plants, endangered species from the wild flora and fauna and their derivatives;
- The administrative penalties and the compulsory administrative measures applied in the field of nature conservation, or biodiversity, respectively.

74. The main responsibilities for the management of the biological resources in respect to their conservation and sustainable use, are undertaken by:

- MOEW and its regional structures – in the protected areas that are exclusive state property (national parks, reserves and maintained reserves);
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forest and its regional structures – in the forest and land funds that are state property;
- Owners of forests, lands and water resources within the forest and land funds – in municipal and private property.

Numerous Acts are adopted by the National Assembly concern biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of the biological resources in different economical sectors of the country:

- Agricultural Land Conservation Act;
- Forests Act;
- New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds Protection Act;
- Hunting Economy and Game Animal Protection Act;
- Clean Air Act;

- Water Act;
- Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act;
- Limitation of the Harmful Impact of Waste on the Environment Act;
- Underground Natural Riches Act;
- Medicinal Plants Act.

The implementation of these acts as well as of the special ecological acts is assigned to separate sectors. The overview of the obedience to the sector and ecological laws is assigned to MOEW.

75; 77; 78. Bulgaria undertakes comprehensive measures that promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of populations of plant and animal species in their habitats or migration places. The restoration of degraded ecosystems and extinct or endangered species are part of these activities. The reviewed measures result mostly from the Management Plans of the protected areas and the Action Plans for the endangered species. Thus in Bulgaria are developed Management Plans for the big national parks - "Rila" and "Central Balkan", for the "Srebarna" biosphere reserve, for the "Delta of Veleka River" and "Silistar" protected areas, etc. Action plans for lots of species, mostly birds, have been developed and are under implementation now. These include action plans for *Aquila heliaca*, *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, *Pelicanus cricopus*, *Anser erithopsis*, *Anthia nyroca* and others.

76. The adjacent to the protected areas regions are subject to the attention of the Management Plans. The Management Plans provide for measures that will facilitate the harmonic co-existence of the protected area and the local community. The Management Plans involve ecologically expedient use of the bioresources in the protected areas except for the reserves. Places for gathering of forest fruits and mushrooms, for graze of the domestic animals, for use of firewood, etc., are determined. Prerequisites for the development of tourism and the local community income increase are created. This way the local people will be interested in participating in the guarding of the protected areas, in their protection from fires, etc.

79. The introduction of modified organisms in the wild nature is forbidden according to the conditions of the new Biodiversity Act.

In Bulgaria are available:

-Law on ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety to the Convention on biological diversity - State Gazette No 65/08.08.2000.

-Law on ratification of the Convention on the procedure for prior informed consent in case of international trade with certain dangerous chemical substances and pesticides (Rotterdam Convention) - State Gazette No 55/07.07.2000.

80; 81;82. According to the Constitution, "The Republic of Bulgaria shall ensure the protection and reproduction of the environment, the maintenance and diversity of living Nature and the sustainable utilization of the country's natural and other resources" (Article 15)". In order to fulfill this stipulation, a balance between the nature protection and the sustainable use of biological resources is established in the country. This balance is established both by the currently effective special environmental acts ( the Nature Protection Act, the Nature Conservation Act, and the Protected Areas Act) and the other acts adopted or pending adoption by the National Assembly concern biodiversity and its sustainable use.

84. Many international partners render assistance to the state in biodiversity conservation:



- The Bulgarian-American Programme for biodiversity conservation develops within a six-year project of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The main objectives of the project are: elaboration of protected area planning and management systems, including management plans for the “Rila” and “Central Balkan” National Parks and their implementation; strengthening of the government institutions responsible for nature conservation through provision of equipment and training of specialists employed there; elaboration and development of financial mechanisms in aid of biodiversity conservation; information and educational activities to involve the public in resolving the issues related to biodiversity conservation and management in Bulgaria;
- By financing through the UNEP, a National Biological Safety Programme is being developed. The Programme and the measures undertaken in accordance with it shall guarantee the conservation of biodiversity against the threats arising from the use of genetically modified organisms;
- The elaboration of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan was financed by the GEF through the UNDP;
- At the end of 1997, after 4 years of active operation, the first phase of the Bulgarian-Swiss Biodiversity Conservation Programme came to an end. Seven protected area management plans were drafted, three information centres were set up, and many collaborators trained. The programme was extended until the year 2000;
- Most of the funds allocated through the project carried out with the government of the Principality of Monaco were expended for the elaboration of a management plan for the Veleka and Silistar Estuary protected areas in Strandzha;
- The Bulgarian-French Project for Conservation and Evaluation of the Ecosystems in the Coastal Dobrudzha Area is carried out under the guidance of the Le Balkan-Bulgaria Foundation;
- The Ramsar Convention Bureau submitted funds for the elaboration of a management plan for the Srebarna Biosphere Reserve. Also, there UNESCO funds were allocated for the Srebarna Reserve for furnishing of the administrative office of the reserve;
- Under the National EU Accession Programme, the PHARE Programme carries out a contract with the MOEW for the harmonization of the legislation in biodiversity conservation with that of the EU and for the establishment of a cadastral survey of Bulgaria’s protected areas;
- Some international NGOs provide a crucial input. The main programmes of BirdLife International are related to the conservation of globally endangered species, ornithologically important locations and habitats.

85. The participation of Bulgarian representatives in the regional meeting, supported financially by the Council of Europe, is a significant source of information and know-how on the application of the *in situ* biodiversity conservation techniques for the country.

**Article 8h Alien species**

86. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
87. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>86; 87. Application of the Article 8h of CBD is of a high priority for Bulgaria. This priority is coming from the NBCS, Protected Areas Act and is an important element in the pursued from the Ministry of Environment and Water policy in the management of the protected areas and protection of the biodiversity out of them.</p> <p>In the different fields e.g. forestry the problems with the introduction of alien species are partially addressed.</p> <p>With the available human resources, the basic responsible institutions – Ministry of Environment and Water and Ministry of Agriculture and Forests have relatively good ability to control and to take adequate decisions regarding the prevention of the introduction of alien species.</p>					

88. Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	
b) only major species of concern	
c) only new or recent introductions	
d) a comprehensive system tracks new introductions	X
e) a comprehensive system tracks all known introductions	
89. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) no	
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed	X
c) most alien species have been assessed	
90. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

**Decision IV/1 Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA**

91. Is your country collaborating in the development of projects at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels to address the issue of alien species?	
a) little or no action	
b) discussion on potential projects under way	X
c) active development of new projects	
92. Does your national strategy and action plan address the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

**Decision V/8. Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species**

93. Is your country applying the interim guiding principles for prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species in the context of activities aimed at implementing article 8(h) of the Convention, and in the various sectors?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) limited implementation in some sectors	X
d) extensive implementation in some sectors	
e) extensive implementation in most sectors	
94. Has your country submitted case-studies to the Executive Secretary focusing on thematic assessments?	
a) no	
b) in preparation	X
c) yes	
95. Has your country submitted written comments on the interim guiding principles to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
96. Has your country given priority to the development and implementation of alien invasive species strategies and action plans?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
97. In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed or involved itself in mechanisms for international co-operation, including the exchange of best practices?	
a) no	
b) trans-boundary co-operation	X
c) regional co-operation	
d) multilateral co-operation	

98. Is your country giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
99. Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
100. Has your country developed effective education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) some initiatives	X
c) many initiatives	
101. Is your country making available the information which it holds on alien species through the CHM?	
a) no	X
b) some information	
c) all available information	
d) information available through other channels (please specify)	
102. Is your country providing support to enable the Global Invasive Species Programme to fulfil the tasks outlined in the decision and its annexes?	
a) no	
b) limited support	X
c) substantial support	

88; 90; 93. At this stage the introduced tree and bush species in the forestry sector are identified. The forestry policy recommends the restriction of the distribution of the introduced species and afforestation with native species. First few steps are undertaken for the restriction of the areas with introduced species as a Strategy for replacement of the introduced hybrid poplar species on the Danube islands with native species has been developed and the development of an Action plan for the strategy's implementation lies ahead.

In the national law system there are set mechanisms and procedures for the control of the introduction of new species, for which a coordinated procedure and scientific opinion and evaluation.

The identification of introduced species and their impact is one of the priorities in the development of management plans for national and natural parks, as well as for other protected areas. In these plans are foreseen measures for prevention of the invasion of introduced species or for their elimination.

89. So far there are no comprehensive evaluation of the impact and the threat for the ecosystems and native species from introduced species.

91. So far there are no projects on regional and international level on the problems regarding alien species.

92. In the NBCS and the NBSP alien species issues are treated and relevant measures are recommended.

97. See question 13, please

99. See questions 305 to 308, please.

100. The education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species are connected with the general flow of these processes.

**Article 8j Traditional knowledge and related provisions**

103. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low			
104. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>103; 104. The traditional lifestyle as a form of sustainable use of the agricultural lands and forest resources is of a high priority in the management of the protected areas. In the management plans of the protected areas a special emphasis is put on this issue and adequate measures and recommendations are foreseen.</p> <p>In the different branch policies this issue is either not address or addressed not sufficiently. The financial resources for the fulfillment of the requirements of the Convention and the national measures in this direction are rather limited. Especially limiting are the financial resources of the Municipalities. It is mostly counted on financial help from international projects rather than internal resources. The qualified staff working on the implementation of Article 8 of the Convention in the central institutions is extremely insufficient and lacking in the municipalities.</p>							

105. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure that the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are respected, preserved and maintained?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
106. Is your country working to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	

**Decision III/4 and Decision IV/9. Implementation of Article 8(j)**

107. Has your country developed national legislation and corresponding strategies for the implementation of Article 8(j)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) legislation or other measures in place	
108. Has your country supplied information on the implementation of Article 8(j) to other Contracting Parties through media such as the national report?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - CHM	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
109. Has your country submitted case-studies to the Executive Secretary on measures taken to develop and implement the Convention's provisions relating to indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
110. Is your country participating in appropriate working groups and meetings?	
a) none	
b) some	X
c) all	
111. Is your country facilitating the active participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities in these working groups and meetings?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

**Decision V/16. Article 8(j) and related provisions**

112. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in the annex to the decision, and identified how to implement those tasks appropriate to national circumstances?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes (please provide details)	X
113. Is your country integrating such tasks into its ongoing programmes, taking into account the identified collaboration opportunities?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	X
d) yes - to a significant extent	
114. Is your country taking full account of existing instruments, guidelines, codes and other relevant activities in the implementation of the programme of work?	

a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	X
d) yes - to a significant extent	
115. Has your country provided appropriate financial support for the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	X
d) yes - to a significant extent	
116. Has your country fully incorporated women and women's organizations in the activities undertaken to implement the programme of work contained in the annex to the decision and other relevant activities under the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
117. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	X
d) yes - to a significant extent	
118. Has your country provided case studies on methods and approaches concerning the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge, and the control of that information by indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
d) yes - through the national CHM	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	X
119. Does your country exchange information and share experiences regarding national legislation and other measures for the protection of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - with specific countries	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	X
120. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and maintenance of knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	

c) some measures	X
d) extensive measures	
121. Has your country supported the development of registers of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, in collaboration with these communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) development in progress	X
d) register fully developed	
122. Have representatives of indigenous and local community organizations participated in your official delegation to meetings held under the Convention on Biological Diversity?	
a) not relevant	
b) not appropriate	X
c) yes	
123. Is your country assisting the Secretariat to fully utilize the clearing-house mechanism to co-operate closely with indigenous and local communities to explore ways that enable them to make informed decisions concerning release of their traditional knowledge?	
a) no	
b) awaiting information on how to proceed	X
c) yes	
124. Has your country identified resources for funding the activities identified in the decision?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) partly	X
d) fully	



*Further comments on implementation of this Article*

105; 106; 107. In the NBCS a connection between the traditional way of resource use and their sustainable reproduction is done. A complete strategy and action plan on this issue are not developed so far.

There are no law mechanisms for the implementation of the Article 8j of the Convention or for the consecutive stimulation and distribution of the benefits from traditional practices.

108. A project for the implementation of the Clearing house mechanism is starting, on which is counted to accumulate and distribute information, including the international experience regarding Article 8j.

110 to 124. Main problem in the implementation of Article 8j is the lack of complete concept on this issue, as well as law-conducted mechanisms and resources for implementation and stimulation.

At this stage partially are undertaken measures and activities on the implementation of the Article 8j in Bulgaria:

-In the process of development of Management plans of protected areas information about traditional practices is collected and projects and programs for their development, including popularization and stimulation are foreseen;

-Development of regional and municipal programs for sustainable development, where the most important are the issues about sustainable use of the resources, strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities and effective participation of the communities in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, including benefit-sharing.

-Financed through the National fund for protection of the environment projects relevant to traditional practices – agriculture, cultivation of medical plants, fruit production etc.

**Article 9 Ex situ conservation**

125. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
126. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>125; 126. In Bulgaria, broader priority is given for preservation of species <i>in situ</i>. <i>Ex situ</i> preservation is applied in more restricted cases, when creation of gene banks, breeding in captivity, recovery of old domestic sorts and animal races and plants are concerned. Sometimes it is the only way to recover extinguished species. The country disposes of specialists and in some extend of technical base for realization of <i>ex-situ</i> preservation, but the limiting factor for broader application of this activity appears the insufficient financial resources in economy in transition.</p> <p>Substantial measures are undertaken for regulation of <i>ex situ</i> conservation of the biodiversity components in the country. The Nature Conservation Act, the Protected Areas Act, the Medicinal Plants Act and the draft of the Biodiversity Act provides such measures.</p> <p>Several tasks, relevant to the activities concerning the creation and maintenance of new <i>ex situ</i> and gene banks collections, as well as technical reconstruction of such plant or animal collection are included in the NBCP.</p>					

127. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>native</i> to your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X
128. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>originating outside</i> your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
129. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
130. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources <i>native</i> to your country (9b)?	
a) no	

b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
131. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <u>ex situ</u> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources <i>originating elsewhere</i> (9b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
132. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
133. Has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions (9c)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
134. Has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for <u>ex situ</u> conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and <u>in situ</u> populations of species (9d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
<b><i>If a developed country Party -</i></b>	
135. Has your country cooperated in providing financial and other support for <u>ex situ</u> conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of <u>ex situ</u> conservation facilities in developing countries (9e)?	
<b><i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i></b>	
136. Has your country received financial and other support for ex situ conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of ex situ conservation facilities (9e)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

*Further comments on implementation of this Article*

127; 128; 130; 131; 133; 134. The general priorities in the conservation of plant and animal genetic resources are:

- Establishment of ex situ facilities and institutions (seed banks, experimental, units for preservation of the collections, etc.);
- Establishment of resources and possibilities for planting, selection and study, etc. (herbaria, arboreta, nurseries etc.);
- Maintenance of sufficient minimum numbers of the endangered by extinction breeds, strains and agricultural animal lines, fish and other aqua-cultures;
- Construction of national reserves for domestic animal breeds endangered by extinction;
- Establishment of a National Gene Bank of deep-frozen gametes and embryos.

Plant genetic resources (PGR) are a part of the biodiversity, represented by the cultivated plants and their wild relatives, exploitable species and ecotypes from the natural flora. The main activities related to their – collection, study and reproduction, use and conservation, are being effectuated according to the European standards within the framework of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)

In Bulgaria the scientifically grounded activities for collection study and conservation of the PGR have their history in the past. At present they are effectuated in different directions and to a different degree by:

- The programme for PGR of the Institute in Sadovo, which includes all the sources (ex situ and in situ) and all activities and ways of maintenance (ex situ collections, long term storage in the seed gene bank) of the PGR. The presence of database about the collected and studied accessions provides the possibility for an interaction between the sources (ex situ, in situ, seed gene bank) and the users of the PGR on a national and international level. The ex situ collection of PGR (IIPGR, Sadovo) is represented by 91 cultivated species of 3 main groups: old cultivars and local populations; modern lines and cultivars; wild species;
- Specialized institutes of the Center for Agricultural Sciences, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Higher Educational Institutes – using and thus creating and studying new germplasms; botanical gardens herbariums, museums – maintaining botanical information and in vivo plants from the wild flora. The breeding collections are concentrated in 27 breeding centers in the country.

The wild species determining the diversity of the relatives of the cultivated plants are cereals, forages, ornamentals, oil, fruit-tree species.

For conservation of the aborigine races farm animals, the breeding of those is not economically efficient, but they are caring valuable and unique qualities, the following is planed in Bulgaria:

- Subsidy of 30 % by the state budget for breeding of the above mentioned animal races.
- Development of 4 national reserves for endangered races of domestic animals.
- Establishment of a National Gene Bank of deep frozen gametes and embryos.
- Development of National Council for conservation of the genetic diversity in the stockbreeding.

129; 132; 136. Some of the international projects that are a base for collaboration between Bulgaria and other countries on the conservation of genetic resources are as follows:

- “Investigation, collection and conservation of plant genetic resources”. BUL/77/012; BUL/85/001 – FAO-AG-DP.
- “Collection, assessment and conservation of plant genetic resources from the wild flora”, 1996, supervised and financed by IPGRI, Rome and Darwin Foundation, UK.

- “The diversity of Trifolium and Medicago species in Bulgaria”, 1990-1993. Financed by USA, NATO.
- “The diversity of Aegilops species in Bulgaria”, 1990. Financed by ICARDA, Syria.
- “Collection of perennial forage species, used in breeding selection”, 1988. Financed by IPGRI, Rome.

**Article 10 Sustainable use of components of biological diversity**

137. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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138. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

137; 138. The most comprehensive objective in the field of biodiversity in Bulgaria is its conservation and maintenance. This objective includes two main sub-objectives:

-Conservation, strengthening and restoration of key ecosystems, habitats, species and their genetic resources;

-Ensuring of possibilities for sustainable use of biological resources.

The sustainable use of the biological resources is implemented in separate socio-economical sectors of the country. The resources needed for the management of the process and prior to all for its monitoring may be assumed limited.

139. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making (10a)?

a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) review of implementation available	

140. Has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity (10b)?

a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	

141. 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 (10c)?

a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X

d) comprehensive measures in place	X
142. 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 (10d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	X
143. Does your country actively encourage cooperation between government authorities and the private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological diversity (10e)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) review of implementation available	

***Decisions IV/15. Relationship of the Convention with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions***

144. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on tourism and its impacts on biological diversity, and efforts to effectively plan and manage tourism?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
145. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on biodiversity-related activities of the CSD (such as SIDS, oceans, seas and freshwater resources, consumption and production patterns)?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - correspondence	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X

**Decision V/24. Sustainable use as a cross-cutting issue**

146. Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	X
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	
147. Has your country assisted other Parties to increase their capacity to implement sustainable-use practices, programmes and policies at regional, national and local levels, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) to a limited extent	X
d) to a significant extent (please provide details)	
148. Has your country developed mechanisms to involve the private sector and indigenous and local communities in initiatives on sustainable use, and in mechanisms to ensure that indigenous and local communities benefit from such sustainable use?	
a) no	
b) mechanisms under development	X
c) mechanisms in place (please describe)	
149. Has your country identified areas for conservation that would benefit through the sustainable use of biological diversity and communicated this information to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

**Decision V/25. Biological diversity and tourism**

150. Has your country based its policies, programmes and activities in the field of sustainable tourism on an assessment of the inter-linkages between tourism and biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
151. Has your country submitted case-studies on tourism as an example of the sustainable use of biological diversity to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
152. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Ecotourism?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
153. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Mountains?	
a) no	

b) yes	X
154. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
155. Has your country established enabling policies and legal frameworks to complement voluntary efforts for the effective implementation of sustainable tourism?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent (please describe)	

***Further comments on implementation of this Article***

139; 140; 141; 142; 143; 146; 147; 148; 149. Different measures are used for the achievement of the second specific objective, , each one including a large number of activities. The sequential numbers of NBCP activities concerning the sustainable use of biological resources are as follows:

-Drafting of Acts, normative acts and information-management documents - 2-5, 8-11, 17, 18, 20, 22-24, 27, 33, 43;

-Institutional Strengthening of the Biodiversity Conservation Units-48, 49;

-Establishment and Maintenance of a National Eco-network - ;

-Expansion and Maintenance of the Protected Areas Network - 51-53;

-Restoration and Maintenance Activities mostly related to conservation of endangered species and of their genetic resources - 55, 56, 61, 62, 72;

Strengthening of the Scientific Base for Biodiversity Conservation - 80-85;

Information, Education and Training - 92, 93.

The sustainable use of the biological resources in Bulgaria is subject to management and wise use of the ecosystems in a manner and to a degree which maintain their biological diversity, productivity, restoration capacity, vitality and potential to fulfill now and in the future their respective ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global levels without damage to other ecosystems.

The criteria and indicators for sustainable biological resources use (see question 27, please) are features that the resources should not be changed for the worse during the implementation of the activities both at the ecosystem level and at the level of the NBCP. These will also be taken into account in the monitoring of the implementation of the National Plan activities and in the analysis of their results, etc.

144; 145. MOEW fills in questionnaires, enquiries and other documents required by the Secretariat of the Convention and by the CSD regarding tourism and other activities related to the sustainable use of the biological resources.

150; 152; 153; 155. With the democratization of Bulgaria and the opening of the country to visitors, conditions now exist for the development of ecotourism sites. The Tourism Development Strategy for Bulgaria was prepared to help ensure that such development occurs in a wise and conservative manner. It is based on the numerous discussions and suggestions from the workshop held in Bansko in October 1992. With the development of the Strategy the national ecotourism policy already exists. This policy should involve support to practical activities,



including the publication of tourism-related literature on protected areas, establishment by the MOEW of tourism management guidelines for protected areas, definition of conservation design guidelines for essential conservation activities, establishment of an incentive system for conservation projects, and the dissemination of business development and marketing advice for craft industries.

Mostly private companies currently carry out the activities related to tourism in the country. The government tourism managing institution is the Ministry of Economy. The MOEW and its regional authorities control the tourism activities in the protected areas and outside them with respect to the biodiversity conservation.

#### **Article 11 Incentive measures**

156. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
157. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
156; 157. The relative priority of the implementation of Article 11 can be identified as medium. The main reason at this stage is extremely weak financial resources for real stimulation of protection and sustainable usage of the biodiversity. As limiting are identified the financial resources at national and regional level for meeting the obligations and recommendations made.					
158. Are programmes in place to identify and ensure the adoption of economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?					
a) no					
b) early stages of development					
c) advanced stages of development					X
d) programmes in place					
e) review of implementation available					
159. Do these incentives, and the programmes to identify them and ensure their adoption, cover the full range of sectoral activities?					
a) no					
b) some sectors					X
c) all major sectors					
d) all sectors					

**Decision III/18. Incentive measures**

160. Has your country reviewed legislation and economic policies to identify and promote incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) reviews in progress	
c) some reviews complete	
d) as far as practically possible	X
161. Has your country ensured the development of mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas, <i>inter alia</i> , national accounting systems and investment strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of identifying mechanisms	
c) advanced stages of identifying mechanisms	
d) mechanisms in place	X
e) review of impact of mechanisms available	
162. Has your country developed training and capacity building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives?	
a) no	
b) planned	
c) some	X
d) many	
163. Has your country incorporated biological diversity considerations into impact assessments as a step in the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
164. Has your country shared experience on incentive measures with other Contracting Parties, including making relevant case-studies available to the Secretariat?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X

**Decision IV/10. Measures for implementing the Convention [part]**

165. Is your country actively designing and implementing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) measures in place	X
e) review of implementation available	
166. Has your country identified threats to biological diversity and underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including the relevant actors, as a stage in designing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) partially reviewed	X
c) thoroughly reviewed	
d) measures designed based on the reviews	
e) review of implementation available	
167. Do the existing incentive measures take account of economic, social, cultural and ethical valuation of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
168. Has your country developed legal and policy frameworks for the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) frameworks in place	
e) review of implementation available	
169. Does your country carry out consultative processes to define clear target-oriented incentive measures to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss?	
a) no	
b) processes being identified	X
c) processes identified but not implemented	
d) processes in place	
170. Has your country identified and considered neutralizing perverse incentives?	
a) no	
b) identification programme under way	
c) identified but not all neutralized	X
d) identified and neutralized	

**Decision V/15. Incentive measures**

171. Has your country reviewed the incentive measures promoted through the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
172. Has your country explored possible ways and means by which these incentive measures can support the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in your country?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) early stages of development	X
d) advanced stages of development	
e) further information available	

**Further comments on implementation of this Article**

158 to 170. In the NBCS the need for incentive measures is put in foreground.

There is no complete system of law, economic, and social measures and mechanisms for the implementation of Article 11 in all sectors.

In some laws there are premises and procedures for incentive measures. For example in the Protected Areas Act there is a certain mechanism for accumulation and distribution of financial resources, including for private person, for activities on sustainable use or restoration of resources in the protected areas. The Forestry Act also gives partial possibilities for financial stimulation of certain activities in the forests including for private forest owners.

National laws treating the bioresources regulate their sustainable use mainly through measures regarding the methods and techniques for use rather than stimulating financial or other mechanisms. Among the main reasons for that is the insufficiency of financial resources.

Other way for sustainable use of the biodiversity developing now is the provision of appropriate conditions for alternative forms of livelihood /tourism/, but so far such forms are connected mainly with protected areas – national and natural parks and reserves. In relation to this educational programs are developed, tourism infrastructure is financed. Less financed are particular investment projects including the private sector.

In some sectors, as the agriculture there are possibilities /SAPARD/ for financial assistance of sustainable agricultural practices.

In other sectors, as fisheries these possibilities are extremely limited.

Many international projects study the law and experience of other countries regarding the applied mechanisms and forms of incentive measures.

171,172. To fulfill the obligation on the Climate Change Convention /Kioto protocol/ a National action plan is created. It has measures regarding the industrial sector, including forestry and agriculture – afforestation of abandoned and eroded lands, usage of resistant to dry climate native species, educational campaigns, as well as development and implementation of incentive /financial/ mechanisms for the fulfillment of the measures in the private sector. The implementation of these measures will definitely contribute for the achievement of some of the aims of the CBD.

**Article 12 Research and training**

173. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
174. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>173; 174. The relative priority of the research and education activities in the field of biodiversity conservation is high in Bulgaria. The policy is a part of the National Policy for Ecological Education and Nature Researches, carried out in the universities – in these departments that carry out the research activities, as well as in some of the research institutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the major activities of which are oriented towards the matters in question. The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) consists of approximately 68 individual scientific research institutes and laboratories. More than 30 of them conduct biodiversity and environment-protection related scientific researches and studies. This area was actively researched by the Institute of Botany, the Institute of Zoology, the Forest Institute, the Central Environmental Laboratory, the Institute on Biology and Immunology and Reproduction, the Institute of Genetics, the Institute of Plant Physiology, the National Museum of Natural Sciences, etc. There are 34 scientific research institutes in the Academy of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest. Of these, the Institute for Introduction and Plant Resources in the town of Sadovo, the Institute for Gene Engineering in the town of Kostinbrod and the Institute for Wheat and Sunflower in the town of General Toshevo carry out activities closely related to biodiversity and biological safety.</p> <p>New faculties and departments on environment were established in some Universities, such as the University of Forestry, the Sofia University, etc. These facilities conduct biodiversity related training, scientific research and practical activities.</p> <p>It can be assumed that the resources for meeting the obligations and recommendations made in relation to Article 12 of the CBD are limiting to adequate.</p>					

175. 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 (12a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	
176. Has your country provided support to other Parties for education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
177. Does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (12b)?	

a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
178. 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 (12c)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

***If a developed country Party -***

179. Does your country's implementation of the above activities take into account the special needs of developing countries?

a) no	
b) yes, where relevant	

***Further comments on implementation of this Article***

175. Training programmes for technical education and for identification, conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity and its resources have been developed for the experts of the National Nature Protection Service and the Regional Directorates of Environment and Water, as well as for the employees of the National Parks. Similar programmes have been developed in the system of the National Forestry Board. The funding depends on the budget of the respective Ministry.

Funds for the education and training of specialists in the field of nature conservation are provided also as a part of all international projects in the respective field. Different forms of education, e.g. meetings, seminars and workshops, training courses, University specialization, international visits, etc., are used. Some of the training activities, related to the establishment of a Network of protected zones are as follows:

- Identification of training needs within regional and municipal government and technical departments responsible for the management and monitoring of protected zones.
- Development of training modules focused on the needs of the regional and municipal government and technical departments responsible for the management and monitoring of protected zones.
- Training of the regional and municipal government and technical departments staff responsible for the management and monitoring of protected zones.

A key role is attributed to the education of staff that will then take part in the nature conservation activities. Following are some of the tasks related to this that are included for development in the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan:

- Development and introduction of a uniform strategy, a nature education programme at all levels;
- Development of medicinal plant related education programmes;
- Inclusion into the Biology and Ecology subjects in higher education facility curricula of courses on *Biodiversity, Protection of the Diversity of Species, and Protected species, territories and habitats,*
- Inclusion in the curriculum of agriculture schools and of the Higher Institute of Agriculture of an optional subject on genetic resources,

-Development of educational programmes for genetic resources conservation and use.

177; 178. The scientific research activities of the institutes within the structure of BAS are supported by the national budget. These institutes, as well as the university departments carrying out scientific research activities, sign contracts with government institutions for the accomplishment of researches that are of interest to the above mentioned institutions. Following are some of the research tasks included in the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan that must be finished by 2003:

- Preparation and publishing of a Red List of plants, animals and habitats in conformity with the international categories for being endangered;
- Preparation and publishing of a contemporary national Red Data Book in compliance with the international categories of protected plants, animals and habitats;
- Studying of the conditions and possibilities for introduction of bats and cave fauna in abandoned mine shafts;
- Development of projects for the maintenance of populations of endangered genetic resources through integrated breeding methods;
- Studying of the effects of long-term storage and reproduction of seed samples on the genotype integrity of the embryonic plasma;
- Carrying out of studies and activities aimed at improving the conditions of inundated forests;
- Annual studies and assessments on the condition of local fish species and fish species migrating on long distances;
- Development of regional agroecological schemes of sustainable development and efficient management of agricultural activities in rich biodiversity areas. Some of the research activities that are to be carried out in relation to the establishment of a Network of protected zones in the country are:
  - Recognizing and studying the experiences of Western European countries having contributed to the Network NATURA 2000;
  - Content analysis of the Bulgarian Corine Biotopes Database to determine in which sites exist habitats that are included in Appendix 1 of the Biodiversity Act and species for habitat protection included in Appendix 2 of the same Act.
  - Scientific research (inventory), including data collected after fieldwork, to identify necessary additional data for the above mentioned sites;
  - Scientific research (inventory), including data collection after field work, to identify and describe the sites not included in the Corine Biotopes Database but yet containing habitats included in Appendix 1 of the Biodiversity Act and species for habitat protection included in Appendix 2 of the same Act.

**Article 13 Public education and awareness**

180. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
181. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate	X	c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
180; 181. Radical solution of the issues related to biodiversity conservation can be achieved only by means of wide public support. Therefore the public awareness and education in the field are a priority task with adequate resources for its realization in Bulgaria.					

182. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through media?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
183. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through the inclusion of this topic in education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
184. Does your country cooperate with other States and international organizations in developing relevant educational and public awareness programmes (13b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X

**Decision IV/10. Measures for implementing the Convention [part]**

185. Are public education and awareness needs covered in the national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X



186. Has your country allocated appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?	
a) limited resources	
b) significant but not adequate resources	X
c) adequate resources	
187. Does your country support initiatives by major groups that foster stakeholder participation and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
188. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes	X
189. Has your country made available any case-studies on public education and awareness and public participation, or otherwise sought to share experiences?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
190. Has your country illustrated and translated the provisions of the Convention into any local languages to promote public education and awareness raising of relevant sectors?	
a) not relevant	
b) still to be done	
c) under development	
d) yes	X
191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
<b><i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i></b>	
192. When requesting assistance through the GEF, has your country proposed projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

**Decision V/17. Education and public awareness**

193. Does your country support capacity-building for education and communication in biological diversity as part of the national biodiversity strategy and action plans?	
a) no	
b) limited support	
c) yes (please give details)	X

**Further comments on implementation of this Article**

182 to 191. The education and the public relations regarding the biodiversity conservation are included in the respective plans at different times. The considered direction is only one of the priorities recommended by the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. The following activities are specified in the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan:

- Publishing of a book on protected plant and animal species;
- Publishing of a children's book on "Protected animals and plants";
- Annual publication of posters on protected plants and animals, decorative wild growth plants, protected areas and landscapes;
- Issue of leaflets, brochures and biodiversity related promotion materials;
- Realization of periodical information campaigns related to protection of nature, respectively biodiversity, via the mass media (TV, radio, magazines and newspapers);
- Maintenance of functioning visitor and information centres in the protected areas.

Besides the above mentioned concrete activities related to education and public awareness, there are several other activities related to the establishment of a Network of protected zones:

- Public meetings with local stakeholders (villagers, local and regional governments, NGOs, academia, business community, etc.) on the establishment of protected zones and their general use.
- Workshops and/or seminars with local stakeholders on the establishment of protected zones and their general use.
- Workshops and/or seminars with stakeholders on the identification of new protected zones;
- Establishment of the Municipal forums that meet on regular basis;
- Public information meetings on the Network development and the purpose of the Municipal forums.
- Annual meetings between the participants of the Municipal forums to discuss the Network development and lessons learned etc.

193. The support to the building of educational and communication capacity in view of the biological diversity, for the responsible departments of the Ministries, as well as for the research and pedagogic institutes and the NGOs, is planned and implemented by national and international sources.

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

194. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
195. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
194. 195. The Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (EIAP) is the basic tool for environment and biodiversity protection in Bulgaria. The legislative and institutional bases of the EIAP system are being developed in the country. So far the connected with these human resources may be considered as limiting.					

196. Is legislation in place requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity (14 (1a))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation in place	X
e) review of implementation available	
197. Do such environmental impact assessment procedures allow for public participation (14(1a))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
198. Does your country have mechanisms in place to ensure that the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account (14(1b))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	

199. Is your country involved in bilateral, regional and/or multilateral discussion on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
200. Is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	

a) no	
b) no, assessment of options in progress	
c) some completed, others in progress	X
b) yes	
201. Has your country mechanisms in place to notify other States of cases of imminent or grave danger or damage to biological diversity originating in your country and potentially affecting those States (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	X
e) no need identified	
202. Has your country mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your State to biological diversity in other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	
e) no need identified	
203. Has your country national mechanisms in place for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	X
204. Has your country encouraged international cooperation to establish joint contingency plans for emergency responses to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) no need identified	

**Decision IV/10. Measures for implementing the Convention [part]**

205. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting Parties information and experience relating to environmental impact assessment and resulting mitigating measures and incentive schemes?	
a) no	
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	X
d) information provided on the national CHM	
206. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting Parties information on measures and agreements on liability and redress applicable to damage to biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	X
d) information provided on the national CHM	

**Decision V/18. Impact assessment, liability and redress**

207. Has your country integrated environmental impact assessment into programmes on thematic areas and on alien species and tourism?	
a) no	
b) partly integrated	X
c) fully integrated	
208. When carrying out environmental impact assessments does your country address loss of biological diversity and the interrelated socio-economic, cultural and human-health aspects relevant to biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) partly	
c) fully	X
209. When developing new legislative and regulatory frameworks, does your country have in place mechanisms to ensure the consideration of biological diversity concerns from the early stages of the drafting process?	
a) no	
b) in some circumstances	X
c) in all circumstances	
210. Does your country ensure the involvement of all interested and affected stakeholders in a participatory approach to all stages of the assessment process?	
a) no	
b) yes - in certain circumstances	X
c) yes - in all cases	
211. Has your country organised expert meetings, workshops and seminars, and/or training, educational and public awareness programmes and exchange programmes in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures for impact assessment?	

a) no	
b) some programmes in place	
c) many programmes in place	X
d) integrated approach to building expertise	
212. Has your country carried out pilot environmental impact assessment projects, in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide further details)	X
213. Does your country use strategic environmental assessments to assess not only the impact of individual projects, but also their cumulative and global effects, and ensure the results are applied in the decision making and planning processes?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
214. Does your country require the inclusion of development of alternatives, mitigation measures and consideration of the elaboration of compensation measures in environmental impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
215. Is national information available on the practices, systems, mechanisms and experiences in the area of strategic environmental assessment and impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) yes (please append or summarise)	X

**Further comments on implementation of this Article**

196; 197; 198; 210. The EIAP is treated in the Environment Protection Act. According to it all activities of physical and juridical persons may be subject to an EIAP.

An EIAP is obligatory for:

- Projects listed in the Annex to the Environment Protection Act;
- National and regional development programmes, the plans for rural and urban development and their changes.

The EIAP may be undertaken on demand from concerned physical or juridical persons.

The Minister of Environment and Water with a Regulation sets the terms and conditions for the EIAP in a Regulation.

The competent authority organizes the discussion on the presented results of the EIAP in which representatives of the local government authorities, of the public and public organizations, of interested physical and juridical persons take part.

The competent authority bans or stops the implementation of projects for which the EIAP has proved negative results or projects for which no EIAP has been carried out, or which haven't got the relevant treatment and protection equipment.

The institution that makes the decision is MOEW by means of the Supreme Ecological Council.

The council consists of representatives of the interested institutions. Two representatives of

NGOs with vote, as well as representatives of the municipalities, research institutes, etc., dependent on the essence of the considered matter, are invited at the sittings of the Council.

199; 200; 201; 204. A mechanism for the early notification of the countries that might be affected by environment pollution originating from Bulgaria is provided (see questions 202, 203, please). Measures to decreasing and mitigating the negative impact of such pollution are developed as a part of the bilateral and regional discussions and agreements in which Bulgaria participates along with the rest countries of the region.

202; 203. The Environmental Executive Agency (EEA) is the administration to the MOEW that manages the National Automated System for Ecological Monitoring (NASEM). NASEM covers the territory of the whole country. It supports databases on the status of environment components at the regional and national levels. Mechanisms for the early notification in case of environment pollution have been established in specific regions. They include also measures for pollution prevention and mitigation of its negative impact on humans and nature. Many other state and non-government institutions and organizations take part in the measures on the considered issues.

205; 206. An international meeting on the problems of the EIAP took place in Bulgaria in 2001.

207; 208; 209; 211; 212; 213; 214; 215. EIAP have the major preventive role for nature and biodiversity protection in Bulgaria. The country is a way ahead in the application of contemporary national and international tools and methodologies for the implementation of the classic and strategic EIAPs.

**Article 15 Access to genetic resources**

216. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
217. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Severely limiting <input type="checkbox"/>					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
216; 217. The relative priority of the access to genetic resources in Bulgaria is high. The connected with that human resources may be considered as limiting.					

218. Has your country endeavoured to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties (15(2))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - limited extent	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - significant extent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
219. Is there any mutual understanding or agreement in place between different interest groups and the State on access to genetic resources (15(4))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - limited extent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - significant extent	<input type="checkbox"/>
220. Has your country an open participation planning process, or any other process in place, to ensure that access to resources is subject to prior informed consent (15(5))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) processes in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
221. Has your country taken 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 (15(6))?	
a) no measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) some measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) potential measures under review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>



222. Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources (15(7))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	X
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	X
c) Policy and administrative measures	X

**Decision II/11 and Decision III/15. Access to genetic resources**

223. Has your country provided the secretariat with information on relevant legislation, administrative and policy measures, participatory processes and research programmes?	
a) no	X
b) yes, within the previous national report	
c) yes, through case-studies	
d) yes, through other means (please give details below)	
224. Has your country implemented capacity-building programmes to promote successful development and implementation of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including scientific, technical, business, legal and management skills and capacities?	
a) no	
b) some programmes covering some needs	
c) many programmes covering some needs	X
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	
e) no perceived need	
225. Has your country analysed experiences of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including regional efforts and initiatives, for use in further development and implementation of measures and guidelines?	
a) no	
b) analysis in progress	X
c) analysis completed	
226. Is your country collaborating with all relevant stakeholders to explore, develop and implement guidelines and practices that ensure mutual benefits to providers and users of access measures?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

227. Has your country identified national authorities responsible for granting access to genetic resources?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
228. Is your country taking an active role in negotiations associated with the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

**Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources**

229. Has your country designated a national focal point and one or more competent national authorities to be responsible for access and benefit-sharing arrangements or to provide information on such arrangements?	
a) no	
b) yes	
c) yes, and Executive Secretary notified	X
230. Do your country's national biodiversity strategy, and legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, contribute to conservation and sustainable use objectives?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
<b>Parties that are recipients of genetic resources</b>	
231. Has your country adopted administrative or policy measures that are supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) other arrangements made	
c) yes	X
232. Does your country co-operate with other Parties in order to find practical and equitable solutions supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention, recognizing the complexity of the issue, with particular consideration of the multiplicity of prior informed consent considerations?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X

233. In developing its legislation on access, has your country taken into account and allowed for the development of a multilateral system to facilitate access and benefit-sharing in the context of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) legislation under development	X
c) yes	
234. Is your country co-ordinating its positions in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	X
c) yes	
235. Has your country provided information to the Executive Secretary on user institutions, the market for genetic resources, non-monetary benefits, new and emerging mechanisms for benefit sharing, incentive measures, clarification of definitions, <i>sui generis</i> systems and "intermediaries"?	
a) no	X
b) some information provided	
c) substantial information provided	
236. Has your country submitted information on specific issues related to the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
237. Has your country provided capacity-building and technology development and transfer for the maintenance and utilization of ex situ collections?	
a) no	
b) yes to a limited extent	X
c) yes to a significant extent	

***Further comments on implementation of this Article***

218 to 222; 224 to 234; 237. The legislative and administrative measures on the activities covered by Article 15 of the CBD are provided by the Biodiversity Act.

At the present moment the access to genetic resources and technologies is regulated by the New Cultivars and New Animal Races Protection Act, 1996, that is applied to the newly obtained, invented or improved crop cultivars or to the new races, lines or hybrids of farm animals; The Intellectual Property Rights Act, 1993 and The Patent Act, 1993.

The zoological and botanical gardens are practicing declaration signing on noncommercial use of the genetic material.

The Biodiversity Act provides that the genetic resources of the natural flora and fauna in Bulgaria are a state property. The access to the resources is realized under the provisions of this law or under other specific property rights legislation in cases when they are protected by patent or by intellectual property rights.

The genetic resources can be used from other countries as well but on the basis of prior consent

in a written form about the conditions and the way for mutual benefit sharing.

The activities related to Article 15 and considering the biotechnologies are partially regulated by the Regulation on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified higher plants obtained by recombinant DNA technology, 1996. The more entire consideration on the access to the modern biotechnologies and the use of the related products and information is provided in the draft of the Genetically Modified Organisms Act.

**Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology**

238. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
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239. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

238;239. The relative priority of the access to and transfer of technology in Bulgaria is medium. The connected with that human resources may be considered as limiting.

240. Has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting 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 (16(1))?

a) no measures	
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b) some measures in place	X
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c) potential measures under review	
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d) comprehensive measures in place	
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241. Is your country aware of any initiatives under which relevant technology is transferred to your country on concessional or preferential terms (16(2))?

a) no	
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b) yes (please give brief details below)	X
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242. Has your country taken measures so that Contracting Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms (16(3))?

a) not relevant	
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b) relevant, but no measures	
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c) some measures in place	
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d) potential measures under review	X
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e) comprehensive measures in place	
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If so, are these measures

a) Legislation	X
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b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	X
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c) Policy and administrative arrangements	X
243. 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 (16(4))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation?	X
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation?	X
c) Policy and administrative arrangements?	X
244. Does your country have a national system for intellectual property right protection (16(5))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
245. If yes, does it cover biological resources (for example, plant species) in any way?	
a) no	X
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	

**Decision III/17. Intellectual property rights**

246. Has your country conducted and provided to the secretariat case-studies of the impacts of intellectual property rights on the achievement of the Conventions objectives?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	

**Further comments on implementation of this Article**

240 to 244; 246. The questions concerning transfer of technology and most of all, biotechnology and access to genetic resources are closely related (see questions 218 to 237, please). For more information, concerning biotechnology and distribution of its benefits, see the questions from 268 to 272.

**Article 17 Exchange of information**

247. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
248. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
247; 248. The relative priority of the exchange of information in Bulgaria is medium. The resources for meeting the obligations in that field are limiting.					

249. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources (17(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) restricted by lack of resources	
c) some measures in place	X
d) potential measures under review	X
e) comprehensive measures in place	
<b>If a developed country Party -</b>	
250. Do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries (17(1))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
251. If so, do these measures include all the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), including technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	

**Article 18 Technical and scientific cooperation**

252. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
253. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Severely limiting <input type="checkbox"/>					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
249. A bill on exchange of environmental information in Bulgaria is under preparation.					
252; 253. The technical and scientific cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation has a high priority in Bulgaria. The country's resources for meeting the obligations and recommendation made in Article 18 of the CBD are limiting.					

254. Has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (18(1))?	
a) no measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) some measures in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) potential measures under review	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
255. Do the measures taken to promote cooperation with other Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention pay special attention to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution building (18(2))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - limited extent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - significant extent	<input type="checkbox"/>
256. 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 (18(4))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) methods in place	<input type="checkbox"/>

257. Does such cooperation include the training of personnel and exchange of experts (18(4))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - limited extent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - significant extent	<input type="checkbox"/>

258. 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 (18(5))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

**Decision II/3, Decision III/4 and Decision IV/2. Clearing House Mechanism**

259. Is your country cooperating in the development and operation of the Clearing House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
260. Is your country helping to develop national capabilities through exchanging and disseminating information on experiences and lessons learned in implementing the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
261. Has your country designated a national focal point for the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
262. Is your country providing resources for the development and implementation of the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes, at the national level	X
c) yes, at national and international levels	
263. Is your country facilitating and participating in workshops and other expert meetings to further the development of the CHM at international levels?	
a) no	
b) participation only	X
c) supporting some meetings and participating	

264. Is your CHM operational	
a) no	
b) under development	X
c) yes (please give details below)	
265. Is your CHM linked to the Internet	
a) no	X
b) yes	



266. Has your country established a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary CHM steering committee or working group at the national level?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

**Decision V/14. Scientific and technical co-operation and the clearinghouse mechanisms (Article 18)**

267. Has your country reviewed the priorities identified in Annex I to the decision, and sought to implement them?	
a) not reviewed	
b) reviewed but not implemented	
c) reviewed and implemented as appropriate	X

**Further comments on implementation of these Articles**

254 to 258. Bulgaria applies the world's achievements in planning the policy and the activities related to the biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of the biological resources. The results from the carried out in the country profound researches, the proposed technical solutions, methodologies and initiatives make Bulgaria an equal partner in the international technical and scientific partnership. The country's experience in using local and traditional methods, mainly for the sustainable use of the genetic resources, including the *ex situ* conservation of the genetic resources of valuable animal and plant species, is quite significant.

The people that are responsible for the relations with international organizations are mostly state employees of high qualification. However, their number is too limited. It is anticipated that their number will be increased. The participation of scientists and representatives of the local NGOs with high competency will be involved.

259 to 267. The establishment of the national Clearing House Mechanism for the biodiversity is a main responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW). This establishment aims to fulfill the regulations of the CBD and is incorporated in the MOEW's policy for transparency of its activities.

The national mechanism for data exchange is very useful for the biodiversity conservation as it will help put the solution of the related to biodiversity conservation issues on a wide institutional and public basis. It will also help coordinate the efforts of the interested physical and juridical persons in reaching the goal.

The first practical steps to the establishment of the national Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism are:

- The Clearing House Mechanism establishment is financed by the GEF through UNDP;
- The aims, objectives, structure, extent, users, as well as the legislative, hardware and software demands for the mechanism were studied. The experience and a future relation with the currently existing European Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanisms were also studied.
- A workshop with the participation of the interested government institutions and NGO's was carried out in order to specify the obligations and activities of the units responsible for the mechanism establishment and support.

It is anticipated that the establishment of the mechanism will be finished by the end of 2001. It will be based on web-technologies. The mechanism will be governed by a Steering Committee at

the national level. The main MOEW's input is expected during the sustainable development of the mechanism in the future when the latter will be broadened in response to the increasing information requirements in

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

268. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
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269. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

268; 269. The handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits has a high priority in Bulgaria. The country's resources for meeting the obligations and recommendation made in Article 19 of the CBD are limiting.

270. 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 (19(1))?

a) no measures	
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b) some measures in place	
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c) potential measures under review	X
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d) comprehensive measures in place	
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If so, are these measures:

a) Legislation	X
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b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	X
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c) Policy and administrative measures	X
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271. Has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties (19(2))?

a) no measures	
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b) some measures in place	
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c) potential measures under review	X
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d) comprehensive measures in place	
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**Decision IV/3. Issues related to biosafety and Decision V/1. Work Plan  
of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on  
Biosafety**

272. Is your country a Contracting Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?	
a) not a signatory	
b) signed, ratification in progress	
c) instrument of ratification deposited	X

**Further comments on implementation of this Article**

270 to 273. Biotechnology has been comparatively well developing in Bulgaria during the last two decades, both in scientific and applied aspect. There are numbers of laboratories in the country, using in vitro cultures methods for micro propagation of valuable cultivars and horticultures, or producing virus-free planting material. Biotechnological methods are used for restoration of endangered natural populations of plants or animals.

In the Institute of Genetic Engineering, Kostinbrod, recombinant DNA technologies are used for obtaining genetically modified plants, resistant to herbicides and pesticides.

Currently, the release into the environment of GMOs is covered by a Regulation on the basis of the Seeds Act. This is "Regulation on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified higher plants obtained by recombinant DNA technology", 1996, which requires a permit from the Minister of Agriculture and Forestr for the introduction into the environment of GMOs.

The Bulgarian Government is preparing a comprehensive Act on GMOs that aims to offer the basis for the implementation of the EC Directive 90/219/EEC, EC Directive 90/220EEC, as well as the specific requirements of CBD expressed by the Cartagena protocol on Biosafety (recently ratified by the Bulgarian Parliament).

The objective of the draft Act is to protect human health and environment from possible adverse impacts of GMOs. The draft covers the import and export, contained use, deliberate release into the environment, and placing on market of GMOs.

The draft provides that:

- Contained use of GMOs can only be carried out by persons licensed by the State Commission for the GMOs use;
- The State Commission issues permits for releases, placing on the market, import and export of GMOs and products containing GMOs in Bulgaria;
- Each permit will be issued on a basis of entire risk assessment for each case;

The risk assessment has to be made on two directions:

- Horizontal- meaning, impact of GMOs inside the same species and
- Vertical – meaning, impact of GMOs on other living creatures including the human beings.

The primarily involved Ministries are the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestr and the Ministry of Environment and Water.

In order to inform involved parties and the public, a number of meetings and seminars were organized focusing on GMOs in general and the preparation of the GMO Act.

The draft Act provides for the establishment of a register of GMOs, which is to be established and maintained by the State Commission for GMO and accessible for the public in its nonconfidential parts. The finalization of the draft is in process.

**Article 20 Financial resources**

273. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
274. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Severely limiting <input type="checkbox"/>					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
273; 274. The financial sources for the biodiversity conservation are limiting in Bulgaria.					

275. Has your country provided financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention (20(1))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - incentives only	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - financial support only	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) yes - financial support and incentives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b><i>If a developed country Party -</i></b>	
276. 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 fulfil the obligations of the Convention, as agreed between you and the interim financial mechanism (20(2))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i></b>	
277. Has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable you to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention (20(2))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b><i>If a developed country Party -</i></b>	
278. Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
<b><i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i></b>	
279. Has your country used financial resources related to implementation of the Convention from bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Decision III/6. Additional financial resources**

280. Is your country working to ensure that all funding institutions (including bilateral assistance agencies) are striving to make their activities more supportive of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
281. Is your country cooperating in any efforts to develop standardized information on financial support for the objectives of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes (please attach information)	X

**Decision V/11. Additional financial resources**

282. Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) procedures being established	X
c) yes (please provide details)	
283. Are details available of your country's financial support to national biodiversity activities?	
a) no	
b) not in a standardized format	
c) yes (please provide details)	X
284. Are details available of your country's financial support to biodiversity activities in other countries?	
a) not applicable	
b) no	X
c) not in a standardized format	
d) yes (please provide details)	
<b>Developed country Parties -</b>	
285. Does your country promote support for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention in the funding policy of its bilateral funding institutions and those of regional and multilateral funding institutions?	
a) no	
b) yes	
<b>Developing country Parties -</b>	
286. Does your country discuss ways and means to support implementation of the objectives of the Convention in its dialogue with funding institutions?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
287. Has your country compiled information on the additional financial support provided by the private sector?	

a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
288. Has your country considered tax exemptions in national taxation systems for biodiversity-related donations?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national conditions	
c) exemptions under development	X
d) exemptions in place	

***Further comments on implementation of this Article***

275; 277; 279 to 283; 286; 288. The major internal financial sources for conservation and management of the biological diversity are the budgets of MOEW, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest and the other Ministries that use and manage sustainably biological resources. The amount of the money is planned a year ahead and the accountancy is strictly controlled.

The international support is of enormous importance to the biodiversity protection in the country. This support is carried out mostly by means of international projects. An idea of the necessary and the provided amounts could be obtained from the financial part of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan.

The sum of the funds necessary for the implementation of the National Plan totals 44,355 thousand levs for the five-year period of its operation. This amount is very small when compared to the investments in the country's socio-economic sectors.

Non-secured funds were 21 274 thousand levs to year 2000. The provided by the MOEW funds were 13 124 thousand levs, from the other Ministries – 5 695 thousand levs and from international institutions – 4 262 thousand levs.

Additional sources for biodiversity conservation funding are some of the activities in the National Parks, like cutting woods, grazing, collection of mushrooms and medicinal plants, etc.

The benefits from the funds provided by the European Council and the CBD for participation of Bulgarian specialists in the forums, organized by the CBD, by the Paneuropean Strategy on Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation and other institutions related to the biodiversity conservation, are immense.

**Article 21 Financial mechanism**

289. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
290. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
289; 290. The development of specific financial mechanisms for the provision of funds for the biodiversity conservation of the states that are members of the Convention is considered essential in Bulgaria. However, it is obvious that both the national and the international resources for the purpose are limited, since there is no significant success in the field so far.					

291. Has your country worked to strengthen existing financial institutions to provide financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

**Decision III/7. Guidelines for the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism**

292. Has your country provided information on experiences gained through activities funded by the financial mechanism?	
a) no activities	
b) no, although there are activities	
c) yes, within the previous national report	
d) yes, through case-studies	
e) yes, through other means (please give details below)	X

**Further comments on implementation of this Article**

291; 292. The information on the accomplishment of the activities regarding the biodiversity conservation is at disposal at the National Statistics Institute; in the annual reports for the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan; in the chapters for nature and biodiversity conservation of the reports of the different Ministries on their overall work; in the reports for biodiversity conservation related tasks, for the accomplishment of which the Ministries contract other institutions, etc.
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**Article 23 Conference of the Parties**

293. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties?	
a) COP 1 (Nassau)	
b) COP 2 (Jakarta)	
c) COP 3 (Buenos Aires)	
d) COP 4 (Bratislava)	3
e) COP 5 (Nairobi)	2

**Decision I/6, Decision II/10, Decision III/24 and Decision IV/17.  
Finance and budget**

294. Has your country paid all of its contributions to the Trust Fund?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

**Decision IV/16 (part) Preparation for meetings of the Conference of the Parties**

295. Has your country participated in regional meetings focused on discussing implementation of the Convention before any meetings of the Conference of the Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please specify which)	
<b>If a developed country Party -</b>	
296. Has your country funded regional and sub-regional meetings to prepare for the COP, and facilitated the participation of developing countries in such meetings?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details below)	

**Decision V/22. Budget for the programme of work for the biennium 2001-2002**

297. Did your country pay its contribution to the core budget (BY Trust Fund) for 2001 by 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2001?	
a) yes in advance	
b) yes on time	
c) no but subsequently paid	
d) not yet paid	X
298. Has your country made additional voluntary contributions to the trust funds of the Convention?	
a) yes in the 1999-2000 biennium	
b) yes for the 2001-2002 biennium	
c) expect to do so for the 2001-2002 biennium	X



d) no	
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***Further comments on implementation of this Article***

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***Article 24 Secretariat***

299. Has your country provided direct support to the Secretariat in terms of seconded staff, financial contribution for Secretariat activities, etc?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

***Further comments on implementation of this Article***

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***Article 25 Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice***

300. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of SBSTTA?	
a) SBSTTA I (Paris)	1
b) SBSTTA II (Montreal)	1
c) SBSTTA III (Montreal)	1
d) SBSTTA IV (Montreal)	1
e) SBSTTA V (Montreal)	1

***Further comments on implementation of this Article***

300. Having in mind the bulky data, considered at the sittings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as well as the fact that usually the work is done by more than one team, it is recommended that funds for the participation of at least two representatives from the countries in transition are provided.
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**Article 26 Reports**

301. What is the status of your first national report?	
a) Not submitted	
b) Summary report submitted	
c) Interim/draft report submitted	
d) Final report submitted	X
If b), c) or d), was your report submitted:	
by the original deadline of 1.1.98 (Decision III/9)?	
by the extended deadline of 31.12.98 (Decision IV/14)?	X
Later (please specify date)	

**Decision IV/14 National reports**

302. Did all relevant stakeholders participate in the preparation of this national report, or in the compilation of information used in the report?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
303. Has your country taken steps to ensure that its first and/or second national report(s) is/are available for use by relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, was this by:	
a) informal distribution?	
b) publishing the report?	
c) making the report available on request?	
d) posting the report on the Internet?	X

**Decision V/19. National reporting**

304. Has your country prepared voluntary detailed thematic reports on one or more of the items for in-depth consideration at an ordinary meeting of the parties, following the guidelines provided?	
a) no	X
b) yes - forest ecosystems	
c) yes - alien species	
d) yes - benefit sharing	

**Further comments on implementation of this Article**

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**Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach**

305. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach, taking into account the principles and guidance contained in the annex to decision V/6?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) some aspects are being applied	
d) substantially implemented	X
306. 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, in particular in the context of activities developed within the thematic areas of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) some aspects are being applied	X
d) substantially implemented	
307. Is your country identifying case studies and implementing pilot projects that demonstrate the ecosystem approach, and using workshops and other mechanisms to enhance awareness and share experience?	
a) no	
b) case-studies identified	
c) pilot projects underway	X
d) workshops planned/held	X
e) information available through CHM	
308. Is your country strengthening capacities for implementation of the ecosystem approach, and providing technical and financial support for capacity-building to implement the ecosystem approach?	
a) no	
b) yes within the country	X
c) yes including support to other Parties	
309. Has your country promoted regional co-operation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders?	
a) no	X
b) informal co-operation	
c) formal co-operation (please give details)	

**Inland water ecosystems**

**Decision IV/4. Status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable use**

310. Has your country included information on biological diversity in wetlands when providing information and reports to the CSD, and considered including inland water biological diversity issues at meetings to further the recommendations of the CSD?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
311. Has your country included inland water biological diversity considerations in its work with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with inland water?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
<b>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</b>	
312. When requesting support for projects relating to inland water ecosystems from the GEF, has your country given priority to identifying important areas for conservation, preparing and implementing integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management plans, and investigating processes contributing to biodiversity loss?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
313. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in annex 1 to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	X

**Decision V/2. Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems  
(implementation of decision IV/4)**

314. Is your country supporting and/or participating in the River Basin Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
315. Is your country gathering information on the status of inland water biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) assessments ongoing	X
c) assessments completed	
316. Is this information available to other Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes - national report	
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
317. Has your country developed national and/or sectoral plans for the conservation	

and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes - national plans only	
c) yes - national plans and major sectors	X
d) yes - national plans and all sectors	
318. Has your country implemented capacity-building measures for developing and implementing these plans?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

**Decision III/21. Relationship of the Convention with the CSD and biodiversity-related conventions**

319. Is the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, and of migratory species and their habitats, fully incorporated into your national strategies, plans and programmes for conserving biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

**Further comments on implementation of these decisions and the associated programme of work**

305 to 308. The ecosystem approach of biodiversity conservation and studying was applied into the national policies and legislation and for implementation activities and their adaptation to local, regional and national levels. This means that the whole ecosystem was studied, even where only some of its abiotic and biotic components were of conservation importance and were the basic object for conservation. The threats for the biodiversity were discussed separately for each ecosystem because if their negative influence might lead to an irrevocable loss of the biodiversity in a particular ecosystem, elsewhere the impact of the threat might be mitigated, changed and even made favourable. It also means that the groups including territorially or functionally close ecosystems, e.g. inland water ecosystems, marine and coastal ecosystems, etc., are not subjects to separate management in the country (except for the agricultural ecosystems and forest ecosystems, which are the resource basis of separate branches of the national economy).

However, the different Bulgarian ecosystem groups (see questions 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, please) were detailly characterized. The values of the following parameters were determined for every ecosystem group:

- Description (types of land, forests, water surfaces);
- Location;
- Altitude (in meters);
- Area (in hectares);
- Physical characteristics:
  - Climate;
  - Soil;
  - Hydrology;
  - Others;
- Ecological information:

- Habitat types;
- Plant formations;
- Flora;
- Fauna;
- General condition: for the ecosystem groups; plants, animals, habitats;
- Degree of study;
- Representative biological species and habitats for the ecosystem groups;
- Endangered biological species and habitats for the ecosystem groups;
- Threats to the biodiversity.

These studies were completed by a big team of specialists as a part of the development of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan.

An attempt in applying the ecosystem approach to the integrated management of land, water and living resources, the essence of which is stipulated in the 12 principles discussed at the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD that took place 15 – 26 May, 2000 in Nairobi, Kenya, is made in Bulgaria.

310 to 313; 315 to 319. The groups including territorially or functionally close ecosystems, including the inland water ecosystems, though having been detailly characterized (the values of the parameters presented in questions 305 to 308 were determined for every group), are not subjects to separate management in the country.

During the development of the Management Plans for the protected areas and of the sector plans, special attention is paid to the features of the individual inland water ecosystems, to the specific ways of their protection, management and sustainable use.

Issues on the inland water ecosystems as a union of ecosystems are treated in the National action plan for the conservation of the most important wetlands in Bulgaria.

#### *Marine and coastal biological diversity*

##### *Decision II/10 and Decision IV/5. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity*

320. Does your national strategy and action plan promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
321. 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	X
322. Has your country provided the Executive Secretary with advice and information on future options concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	

b) yes	X
323. Has your country undertaken and/or exchanged information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
324. Has your country programmes in place to enhance and improve knowledge on the genetic structure of local populations of marine species subjected to stock enhancement and/or sea-ranching activities?	
a) no	
b) programmes are being developed	
c) programmes are being implemented for some species	X
d) programmes are being implemented for many species	
e) not a perceived problem	
325. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in an annex to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	X

**Decision V/3. Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity (implementation of decision IV/5)**

326. Is your country contributing to the implementation of the work plan on coral bleaching?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) not relevant	
327. Is your country implementing other measures in response to coral bleaching?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details below)	
c) not relevant	
328. Has your country submitted case-studies on the coral bleaching phenomenon to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) not relevant	

**Further comments on implementation of these decisions and the associated programme of work**

320 to 325. Issues on the wetlands along the Black Sea coastline are treated in the National action plan for the conservation of the most important wetlands in Bulgaria.

**Agricultural biological diversity**

**Decision III/11 and Decision IV/6. Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity**

329. Has your country identified and assessed relevant ongoing activities and existing instruments at the national level?	
a) no	
b) early stages of review and assessment	
c) advanced stages of review and assessment	X
d) assessment completed	
330. Has your country identified issues and priorities that need to be addressed at the national level?	
a) no	
b) in progress	
c) yes	X
331. Is your country using any methods and indicators to monitor the impacts of agricultural development projects, including the intensification and extensification of production systems, on biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) mechanisms in place	
332. Is your country taking steps to share experiences addressing the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - case-studies	X
c) yes - other mechanisms (please specify)	X
333. Has your country conducted case-studies on the issues identified by SBSTTA: i) pollinators, ii) soil biota, and iii) integrated landscape management and farming systems?	
a) no	
b) yes - pollinators	
c) yes - soil biota	
d) yes - integrated landscape management and farming systems	X
334. Is your country establishing or enhancing mechanisms for increasing public	



awareness and understanding of the importance of the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	X

335. Does your country have national strategies, programmes and plans which ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	X
336. Is your country promoting the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
337. Is your country promoting the use of farming practices that not only increase productivity, but also arrest degradation as well as reclaim, rehabilitate, restore and enhance biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
338. Is your country promoting mobilization of farming communities for the development, maintenance and use of their knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
339. Is your country helping to implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
340. Is your country collaborating with other Contracting Parties to identify and promote sustainable agricultural practices and integrated landscape management?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

**Decision V/5. Agricultural biological diversity: review of phase I of the programme of work and adoption of a multi-year work programme**

341. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
342. Is your country promoting regional and thematic co-operation within this framework of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some co-operation	
c) widespread co-operation	X
d) full co-operation in all areas	
343. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) limited additional funds	
c) significant additional funds	X
<b>If a developed country Party -</b>	
344. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity, in particular for capacity building and case-studies, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition?	
a) no	
b) yes within existing cooperation programme(s)	
b) yes, including limited additional funds	X
c) yes, with significant additional funds	
345. Has your country supported actions to raise public awareness in support of sustainable farming and food production systems that maintain agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent	X
c) yes, to a significant extent	
346. Is your country co-ordinating its position in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes	X
347. Is your country a Contracting Party to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade?	
a) not a signatory	
b) signed - ratification in process	
c) instrument of ratification deposited	X

348. Is your country supporting the application of the Executive Secretary for observer status in the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
350. Is your country compiling case-studies and implementing pilot projects relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
351. Has information on scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies been supplied to other Contracting Parties through media such as the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) not applicable	
b) no	
c) yes - national report	
d) yes - through the CHM	
e) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
352. Has your country considered how to address generic concerns regarding such technologies as genetic use restriction technologies under international and national approaches to the safe and sustainable use of germplasm?	
a) no	
b) yes - under consideration	X
c) yes - measures under development	
353. Has your country carried out scientific assessments on <u>inter alia</u> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	
b) some assessments	X
c) major programme of assessments	
354. Has your country disseminated the results of scientific assessments on <u>inter alia</u> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
355. Has your country identified the ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <u>in situ</u> and <u>ex situ</u> conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some measures identified	
c) potential measures under review	X

d) comprehensive review completed	
356. Has your country assessed whether there is a need for effective regulations at the national level with respect to genetic use restriction technologies to ensure the safety of human health, the environment, food security and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - regulation needed	X
c) yes - regulation not needed (please give more details)	
357. Has your country developed and applied such regulations taking into account, <i>inter alia</i> , the specific nature of variety-specific and trait-specific genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	
b) yes - developed but not yet applied	X
c) yes - developed and applied	
358. Has information about these regulations been made available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	X

**Further comments on implementation of these decisions and the associated programme of work**

329 to 343. 345 to 358. The management, conservation and sustainable use of the agrosystems, together with some ecosystem types from the rest ecosystem groups, is implemented in the Agriculture branch in the system of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest. The activities are coordinated and controlled at the national level. The ecological legislation of the country (acts, etc. ) is respected in view of the biodiversity conservation.

**Forest biological diversity**

**Decision II/9 and Decision IV/7. Forest biological diversity**

359. Has your country included expertise on forest biodiversity in its delegations to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) not relevant	
360. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	X
361. Has your country integrated forest biological diversity considerations in its participation and collaboration with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
362. Does your country give high priority to allocation of resources to activities that advance the objectives of the Convention in respect of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
<b>For developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition -</b>	
363. When requesting assistance through the GEF, Is your country proposing projects which promote the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

**Decision V/4. Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for forest biological diversity**

364. Do the actions that your country is taking to address the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity conform with the ecosystem approach?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
365. Do the actions that your country is taking to address the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity take into consideration the outcome of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
366. Will your country contribute to the future work of the UN Forum on Forests?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
367. Has your country provided relevant information on the implementation of this work programme?	
a) no	
b) yes - submission of case-studies	X
c) yes - thematic national report submitted	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
368. Has your country integrated national forest programmes into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans applying the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
369. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure participation by the forest sector, private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes - some stakeholders	X
c) yes - all stakeholders	
370. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities including local capacities, to enhance the effectiveness and functions of forest protected area networks, as well as national and local capacities for implementation of sustainable forest management, including restoration?	
a) no	
b) some programmes covering some needs	
c) many programmes covering some needs	X
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	
e) no perceived need	
371. Has your country taken measures to implement the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on	

valuation of forest goods and services?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	X
c) measures taken	

***Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands***

***Decision V/23. Consideration of options for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems***

372. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you will implement it?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	X
373. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
374. Is your country fostering cooperation for the regional or subregional implementation of the programme among countries sharing similar biomes?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	

***Further comments on implementation of these Decisions and the associated programme of work***

360 to 371. The management, conservation and sustainable use of the forest ecosystems, together with some ecosystem types from the rest ecosystem groups, is implemented in the Forestry branch in the system of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest. The activities are coordinated and controlled at the national level. The ecological legislation of the country (acts, etc. ) is respected in view of the biodiversity conservation.

372 to 374. Individual dryland, Mediterranean, semi-arid, grassland ecosystems are objects to the specific ways of their protection, management and sustainable use.

**Decision V/20. Operations of the Convention**

375. Does your country take into consideration gender balance, involvement of indigenous people and members of local communities, and the range of relevant disciplines and expertise, when nominating experts for inclusion in the roster?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
376. Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
377. Has your country undertaken a review of national programmes and needs related to the implementation of the Convention and, if appropriate, informed the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	
b) under way	X
c) yes	

***Please use this box to identify what specific activities your country has carried out as a DIRECT RESULT of becoming a Contracting Party to the Convention, referring back to previous questions as appropriate:***

Practically, all the activities on biodiversity conservation in Bulgaria evolve from or are related to the provisions of CBD and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy. The following activities can be considered as basic achievements regarding this concern:

- Establishment of basic acts, as well as legislative instruments in harmonization with the European legislation;
- Establishment of plans and strategic documents:
  - Biodiversity conservation strategy;
  - Biodiversity conservation plan;
  - Plans of management for the protected areas;
  - Action plans for conservation of wild plant and animal species.
- Enlargement of the protected areas network;
- Designation of 3 national parks and establishment of administration bodies for their management and security;
- Institutional strengthening of the regional inspectorates at the Ministry of Environment and Water, responsible for the biodiversity conservation in the country;

Realization of prior activities for maintenance and restoration;

- Enlargement of the scientific basis for biodiversity conservation, as well as the informational and educational activities and the training.



*Please use this box to identify joint initiatives with other Parties, referring back to previous questions as appropriate:*

The joint activities between the Bulgarian institutions and those in other countries on the biodiversity conservation are undergoing in the range of bilateral, regional, European and world initiatives. (Please, see questions 11 – 17 for the forms of this cooperation)

*Please use this box to provide any further comments on matters related to national implementation of the Convention:*

In accordance with its national legislation, Bulgaria makes commitment to the CBD provisions. As the provisions of CBD are mostly in principle there is no collision with considering the national particularity (specificity) and possibilities as well.

*The wording of these questions is based on the Articles of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties. Please provide information on any difficulties that you have encountered in interpreting the wording of these questions*

We highly appreciate the informational significance of the national reports and the possibility to assume the state of the world biodiversity conservation after analyzing them. There were no difficulties in interpreting the wording of the questions included in the (guidelines for the) Report.

***If your country has completed its national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP), please give the following information:***

Date of completion:	<i>The National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy (NBCS)- 1994</i> <i>The National Biodiversity Conservation Plan-(NBCP)- 2000</i>
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government	
By which authority?	<i>Bulgarian Council of Ministers</i>
On what date?	<i>NBCS- 2000</i> <i>NBCP- 2000</i>
If the NBSAP has been published please give	
Title:	<i>The National Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy</i> <i>The National Biodiversity Conservation Plan</i>
Name and address of publisher:	<i>NBCS -Professional Printing, Inc., Beltsville, Maryland</i> <i>NBCP- Artifex Ltd.</i>
ISBN:	<i>NBCS- -</i> <i>NBCP- 954-9724-21-2</i>
Price (if applicable):	
Other information on ordering:	
If the NBSAP has not been published	
Please give full details of how copies can be obtained:	
If the NBSAP has been posted on a national website	
Please give full URL:	
If the NBSAP has been lodged with an Implementing Agency of the GEF	
Please indicate which agency:	<i>NBCS- USAID</i> <i>NBCP- UNDP</i>
Has a copy of the NBSAP been lodged with the Convention Secretariat?	

Yes	X	No	
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*Please provide similar details if you have completed a Biodiversity Country Study or another report or action plan relevant to the objectives of this Convention*

*Please provide details of any national body (e.g. national audit office) that has or will review the implementation of the Convention in your country*

The appropriate bodies able to review the implementation of the Convention in Bulgaria are:  
-Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, tel. (+359 2 )9885115;  
-Institute of Botany,Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,tel.(+359 2)72 0951;fax:(+359 2 )719032  
-Central Environmental Laboratory, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, tel.(+359 2)716137; fax:  
(+359 2 ) 705498.