

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

Contracting Party	The Commonwealth of The Bahamas
National Focal Point	
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Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	(Mrs. Stacey Wells-Moultrie)
Date of submission:	1 November 2002

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

Stakeholders included all those Government Agencies and Non-governmental Organisations directly or indirectly concerned with biological diversity.

Individuals completed relevant sections of the document on behalf of the stakeholders, normally after internal consultations.

There were also consultations and discussions with the BEST Commission where clarifications were needed.

The principal stakeholders, and the individuals providing information, are as follows:

Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission: Dr. Donald Cooper, Mrs. Nakira Wilchcombe, Mrs. Rochelle Newbold, and Mrs. Stacey Wells-Moultrie. BEST Commission files were a primary source of information.

Bahamas National Trust: Mrs. Lynn Gape, Mrs. Monique Sweeting, and Ms. Alex Hall.

Department of Agriculture: Mr. Carl Smith and Mr. Eric Carey (Botanic Gardens).

Department of Fisheries: Mrs. Eleanor Philips and Ms. Tameka Rahming.

Department of Lands and Surveys: Mr. Christopher Russell (Forestry).

Ministry of Tourism: Mrs. Angela Cleare.

Water and Sewerage Corporation: Mr. Philip Weech.

Several other persons contributed useful information.

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

There was some difficulty in assessing "relative priority" and the adequacy of available funds, and some disagreement. In part this is because funding is "in kind" by the assignment, often part-time, of personnel. The answers given represent an average.

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	
d) Severely limiting	X

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	
c) Low	X
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	
d) Severely limiting	X

Forest biological diversity

7. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	
b) Medium	
c) Low	X
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	
d) Severely limiting	X

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	
c) Low	X
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	
d) Severely limiting	X

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

Questions 1 and 2. Inland water ecosystems in The Bahamas comprise wetlands (which come under the review of the RAMSAR Subcommittee of the BEST Commission), blue holes, and freshwater aquifers, which are the sources of potable water. The aquifers are mainly under areas of forest and are protected.

Questions 3 and 4. The Bahamas Government has agreed to the establishment of a network of marine reserves and five such areas have been established in 2002. Many spawning sites of important fishery resources are protected. Coastal biodiversity consists in large part of mangrove and wetland areas and several areas have been restored while an inventory of degraded sites in need of restoration have been identified by the National Creeks and Wetlands Restoration Initiative (NCWRI).

Questions 5 and 6. Work on agricultural biodiversity is presently considered low priority. The Bahamas is a member of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. A Country Report (Bahamas: Country Report to the FAO International Conference on Plant Genetic Resources) was prepared for the 1996 Leipzig Conference, but there has been no follow up, and no national action has been taken.

Questions 7 and 8. There is presently no forestry legislation. A draft Act has been prepared which would demarcate specific areas of The Bahamas as forest reserves, protected forests and conservation (Schedules 1, 2, 3) and require the development of sustainable management plan of forest resources.

Questions 9 and 10. The Bahamas has recently signed the Convention on Combating Desertification, and work has begun to meet the country's obligations under this Convention. The Bahamas has also participated as a member of the Ad-Hoc Expert Group on Dry and Subhumid Lands, which has proved a valuable exercise. Semi-arid lands occur in the southern Bahama Islands, and the problems of land degradation occur elsewhere, including on some small uninhabited cays important for biodiversity and rare species.

Article 5 Cooperation

11. 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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12. 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

The Bahamas has recently increased its efforts to cooperate with other Contracting Parties and countries for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. This cooperation has resulted in a number of projects and project proposals to this end.

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)	

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	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	

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

Question 13. The Bahamas has entered into a bilateral project with the United Kingdom to develop a National Invasive Species Strategy. The project begins in November 2002 and is scheduled for completion in March 2003. It is hoped that the strategy will enable the country to address the problem of invasives and how they can be managed or eradicated for the protection of biological diversity. The Bahamas is also a member of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) and has recently completed the I3N Project to develop inventories on invasive species found locally. It is hoped that more regional projects will result between member countries of IABIN. The Bahamas has supported and will participate in a project developed in conjunction with other countries and Birdlife International to study important bird areas as indicators of biological diversity. This project is currently under review with UNEP and GEF.

Question 14 (Decision IV/4). The Bahamas does not have river basins, watersheds, etc., and shares no trans-boundary water resources of any kind. However, there is a degree of cooperation in so far as migratory species of birds utilize surface waters in The Bahamas as resting grounds. Potable water resources are in the form of aquifers in protected well fields.

Question 15 (Decision IV/15). The Bahamas is an archipelago of islands and cays, with no land boundaries. Thus its management practices for its national parks and protected areas necessarily address transboundary movement of particular organisms, namely birds and marine animals. On establishing the national parks and protected area system, efforts have been made to ensure that sites which are important for nesting, mating, spawning and the like are a part of the parks system.

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		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
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19. 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

A Biodiversity Subcommittee of the BEST Commission is presently reviewing the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to make it more practical, available and comprehensive; gaps in this plan have been identified. Currently emphasis is on alien species and a Strategy for these are now being developed.

It has been recognized that there is need for a national environmental policy. Work has begun to develop this and a project proposal submitted to GEF to assist in its creation. This policy will necessarily include biological diversity as an important focal area.

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

23. Do your national strategies and action plans cover integration of other sectoral activities (6b)?	
a) no	
b) some sectors	X
c) all major sectors	
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	
25. Do all of your country's strategies and action plans include an international cooperation component?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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

26. Are your country's strategies and action plans coordinated with those of neighbouring countries?	
a) no	X
b) bilateral/multilateral discussions under way	
c) coordinated in some areas/themes	
d) fully coordinated	
e) not applicable	
27. Has your country set measurable targets within its strategies and action plans?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
<i>If a developing country Party or a Party with economy in transition -</i>	
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)?	UNEP

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	X
c) yes - significant extent	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Questions 20 to 23. The National Strategy and Action Plan is perceived as a "living document", subject to regular revision and "fine tuning". Various components of the strategy and action plan are being implemented. These actions include:

Establishment of a National Biodiversity Task Force: the Biodiversity Subcommittee of the BEST Commission currently serves as the Task Force, but this is under review.

Preparation of Bioregional Guidelines: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) project will contribute to this action and should allow for cooperative projects.

A system of National Parks: a system of such parks has existed for many years, under the management of the Bahamas National Trust, but is considered not to represent all the major ecosystems within the country. Recently (April 2002) ten new parks have been added, and management plans are being developed

for these.

Rehabilitation of wetlands: the National Creeks and Wetlands Restoration Initiative (NCWRI), under the auspices of the RAMSAR Subcommittee, has already restored some wetlands and opened up some creeks, and this work will continue.

Question 24. The Bahamas has shared its national strategies and plans with regional neighbours. It is hoped that more can be done to facilitate this as we recognize the value in sharing experiences.

Question 27. One of the reasons the national strategy and action plan is under review is because it has no measurable targets or goals. At the end of the review process, it is envisioned that targets will be established so that our progress can be assessed.

Question 29. Dialogue and cooperation between the focal points has improved and we are currently reviewing possible mechanisms to further enhance these.

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		b) Medium	X	c) Low			
31. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>No formal or organized programme of identification and monitoring is presently undertaken, primarily due to a lack of trained personnel and resources; while there are several studies on-going to identify components of biological diversity as well as monitoring, there is little or no coordination between the activities and sharing of information with decision-makers. Much progress has been made in identifying activities which are likely to adversely impact biological diversity and efforts have been made to cease or control such activities to minimize their impacts through legislation and policy. Efforts are currently underway to develop a mechanism for maintaining and organizing data from identification and monitoring activities.</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	X
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	
33. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at ecosystem level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	X
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	
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	X
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors	
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	X
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	
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	X
b) minor programme in some sectors	
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	X
d) comprehensive understanding	
e) reports available	
39. Is your country monitoring these activities and their effects (7c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	X
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
40. Does your country coordinate information collection and management at the national level (7d)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	X
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	

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	
b) assessing opportunities	
c) yes, to a limited extent	X
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	X
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes	
44. Is your country cooperating with other Contracting Parties on pilot projects to demonstrate the use of assessment and indicator methodologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes (if so give details below)	
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	
c) yes (if so, please give details below)	X

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	X
b) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
c) yes - through the national CHM	
d) yes - other means (please specify)	

49. Is your country assisting other Parties to increase their capacity to develop indicator and monitoring programmes?	
a) no	X
b) providing training	
c) providing direct support	
d) sharing experience	
e) other (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

<p>Question 46. The collection of natural history specimens is undertaken by the Department of Archives, the Bahamas National Trust, the biological field stations, and the National Herbarium. Foreign scientists may export specimens with approval. The National Herbarium Collection, which is regularly added to, is housed in the Department of Agriculture's Botanic Gardens, and is a cooperative undertaking with the Bahamas National Trust and the College of The Bahamas. These collections are available to bona fide researchers. Some recent papers in the Bahamas Journal of Science have added to plant taxonomic knowledge. The Department of Agriculture also has an insect collection, which is being extended. Ultimately, it is planned to put details of these collections on the Internet.</p>
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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	X
c) advanced stages of assessment	
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	X
b) yes - stated policy	
c) yes - systematic national programme	
56. Has your country adopted any international agreed levels of collection housing?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
c) being implemented by some collections	
d) being implemented by all major collections	
57. Has your country provided training programmes in taxonomy?	
a) no	X
b) some	
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	X
b) yes - in the previous national report	
c) yes - via the clearing-house mechanism	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
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	X
c) yes for some institutions	
d) yes for all major institutions	

60. Has your country assisted taxonomic institutions to establish consortia to conduct regional projects?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	
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	X
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
62. Has your country provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields?	
a) no	X
b) some	
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	X
b) basic assessment	
c) thorough assessment	
64. Has your country established or consolidated taxonomic reference centres?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
65. Has your country worked to increase its capacity in the area of taxonomic research?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
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	
b) yes	X
68. Has your country participated in the development of regional networks to facilitate information-sharing for the Global Taxonomy Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
69. Has your country sought resources through the financial mechanism for the priority actions identified in the decision?	
a) no	
b) applied for unsuccessfully	
c) applied for successfully	X

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

The Bahamas has received GEF funding for Biodiversity Enabling Activities inclusive of a taxonomy component. This project will enable a national assessment of capacity building needs in the area of taxonomy as well as lead to the inclusion of taxonomy in curricula and the development of a training programme for parataxonomists in the country.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
71. 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					
<p>There is a system of national parks, which incorporates some of the ecosystem types that occur in The Bahamas, but others types are underrepresented. Funding for management of these parks is inadequate. See the responses to Questions 20 to 23. Some success has been achieved with restoration of degraded ecosystems and recovery of threatened species, but there is much more that needs to be done. With respect to LMOs, The Bahamas has just begun a project to develop its national Biosafety framework. Little has been done in the area of traditional knowledge, but the need has been identified and plans are underway to begin to address this issue in 2003.</p>					

72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?	
a) system under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) national review of protected areas coverage available	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) national protected area systems plan in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) relatively complete system in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) no, under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
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	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	
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	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	
77. Has your country undertaken measures to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
78. Has your country undertaken measures to promote the recovery of threatened species (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
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	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
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	X
d) yes, to a significant extent	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
83. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for <i>in situ</i> conservation particularly to developing countries (8m)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
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	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Question 77. There is a National Creeks and Wetlands Restoration Initiative (NCWRI) that, inter alia, re-links isolated wetlands to the ocean.

Question 81. There is a Conservation and Preservation of the Physical Landscape of The Bahamas Act that designates ten tree species as protected. It is hoped to revisit this list in the near future. There is legislation to protect certain bird and mammal species.

Question 84. The national parks system is managed by The Bahamas National Trust. This agency is non-Governmental, but has statutory authority for its establishment and mandate. The Trust is able to seek funding to maintain and develop national parks. The Bahamas Government has also applied through the Caribbean Regional Environment Programme (CREP) to receive funding to assist in demonstration activities in one national park; this proposal is currently still under review.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
87. 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					
<p>The current main focus of the Biodiversity Subcommittee is invasive alien species and funds have been received from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) through the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) for this purpose. A report on this I3N project is available on the Internet. The Bahamas has also received funding from the United Kingdom to develop a National Invasive Species Strategy which will focus on developing mechanisms to manage and/or eradicate invasives and increase public awareness of this issue.</p>					

88. Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) only major species of concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) only new or recent introductions	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) a comprehensive system tracks new introductions	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) a comprehensive system tracks all known introductions	<input type="checkbox"/>
89. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) most alien species have been assessed	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) some measures in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) potential measures under review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	
c) active development of new projects	X
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	X
c) limited implementation in some sectors	
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	X
b) in preparation	
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	
c) regional co-operation	X
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	
b) some information	
c) all available information	
d) information available through other channels (please specify)	X
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	X
b) limited support	
c) substantial support	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Question 88. A "comprehensive tracking system" is currently being developed, with special attention to introduction of known invasive alien for landscaping purposes or as pets.

Question 101. The Biodiversity Enabling Activities project will result in the establishment of the national CHM. Through this website, information on Bahamian biodiversity issues will be available. Currently, information on invasive species in The Bahamas is available at www.iabin.net and will soon be available on www.best.bs.

Question 102. The Bahamas has tried on two occasions to become involved in the Global Invasive Species Programme, but our communications were never answered.

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		b) Medium		c) Low	X		
104. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
As states previously, the importance of traditional knowledge has been recognized and work has begun to plan on how this issue can be addressed and this knowledge protected and utilized.							

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	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
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	X
b) early stages of development	
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	X?
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
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	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - CHM	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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	X
b) under review	
c) yes (please provide details)	
113. Is your country integrating such tasks into its ongoing programmes, taking into account the identified collaboration opportunities?	
a) no	X
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	
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	X
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	

115. Has your country provided appropriate financial support for the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	X
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	
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	X
b) not relevant	
c) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
d) yes - through the national CHM	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	
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	X
b) not relevant	
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - with specific countries	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	
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	X
b) not relevant	
c) development in progress	
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	
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	X
b) awaiting information on how to proceed	
c) yes	
124. Has your country identified resources for funding the activities identified in the decision?	
a) no	X
b) not relevant	
c) partly	
d) fully	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Question 105. There is considerable anecdotal information, and a few popular publications, on the uses of bush medicines in The Bahamas. An account of these is given in the Bahamas Biodiversity Country Report (1996). There are also a few scientific papers documenting local (anecdotal) lore. No national or integrated attempt has been made to document these uses.

Question 116. Women are involved in the implementation of the Convention to date but no work has begun as yet to implement the Programme of Work in the Annex to this decision.

Question 122. There are no indigenous people or communities in The Bahamas. Local community organizations have not been a part of the delegations to conferences of the Parties, but the options given of "not relevant" and "not appropriate" could not be ticked. It is agreed that the participation of these organizations could be relevant and appropriate. Delegation size has been severely limited due to lack of funding to participate, both nationally and internationally.

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		c) Low	X
126. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
There are plans for captive breeding of several species of reptiles, and captive breeding of the Bahama parrot. These are intended to lead to release programmes but these are all in an early stage of development.					
There is great need for resources (human, infrastructure and funding) for ex situ conservation. It is occurring, but in a very limited sense.					

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	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
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	X
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
131. 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>originating elsewhere</i> (9b)?	
a) no	X
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	X
b) yes	
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 <i>ex situ</i> conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and <i>in situ</i> populations of species (9d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
135. Has your country cooperated in providing financial and other support for <i>ex situ</i> conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of <i>ex situ</i> conservation facilities in developing countries (9e)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
136. Has your country received financial and other support for <i>ex situ</i> conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of <i>ex situ</i> conservation facilities (9e)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Question 127. *Ex situ* conservation: some measures are in place, but not enough to claim that these are comprehensive.

Question 128. *Ex situ* conservation of components from outside the country: some animal species are held in the local zoo. This is a private sector operation but provides a valuable service for animals intercepted by the Customs Department and by the Department of Agriculture.

Questions 130 and 131. "no" for micro-organisms; "yes" for plants and animals.

Question 133. See comments on captive breeding and release under Question 125 above.

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
138. 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 type="checkbox"/> d) Severely limiting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources				

139. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making (10a)?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) programme or policy in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) review of implementation available	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<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"/>
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	<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"/>

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	<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"/>

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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
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	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
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	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - correspondence	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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	X
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	
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	X
b) not relevant	
c) to a limited extent	
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	

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	
c) to a significant extent	X
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	X
b) yes	
154. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
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

Government policy to require Environmental Impact Assessments for development projects is the main mechanisms by which biological resources and their sustainable use are considered and addressed. Activities that can adversely affect biological resources are discouraged and mitigation measures promoted for conservation of biological diversity.

Question 141. Examples of such measures are seen in the fishing industry where traditional fishing gear and methods are allowed and new, more destructive methods are banned.

Question 142. This has mainly been done through the National Creeks and Wetlands Restoration Initiative (NCWRI), which has enabled local communities to be involved in the restoration of degraded wetland ecosystems.

Question 149. Conservation areas have been identified but this information has not been communicated to the Executive Secretary.

Question 153. Decision V/25. The Bahamas has no mountains.

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		c) Low	X		
157. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
This is considered to be important, but so far very little has been achieved, and it has not received much attention.							

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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
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	X
b) reviews in progress	
c) some reviews complete	
d) as far as practically possible	

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	X
c) advanced stages of identifying mechanisms	
d) mechanisms in place	
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	X
b) planned	
c) some	
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	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) measures in place	
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	
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
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	X
b) identification programme under way	
c) identified but not all neutralized	
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	X
c) early stages of development	
d) advanced stages of development	
e) further information available	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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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		b) Medium		c) Low	X		
174. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							

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	X
b) early stages of development	
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	X
c) yes - significant extent	
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

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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	
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181. 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

The Biodiversity Subcommittee of the BEST Commission has organised a number of workshops, newspaper articles, and other publications aimed at public awareness and at specific sectors. This is a major focus of the Commission in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

Resources to carry out this work have been made available from the Government, other countries as well as regional and multilateral organizations.

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	X
c) yes - significant extent	

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	X
c) yes - significant extent	

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	X
c) yes - significant extent	

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	X
b) significant but not adequate resources	
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes	
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	X
b) yes	
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	X
b) still to be done	
c) under development	
d) yes	

191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
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	X
c) yes (please give details)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Public education and awareness are always an important part of any activities or projects concerning biological diversity. The importance of education and awareness in achieving the objectives of the Convention is recognized and much effort is being placed to develop more tools.

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	d) Severely limiting X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Biodiversity considerations are an integral part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Because of its geographical characteristic as an archipelago, assessing potential environmental impacts and monitoring projects through site visits has proven very costly and Government officers are sometimes unable to function adequately due to lack of financial resources as well as materials to perform assessments.					

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	X
d) legislation in place	
e) review of implementation available	
197. Do such environmental impact assessment procedures allow for public participation (14(1a))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
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	
b) yes	X
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
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	X
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	
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	X
c) fully	

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	X
c) many programmes in place	
d) integrated approach to building expertise	
212. <i>Has your country carried out pilot environmental impact assessment projects, in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures?</i>	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide further details)	
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	X
b) to a limited extent	
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	
c) to a significant extent	X
215. Is national information available on the practices, systems, mechanisms and experiences in the area of strategic environmental assessment and impact assessment?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please append or summarise)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The use of environmental impact assessment in The Bahamas is evolving. Biological diversity and its conservation has always been significant when considering the impacts of development projects. Within the next year, it is planned that legislation will be enacted as the requirement for EIAs is a policy decision at present. Issues, such as socio-economic impacts and strategic impact assessment, will soon become an important part of the EIA process.

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		b) Medium		c) Low		X	
217. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
While the significance of this issue is recognized, little progress has been made in developing mechanisms to control access to genetic resources and to protect them. An effort has been made by the Government to enter into a memorandum of understanding with one international company, but nothing has been finalized. There is an urgent need to review existing legislation and draft legislation that will fill identified gaps and create entirely new mechanisms for controlling and protecting genetic resources.							
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							
b) yes - limited extent						X	
c) yes - significant extent							
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						X	
b) yes - limited extent							
c) yes - significant extent							
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						X	
b) early stages of development							
c) advanced stages of development							
d) processes in place							

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	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	

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	X
b) some programmes covering some needs	
c) many programmes covering some needs	
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	X
b) yes	
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	X
b) yes	

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	X
b) yes	
c) yes, and Executive Secretary notified	
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	

Parties that are recipients of genetic resources	
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	
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)	
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	X
b) legislation under development	
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	X
b) taking steps to do so	
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	
b) some information provided	X
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

Overseas scientists wishing to conduct any scientific research in The Bahamas must obtain a permit. The permit must state whether live or dead material, or specimens, may be removed. Such scientists are required to lodge reports on their work. There is also a problem of the illegal collection of animals for plants for the pet trade, or for nurseries and private gardens.

Question 229. There is a National Focal Point for the CBD, but no designated national authorities to deal with access and benefit-sharing.

Question 232. This issue has not yet arisen.

Question 233. While it is recognized that legislation to regulate bioprospecting, is needed, it is yet to be drafted.

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	
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					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					

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	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
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	X
b) yes (please give brief details below)	
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	X
b) relevant, but no measures	
c) some measures in place	
d) potential measures under review	
e) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements	

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	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation?	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation?	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements?	
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

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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		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
The country does its best with the limited resources it has to exchange information and make it publicly available to all.							

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	
e) comprehensive measures in place	
If a developed country Party -	
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		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
253. 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					

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	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
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	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
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	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) methods in place	

257. Does such cooperation include the training of personnel and exchange of experts (18(4))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
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	X
c) reviewed and implemented as appropriate	

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

Question 254. Some technical and scientific cooperation and exchange of information also occurs at the informal level, or at conferences and seminars.

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	
269. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					

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	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures:	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	
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	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

**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	X
c) instrument of ratification deposited	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

As a provider of genetic resources for research, The Bahamas needs to ensure that access to these resources is properly controlled and the benefits associated with use of these resources are shared with Bahamians. The Bahamas must also ensure that its citizens are involved in any research using its genetic resources to foster capacity-building in this area.

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		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
274. 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					

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	
b) yes - incentives only	
c) yes - financial support only	
d) yes - financial support and incentives	X
If a developed country Party -	
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	
b) yes	

<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
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	
b) yes	X
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
278. Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
279. Has your country used financial resources related to implementation of the Convention from bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

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	X
b) yes (please attach information)	

Decision V/11. Additional financial resources

282. Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity?	
a) no	X
b) procedures being established	
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	X
c) yes (please provide details)	

284. Are details available of your country's financial support to biodiversity activities in other countries?	
a) not applicable	X
b) no	
c) not in a standardized format	
d) yes (please provide details)	
Developed country Parties -	
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	
Developing country Parties -	
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	X
c) exemptions under development	
d) exemptions in place	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Question 277. The Bahamas has been able to access funding to aid in its implementation of the Convention. While these financial resources have been invaluable in the strides we have been able to make, fulfilling all the obligations under the Convention for even a single country will require a considerable amount of funds in addition to what has already been received.

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				

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	X
d) yes, through case-studies	
e) yes, through other means (please give details below)	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Question 292. The Bahamas has also reported to UNEP and GEF on these activities and its assessment of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

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)	20
b) COP 2 (Jakarta)	2
c) COP 3 (Buenos Aires)	2
d) COP 4 (Bratislava)	2
e) COP 5 (Nairobi)	1

**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	
b) yes (please specify which)	X
If a developed country Party -	
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	X
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 st January 2001?	
a) yes in advance	
b) yes on time	
c) no but subsequently paid	X
d) not yet paid	

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	
d) no	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Question 295. Regional meetings prior to COP5 and COP6.

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

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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	X
d) Final report submitted	
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)?	
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?	X
b) publishing the report?	
c) making the report available on request?	X
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	
b) yes - forest ecosystems	X
c) yes - alien species	X
d) yes - benefit sharing	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Question 303. The first national report, which is available as a draft report, is made available on request. The second national report has been distributed to those involved with its preparation informally. It will be made available on request and will be posted on the Commission's website, www.best.bs within the month of November 2002.

Question 304. These thematic reports are in draft form and are currently being reviewed before submission to the Secretariat.

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	X
d) substantially implemented	
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	X
c) some aspects are being applied	
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	
d) workshops planned/held	
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	X
b) yes	
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
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
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	X
b) under review	
c) yes	

**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	
b) yes	X
315. Is your country gathering information on the status of inland water biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) assessments ongoing	
c) assessments completed	
316. Is this information available to other Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes - national report	
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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

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	X
b) yes	

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

Question 307. A pilot project is planned on integrated watershed management, but funding has not yet been successfully secured.

Question 311. (Decision IV/4) Considerations of inland water biodiversity are addressed under the RAMSAR Subcommittee and also under the auspices of the National Creeks and Wetlands Restoration Initiative (NCWRI).

Question 314. Please see earlier comments on inland water ecosystems under Questions 1 and 2.

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	X
c) yes - significant extent	
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) arrangements in place	
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	X
b) yes	
323. Has your country undertaken and/or exchanged information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management?	
a) no	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
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	X
b) programmes are being developed	
c) programmes are being implemented for some species	
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	X
c) yes	

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

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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	X
b) early stages of review and assessment	
c) advanced stages of review and assessment	
d) assessment completed	
330. Has your country identified issues and priorities that need to be addressed at the national level?	
a) no	X
b) in progress	
c) yes	

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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
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	X
b) yes - case-studies	
c) yes - other mechanisms (please specify)	
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	X
b) yes - pollinators	
c) yes - soil biota	
d) yes - integrated landscape management and farming systems	
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	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
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	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
336. Is your country promoting the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions?	
a) no	X
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	

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	X
b) yes	
340. Is your country collaborating with other Contracting Parties to identify and promote sustainable agricultural practices and integrated landscape management?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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	X
b) yes	
342. Is your country promoting regional and thematic co-operation within this framework of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) some co-operation	
c) widespread co-operation	
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	X
b) limited additional funds	
c) significant additional funds	

<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
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	
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	X
c) yes	
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	X
b) signed - ratification in process	
c) instrument of ratification deposited	
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	
349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
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	X
c) yes - national report	
d) yes - through the CHM	
e) yes - other means (please give details below)	
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	X
b) yes - under consideration	
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	X
b) some assessments	
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	X
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	
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	X
b) some measures identified	
c) potential measures under review	
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	X
b) yes - regulation needed	
c) yes - regulation not needed (please give more details)	

357. Has your country developed and applied such regulations taking into account, inter alia, the specific nature of variety-specific and trait-specific genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes - developed but not yet applied	
c) yes - developed and applied	
358. Has information about these regulations been made available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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

Question 347. The Bahamas has no pesticide control legislation, which is a prerequisite to signing the Rotterdam Convention. An Act has been drafted and it is hoped to enact the legislation within a year or so.

Question 348. The matter of supporting the application of the Executive Secretary for observer status on the Committee on Agriculture of the WTO is one for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance.

The entire matter of the FTAA and WTO is under review by the present government following a change of government in early-May.

Question 356. An assessment will commence shortly on this issue under the national biosafety framework project.

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	X
b) under review	
c) yes	
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	X
c) yes - significant extent	
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	X
b) yes	
For developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition -	
363. When requesting assistance through the GEF, Is your country proposing projects which promote the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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	X
b) yes	

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	
c) yes - thematic national report submitted	X
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	X
b) yes - some stakeholders	
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	X
c) many programmes covering some needs	
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	X
c) yes	
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

The Bahamas is a part of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Dry and Subhumid Lands.

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	
c) to a significant extent	X

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	
c) yes	X

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:

Biodiversity Country Study (1995), Biodiversity Data Management project (1997), National Biodiversity Strategy and action Plan project (1998), Biodiversity Enabling Activities project(2001-present).

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

IABIN I3N Project on invasive species information (2002).
Development of National Invasive Species Strategy with the United Kingdom (2002-2003).

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

Question 377. While this review has not been complete, The Bahamas has strived to respond in a timely fashion to the Executive Secretary when information is requested.

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

Some questions were specifically targeted to developed country Parties and did not address developing country Parties, specifically when talking about genetic resources and provider countries. Therefore, no response could be given. It was good that even in this situation a text box was available for comments to these questions.

Overall, the format was clear and concise and enabled a good overview of what is being done to implement the Convention. It has been mentioned at regional meetings and COP6 that this format may change. The Bahamas supports this format being kept as it is simple and straightforward while also allowing room for expansion on a point or issue. Constantly developing new formats will probably result in a waste of resources, both human and financial.

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

Date of completion:	November 1998		
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government			
By which authority?			
On what date?			
If the NBSAP has been published please give			
Title:			
Name and address of publisher:			
ISBN:			
Price (if applicable):			
Other information on ordering:			
If the NBSAP has not been published			
Please give full details of how copies can be obtained:	<p>On request to:</p> <p>Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission, Sir Cecil Wallace Whitfield Centre P.O. Box CB 10980 Nassau, The Bahamas</p> <p>Tel: 242-327-4691 Fax: 242-327-4626 E-mail: bestnbs@hotmail.com</p>		
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:	UNEP, Nairobi		
Has a copy of the NBSAP been lodged with the Convention Secretariat?			
Yes	X	No	

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

Bahamas Biodiversity Country Study Report 1996 (The 1992 Report was revised in 1995 to meet the guidelines established by UNEP). Bahamas Biodiversity Data Management Plan (1997).

Both are available on request from the Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission.

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 Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission, Ministry of Health and Environment. (see contact details above).