

# EUROPEAN COMMUNITY Third National Report

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**A. REPORTING PARTY**

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Date of submission	9 December 2005

## Information on the preparation of the report

### Box I.

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

An initial version of this report was prepared by ODI (Overseas Development Institute) through a grant agreement.

During the preparation of the initial version of the report consultations were held with thematic specialists within the European Commission and its associated organisations (e.g. the European Environmental Agency). A draft report was submitted to the EC Biodiversity Expert Group, consisting of experts from all the EU Member States and a wide range of non-governmental organisations with a European perspective, who provided further feedback and information.

The report was then refined and corrected where necessary under the leadership of DG Environment. Many Services of the European Commission contributed to the report which was finalised following a formal Interservice Consultation.

Much of the information used for the preparation of this report is available on the internet, for instance all European Community legislation is now publicly available free of charge. Key web-sites are:

- DG Environment (European Commission): <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment>
- Eur-Lex (EC Legislation): <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex>
- European Environment Agency: <http://www.eea.eu.int>
- European Community Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism: <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/>

The European Commission is currently developing a new Communication on Biodiversity which was not available at the time of the establishment of the report. The European Commission might therefore develop an updated version of this report once the Communication has been published.

## B. PRIORITY SETTING, TARGETS AND OBSTACLES

### Box II.

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

There is no specific report collecting data on the status and trends of the various components of biological diversity in the European Union.

The EEA's third assessment on Europe's Environment provides information on the status and trends of some biodiversity components in Europe. It can be downloaded at [http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental\\_assessment\\_report\\_2003\\_10/en/kiev\\_chapt\\_11.pdf](http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental_assessment_report_2003_10/en/kiev_chapt_11.pdf). It shows that across Europe species population trends are mixed. Some previously highly threatened species are starting to recover, while others continue to decline at alarming rates, generally as a result of the disappearance or degradation of their habitats.

An overarching target for the conservation of biological diversity was set in 2001 by the EU Heads of State and Government when they made the commitment at the EU's Spring Summit in Gothenburg to halt the decline of biodiversity by 2010. Measures to achieve this target are described in the 1998 European Community Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plans, which are designed to integrate biodiversity into the European Commission's activities and in policies and programmes where there is a European Community competence. A report on the implementation of this strategy and a more specific roadmap towards achieving the 2010 target in the EU are supposed to be included in a Communication which was still under development by the time of finalising this report.

The European Commission has developed a set of Biodiversity Headline Indicators, which is based on the CBD list of indicators included in Annex 1 of decision VII/30. This list was endorsed at the stakeholder conference on biodiversity in Malahide, Ireland and subsequently provisionally approved by the European Environment Council in June 2004. The implementation of this indicator list will provide the necessary overview of trends of the various components of biological diversity in the EU.

However, there is a substantial body of information (reports from Member States, Red Lists, NGO reports, farmland bird index, EEA reports, etc...) which suggest that Natural habitats are still decreasing and becoming more fragmented, endangering many indigenous, rare, endemic and specialist species populations and ecosystem functions, although generalist and invasive species continue to spread. The recovery of a small number of endangered species and habitats is also apparent.

Although concerns for nature protection are beginning to be integrated in sectoral policies (notably the last reforms of the Common Agriculture and Fisheries Policies will have a beneficial impact on EU's biodiversity), negative impacts on biodiversity are still occurring from agricultural intensification, overfishing, land abandonment (this may be beneficial in intensively cultivated areas), monospecific forestry, urban and transport infrastructure development, climate change and the introduction of alien species (and possibly genetically modified organisms). Reductions are occurring in acidification and eutrophication, enabling species and habitats to show some recovery, although there will not be a full return to pre-pollution conditions, even after 2010.

Over the next decade between 15 and 20% of EU territory is expected to be designated for nature protection as part of the Natura 2000 Network and provisions taken for protection of the most threatened species in the EU.

Overall, substantial efforts will be needed in order to achieve the target to halt biodiversity loss in Europe.

### Priority Setting

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

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

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

**Note, identifying an area as negative priority does not mean that the EC does not consider this being an important subject, it just reflects the level this issues is being dealt with in EC policies and instruments. E.g. the EC is not a member of GEF, hence the negative priority for the financial mechanism.**

### Challenges and Obstacles to Implementation

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

Challenges	Articles																	
	5	6	7	8	8h	8j	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
a) Lack of political will and support	3	2	1	2	2	na	0	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	2
b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	1	0	1	0	1	Na	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	1
c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	3	2	1	3	2	Na	0	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	0	3
d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	3	1	1	2	3	Na	1	2	2	na	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1

e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	3	1	1	0	2	Na	1	1	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	2
f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	1	1	1	0	1	na	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	na	1	1	0	1
g) Loss of traditional knowledge	1	1	1	1	1	na	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	3	1	0	0	2	na	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	na	0	1
i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	2	1	1	0	2	na	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	0	1
j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	1	3	1	2	2	Na	1	3	2	2	na	2	1	1	1	2	0	2
k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	2	2	1	1	2	na	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	0	3	0	2
l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	1	2	1	1	2	Na	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
m) Lack of financial, human, technical	1	2	1	3	2	na	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3

resources																		
n) Lack of economic incentive measures	1	2	1	3	2	na	1	2	na	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
o) Lack of benefit-sharing	1	1	0	0	0	Na	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	Na
p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	3	1	0	0	2	Na	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	3
q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	2	1	1	2	2	Na	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	2
r) Lack of effective partnerships	1	1	1	2	2	Na	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	3	2	1	1	2
s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	1	1	1	1	1	na	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	2	2	1	0	3	na	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
u) Poverty	0	0	0	0	0	Na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
v) Population pressure	0	0	0	2	1	Na	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	1	1	0	2	2	Na	0	3	1	0	1	2	1	1	na	0	1	0
x) Lack of capacities for local communities	0	1	2	2	1	Na	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	na	1	0
y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches	1	1	1	1	1	Na	0	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2



to management																		
z) Weak law enforcement capacity	3	1	0	0	1	N a	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	1	1	0	1	3	N a	0	1	N a	N a	N a	1	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	1
bb) Others (please specify)						N a												

## 2010 Target

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

### Box III.

<b>Goal 1</b>	<b>Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes.</b>
<b>Target 1.1</b>	<b>At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved</b>
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	<b>X</b>
Please provide details below.	
<p>A number of relevant targets were set within the EC Biodiversity Strategies (ECBS) and Action Plans, such as</p> <p>In the Biodiversity Action Plan on Natural Resources (BAP NR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To fully implement the Habitats Directive as well as the Birds Directive (BAP NR objective 2.1)</li> <li>• To support the establishment of networks of designated areas, particularly the EU NATURA 2000 network, and to provide adequate financial and technical support for their conservation and sustainable use. (BAP NR objective 2.2)</li> <li>• To develop management plans for selected threatened species and some huntable species. (BAP-NR objective 2.3)</li> <li>• To implement the EC CITES Regulation and to adapt it to reflect further decisions by the Conference of the Parties to CITES. (BAP-NR objective 5.1)</li> <li>• To protect wetlands within the community and restore the ecological character of degraded wetlands. (BAP-NR objective 3.3)</li> <li>• To develop in cooperation with Member States instruments to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity across the territory outside protected areas. (BAP-NR objectives 4.1 and 4.2)</li> </ul> <p>The Natura 2000 network includes conservation areas designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). Site selection for the Network is based on lists of species and habitats considered important at the European Level. Specific targets on area coverage have not been legally set, however the sites established or selected are evaluated on several criteria including the distribution area of habitats and species within European biogeographical regions. The EC Biodiversity Action Plan for the Conservation of Natural Resources (COM(2001) 162 final, volume II) [BAP-NR] estimated that Natura 2000 sites would include more than 12 % of the Community territory. The role of the Natura 2000 network in achieving the 2010 target was endorsed by stakeholders in the EU <i>Message from Malahide: Halting the Decline of Biodiversity – Priority Objectives and Targets for 2010</i>. Stakeholders at the Malahide conference agreed a set of non-binding objectives and targets in relation to protected areas. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natura 2000 network completed on land by 2005, marine sites by 2008 and management objectives for all sites agreed and instigated by 2010.</li> <li>• Natura 2000 contributes to the establishment of effectively managed, comprehensive and</li> </ul>	

ecologically representative networks of protected areas at land and at sea, integrated into a global network.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

See above re. integration into the ECBS and the BAP NR.

The European Commission and the European Environment Agency (EEA), together with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP/WCMC), the European Centre for Nature Conservation (ECNC) and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), have laid the foundation for a plan, organisation and guidelines for developing and using biodiversity indicators to monitor progress and support the achievement of this and other 2010 targets for biodiversity conservation in Europe. This process is called '*Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI2010)*'. The project has set up Expert Groups designated by European countries and organizations, which will work to streamline indicators proposed by the CBD, as well as other processes at the Pan-European, EU and national levels.

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

As of November 2003, more than 80 % of the land and freshwater habitats and species listed in the EU Habitats Directive were sufficiently covered by Natura 2000 sites proposed by Member States. Several case studies have indicated benefits brought about by the requirement to set up the network. These include better information and awareness, and better site management.

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

The indicator of sufficiency of the Natura 2000 proposed sites for the species and habitats of the Habitats Directive has been designed by the EEA. Similar work is in progress for the design of an indicator of sufficiency of the sites designated under the Birds Directive.

The indicator on the level of implementation of Natura 2000 has been included into the EU list of Sustainable Development Indicators measuring progress made towards implementing the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

An indicator of the cumulative area of nationally designated areas of European countries, amongst which are the EU Member States, is also calculated by the EEA, on the basis of annual data flows from the countries participating in the European Information Observation Network (EIONET).

Important insights into this target will also be derived from indicators related to an EU Headline Indicator for immediate testing: 'trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats', as proposed by the 2004 Malahide Conference. Trends in the extent of selected ecosystems and habitats will be detected using the Corine land cover (CLC) 2000 update, which documents 44 land cover categories from around 1990 to 2000 for the whole of EU-25 territory. The data can also be merged with other spatial data to provide the basis for detailed analysis of the state of Europe's environment and the pressures upon it. The database for most EU countries in 2000 is still being completed and validated by the EEA.

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

There have been long delays in submission of national lists and data which has led to serious slippage in the timetable for the establishment of Natura 2000.

There has been opposition in some MS, frequently due to misunderstandings or misinformation about the intent of the network. The need for public consultation in some countries has also resulted in long delays in approving lists of sites.

Scientific background information is also uneven for different taxonomic groups and areas. For marine habitats and species, especially in offshore environment, the incomplete understanding and information at present, does not allow completion of lists for these interests. A marine working group has been set up to agree common standards for the selection of marine sites and to provide guidance in 2004 on this subject. This will provide a common basis for the completion of Natura 2000 in the marine environment.

**VII) Please provide any other relevant information.**

Given the cultural and historical evolution of landscapes in Europe, the Natura 2000 network will include areas where significant human activities have long existed and contributed in creating or maintaining natural and semi-natural habitats. For this reason, site management is expected to encourage their use in a manner compatible with the conservation requirements of the habitats and species for which the sites have been designated and the related level of sustainable economic activity.

**Box IV**

Target 1.2	Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target	<b>X</b>		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>The EC has established a systematic planning process for the development and implementation of the European protected area network Natura 2000, which will comprise areas of particular importance for biodiversity in the European Union. The Habitats Directive aims to protect wildlife species and their habitats. Member States must identify special areas of conservation (SACs) and draw up management plans combining their long-term preservation with people's economic and social activities, to create a sustainable development strategy. The Directive identifies some 200 types of habitat, 200 animals and over 500 plant species as being of Community Interest, and requiring protection. It also singles out habitats and species (like the wolverine and monk seal) in imminent danger of disappearing and needing urgent help. Together, the SPAs and SACs form the Natura 2000 network – the cornerstone of EU nature protection policy. Natura 2000 will also be the EU element of the Pan-European Ecological Network.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>

a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			<b>X</b>
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
<p>The process for designating protected sites for the Habitats Directive includes bio-geographical seminars organised by the European Commission during which each Member State's proposals for sites are assessed against agreed criteria (Annex III of the Directive). The conclusions from these seminars are published on the Commission's Natura 2000 website. The sites proposed and subsequently designated under the Habitats Directive constitute part of the Natura 2000 network. The sites designated under the Birds Directive constitute the other part of the Natura 2000 network and include all important sites for an agreed list of bird species at the European level. For the purpose of the Natura 2000 network, Europe has been classified into seven bio-geographical regions and work is proceeding to identify priority sites within each. So far, the EC has adopted site lists for the Macaronesian, Alpine, Continental and Atlantic regions (see <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/home.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/home.htm</a>).</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>The Report from the European Commission on the implementation of the Habitats Directive (<b>COM (2003) 845 final</b>) provides an overview of progress with the Habitats and Birds Directives. After a slow start, some progress is now being made. By September 2004, two Member States, Belgium and The Netherlands have proposed sufficient sites. This means that that they have accomplished proposing sufficient sites for all the species and habitats of the Directive occurring in their country.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>The 2004 Malahide Conference proposed an EU Headline Indicator for immediate testing: 'coverage of protected areas'. In response to this, the EEA has included in its Core Set of Indicators the indicator "CSI 008" on designated areas (see <a href="http://themes.eea.eu.int/IMS/CSI">http://themes.eea.eu.int/IMS/CSI</a> )</p>			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<p>The Natura 2000 network has not yet been fully set up, due to delays in implementation. Therefore, there has not been time in which to evaluate the effectiveness of the network in achieving biodiversity conservation objectives. The slow development of the network is related to insufficient stakeholder support for full implementation, frequently linked to issues of economic viability of land management for conservation objectives. The Commission has received large numbers of complaints concerning the Habitats Directive. In cases of persistent failure to implement the Directive, the Commission has initiated legal proceedings against Member States.</p>			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			
<p>In May 2002, the <b>El Teide Declaration</b> gave renewed political support to implementing Natura</p>			

2000, and particularly the management of the network. The Declaration commits Member States to finalising the full implementation of Natura 2000, promoting a better understanding of Natura 2000 and the development of partnerships involving the broad range of stakeholders in the conservation and management of sites.

**Box V.**

<b>Goal 2</b>	<b>Promote the conservation of species diversity</b>		
<b>Target 2.1</b>	<b>Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			<b>X</b>
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			<b>X</b>
Please provide details below.			
The EC Biodiversity Action Plan for the Conservation of Natural Resources ( <b>COM(2001) 162 final, volume II</b> ) set two relevant targets:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action plans for the 48 most important bird species approved and ready for implementation by Member States by 2001.</li> <li>Management plans for all 22 huntable bird species under the Birds Directive with unfavourable conservation status approved by 2003.</li> </ul>			
With regards to the marine environment, the first action of the EC Biodiversity Action Plan for fisheries ( <b>COM(2001) 162 final, volume IV</b> ) is an overall reduction in fishing pressure to promote conservation and sustainable use of commercially important fish stocks through the implementation of long-term management plans in accordance with the Precautionary Approach. Recovery plans for two important fisheries targeting cod and hake have been adopted in December 2003.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			<b>X</b>
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			

Please provide details below.

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

Action plans or management statements have been completed for 47 threatened bird species and sub-species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive. The EC launched a contract in 2003 for the review and update of the Species Action Plans for 23 globally threatened bird species that occur in the EU, to be undertaken by BirdLife International.

Plans have been drafted for 16 out of 22 huntable bird species, listed in Annex II of the Birds Directive, which are considered to have an unfavourable conservation status. Finalisation of these plans commenced in 2003 through a contract supporting the EC in implementation of the sustainable hunting initiative. These plans, which like those for threatened bird species, are to be prepared to a new international format, will not only address hunting issues but the full range of pressures on these species.

The farmland bird population index is based on the population trends of selected bird species dependent on agricultural land for nesting or feeding and is thus clearly related to trends in farmland diversity. This indicator shows no definite trend in the period 1990-2003. However, comparing this general level with the level in 1980 for the subset of countries where data is available shows a substantial drop in the 1980s, and no real sign of recovery is evident in recent years.

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

The 2004 Malahide Conference put forward an EU Headline Indicator for immediate testing: 'trends in abundance and distribution of selected species'. In response to this, the EEA has included in its Core Set of Indicators the indicator "CSI 009" on species diversity (<http://themes.eea.eu.int/IMS/CSI>). The SEBI2010 project has set up an Expert Group dedicated to this indicator.

The first species indicator at EU level for birds found in different ecosystems - The Wild Birds Indicator - was produced in 2003 by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK), the European Bird Census Council, BirdLife International and Wetlands International, with support from the EEA/European Topic Centre on nature protection and biodiversity. Work is underway to develop indicators for other species at EU level and is most advanced for butterflies.

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

The preparation of species management plans mentioned above was on the basis of wide consultation, and as far as possible on consensus, between scientific and conservation experts in all relevant Member States. Frequently, this was complicated by poor responses from the consulted. The EU plans are intended to be a framework for action which can be translated into national plans. Such processes do not appear to exist in many Member States.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box VI .**

Target 2.2	Status of threatened species improved
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	
Please provide details below.	
Improving the conservation status of species listed in the Annexes of the Birds and Habitats Directives are a key objective of these directives.	
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been	

established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>The EEA 2004 report <i>The state of biological diversity in the European Union</i> (see <a href="http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/speeches/25-5-2004-files/Malahide_cfina1_ro.pdf">http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/speeches/25-5-2004-files/Malahide_cfina1_ro.pdf</a>) notes that 971 globally threatened taxa in the 2003 IUCN red list of threatened species occur in the EU. A comparison between IUCN global status in 2000 and the 2003 IUCN red list shows that: 902 taxa remain with the same status, 2 taxa are given better status, and 3 taxa are given worse status – including the Iberian Lynx, which has moved from the Endangered to the Critically endangered category, the most threatened category short of extinction. Sixty-nine taxa found in Europe have been added to the IUCN 2003 red list: 42 as Least concern, Lower risk, Near threatened or Data deficient, 17 as Vulnerable, 5 as Endangered, 4 as Critically endangered, and one as Extinct in the wild: the Wild horse.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>Within the SEBI2010 project and specifically the Expert Group dedicated to species, the indicator 'change in status of threatened and/or protected species' is being explored. This latter indicator was included as a 'best-needed' indicator in the set of sustainable development indicators, and will be used to monitor the sustainable development strategy as soon as data are available.</p> <p>The EEA has included in its Core Set Indicators the indicator CIS007 on threatened species (<a href="http://themes.eea.eu.int/IMS/CSI">http://themes.eea.eu.int/IMS/CSI</a>).</p>			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<p>As regards many threatened species, the main challenges are those related to addressing the main causes for biodiversity loss in Europe: i.e. further reduction of agriculture intensification, further reduction of fishing pressure, further reduction of pollution, halting climate change, combating alien invasive species and the conversion or damage of valuable habitats from infrastructure developments.</p> <p>As regards more specific Community activities related to the Birds Directive, the review of existing action plans for threatened bird species need to be completed and updated in light of this review</p>			



process by 2006 with appropriate monitoring and review system. Management plans for huntable bird species need to be completed with appropriate monitoring and review system. As many of the species concerned by action plans are migratory and spend only part of the year in EU, there is an increased need for international collaboration along flyways. This can be advanced by implementing relevant international initiatives such as the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, which has been ratified by the European Community.

Work on management plans for large carnivores and for other taxonomic groups for which action planning is identified by the Habitats Committee as an important tool need to be intensified.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box VII.**

<b>Goal 3</b>	<b>Promote the conservation of genetic diversity</b>		
<b>Target 3.1</b>	<b>Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			<b>X</b>
Please provide details below.			
<p>This target has been partially included in the EC Biodiversity Strategy, as far as animal and crop species are concerned. The EC Biodiversity Strategy COM(98)42 contains the Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote and ensure the viability of those crop species and varieties and domestic animal races which have to be farmed to conserve the ecosystems of priority wild species. 1. Plant and Animal Genetic resources. Objectives are:</li> <li>To formulate policy measures, programmes and projects which promote the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.</li> <li>To promote the development of technologies assessing levels of diversity in genetic resources.</li> <li>To reinforce the policy of conservation -in situ and ex situ- of genetic resources of actual or potential value for food and agriculture.</li> <li>To promote the development of adequate gene-banks useful for the conservation in situ and ex situ of genetic resources for food and agriculture so that they will be available for use.</li> <li>To ensure that legislation does not obstruct the conservation of genetic resources.</li> </ul>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			

d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			<b>X</b>
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>A new Community Programme on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture has been approved by the EU Council in 2004 (<b>Council Regulation (EC) N° 870/2004</b>). The new programme, covering the period 2004-2006 will promote the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in agriculture and the exchange of information and close coordination in the Member States. The programme applies to plant, microbial and animal genetic resources in agriculture, within the territory of the Community. It will also facilitate co-ordination in the field of international undertakings on genetic resources. The budget allocated to this programme amounts to €10 million. The first call for proposals for 2005 has been published in July 2005 (O.J C 183, 26.7.2005, p.21.)</p> <p>Major threats to the genetic resources in agriculture are habitat alteration and loss, changes in agricultural practices, and genetic pollution</p> <p>The European Community-funded project, PGR Forum (European crop wild relative diversity assessment and conservation forum, is building an online information system to draw attention to these threatened taxa and provide access to crop wild relative data, and is developing guidelines for their conservation, with a particular focus on in situ techniques. Relevant documents are available on the following web page: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/envir/biodiv/genres/call_en.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/envir/biodiv/genres/call_en.htm</a></p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>The 2004 Malahide Conference proposed an EU Headline Indicator for development: 'trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socioeconomic importance'. The SEBI2010 project has set up an Expert Group dedicated to this indicator.</p>			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

**Box VIII.**

<b>Goal 4</b>	<b>Promote sustainable use and consumption.</b>
<b>Target 4.1</b>	<b>Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity</b>
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	

a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	<b>X</b>
Please provide details below.	
<p>The EC Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans contain a wide range of objectives related to the sustainable management of agriculture, fisheries and forests.</p> <p>As regards sustainable use of biodiversity components in general, the EC Biodiversity Strategy and Action plans contain the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [To] consider the objectives of the ECBS in the environmental assessment of Community sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans, programmes, policies and projects. (BAP-NR objective 4.2)</li> <li>• [To] develop where feasible cost-effective analyses of relevant Community strategies, plans, programmes, policies and projects to ensure the achievement of the objectives of this strategy. (BAP-NR objectives 4.1, 4.2)</li> <li>• [To] develop appropriate methods and techniques to enable stakeholders to participate in assessment procedures and in the implementation of remedial and preventive actions. (BAP-NR objective 4.2)</li> <li>• To promote where feasible the internalisation of the values of biodiversity in cost-benefit analysis. (BAP-NR objective 4.2)</li> <li>• To promote where feasible eco-labelling schemes based on life-cycle analysis for products whose production, distribution, use or disposal could affect biodiversity. (BAP-NR objective 4.2)</li> <li>• To promote where feasible the integration of biodiversity concerns into liability mechanisms. (BAP-NR objective 4.2)</li> <li>• [To] shift incentives to encourage positive effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, rather than negative ones. (BAP-NR objective 4.2)</li> <li>• [To] contribute to the social and economic viability of systems supporting biodiversity as well as to the removal of incentives with perverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. (BAP-NR objective 4.2)</li> </ul> <p>As regards <b>Agriculture</b>, the objectives are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To encourage the ecological function of rural areas.</li> <li>• To integrate biodiversity objectives into the relevant instruments of the Common Agriculture Policy.</li> <li>• To promote farming methods enhancing biodiversity, with the option of linking agricultural support to environmental conditions where appropriate.</li> <li>• To promote standards for good agricultural practice with a view to reducing the risk of pollution and of further damage to biodiversity.</li> <li>• To increase awareness among all producers of the polluting potential of specific agricultural practices both short and long term and the need for all producers to be protectors of both environment and biodiversity. This includes the development of integrated and sustainable strategies for the use of plant protection products.</li> <li>• To promote and ensure the viability of those crop species and varieties and domestic animal races which have to be farmed to conserve the ecosystems of priority wild species.</li> <li>• To promote and support low-intensive agricultural systems especially in high natural value areas.</li> <li>• To further develop the agri-environment measures to optimise benefits on biodiversity</li> </ul> <p>by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reinforcing targeted agri-environment measures</li> <li>- assessing its performance against a specific set of biodiversity indicators</li> <li>- using the relevant budget and resources appropriately</li> <li>• To increase soil fertility as a basis of ecosystem functionality</li> </ul> <p>As regards <b>forest management</b>, the objectives included in the EC Biodiversity Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote the conservation and appropriate enhancement of biodiversity as an essential element of sustainable forest management at national, regional and global levels</li> <li>• To further develop the Council regulation 2080/92 to enhance its benefit to biodiversity.</li> <li>• To ensure that, while promoting a net increase in forest extension as a means of maximising their carbon sink function to combat climate change, afforestation is conducted in a manner that does not negatively affect ecologically interesting or noteworthy sites and ecosystems.</li> <li>• To promote sustainable management of forests which respects the ecological characteristics of the areas affected and to promote the restoration and regeneration of areas that have suffered</li> </ul>	

deforestation. Native species and local provenances should be preferred where appropriate. Wherever introduced species are used to replace local ecosystems, sufficient action should be taken at the same time to conserve native flora and fauna.

- To promote the development of specific, practical, cost-effective and efficient biodiversity appraisal systems and methods for evaluating the impact on biodiversity of chosen forest development and management techniques.
- To promote international research into the impacts of possible climate change on forest ecosystems, the possible adaptation of forest ecosystems to climate change and the mitigation of adverse effects of climate change on forest ecosystems as detailed in Resolution no.4 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.
- To promote the implementation of the general guidelines for the conservation of the biodiversity of European forests (Resolution H2 of the Helsinki Conference) and the recommendations of the IPF in relation to the conservation of biodiversity.

As regards **fisheries**, the objectives included in the EC Biodiversity Strategy are:

- To promote the conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks and feeding grounds.
- To promote the establishment of technical conservation measures to support the conservation and sustainable use of fish stocks. Measures available include inter alia fishing exclusion areas (mainly for the protection of dense aggregations of juvenile fish) and mesh sizes. Each measures should be applied according to its merits and expected conservation effect.
- To reduce the impact of fishing activities and other human activities on non-target species and on marine and coastal ecosystems to achieve sustainable exploitation of marine and coastal biodiversity.
- To avoid aquaculture practices that may affect habitat conservation through occupation of sensitive areas, i.e. mangroves in third countries and inter-tidal areas within the Community, pollution by inputs and outputs from fish farms and genetic contamination by possible releases or escapes of farmer species or varieties.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

The objectives on agriculture and fisheries have been included and further specified in the EC Biodiversity Action Plans on agriculture and fisheries. The EC Biodiversity Action Plan on Natural Resources contains several objectives related to the sustainable management of biodiversity in general and forest biodiversity.

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

Forests and other wooded land cover 1.6 million km<sup>2</sup> of the EU-25 territory and have expanded by over 4,000 km<sup>2</sup> or nearly 0.3 % per year in recent years. The annual increment in growing stock currently exceeds annual felling. A large and increasing area of forest is subject to management plans and guidelines, which should contribute to the conservation of forest biodiversity. By mid-July 2004, 45% of European forests were certified by one or more of the leading forest certification schemes.

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

The area of forest, agricultural, fishery and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management is important in itself and as an indicator of biodiversity, given the negative impact on biodiversity of unsustainable management practices. Relevant developments in Europe include the Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, established under the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), and indicator reporting on the integration of environmental concerns into agricultural policy (IRENA) by the European Commission and the European Environment Agency, see <http://webpubs.eea.eu.int/content/irena/index.htm>. In both cases, the set of indicators includes several of direct or indirect relevance to biodiversity. For example the IRENA set includes area under agri-environment support (IRENA01), area under nature protection (IRENA04), high nature farmland areas (IRENA26), Population trends of farmland birds (IRENA28) and impacts of habitats and biodiversity (IRENA33).

The 2004 Malahide Conference proposed an EU Headline Indicator for development: 'area of forest, agricultural, fishery and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management'. The SEBI2010 project has set up an Expert Group dedicated to this indicator.

The issue of sustainable use is also included in the structural and sustainable development indicator sets, with for example indicators on fish catches taken from stocks outside safe biological limits (SI and SDI), or agri-environmental indicators such as 'share of area under EU agri-environmental support', 'livestock density index', share of area occupied by organic farming' (SDIs).

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

Despite the development of indicators of sustainability in forestry and agriculture, only some of these indicators provide information on an area basis. The derivation of a composite indicator or the selection of a single indicator to describe the area of an ecosystem under sustainable management is challenging. Nevertheless, indicators such as the area of high nature value farmland are potentially valuable single indicators of area under sustainable management (Reference: European Environment Agency (2004) *High nature value farmland: Characteristics, trends and policy challenges*)

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

According to the EEA 2004 report, *The state of biological diversity in the European Union*, (see [http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/speeches/25-5-2004-files/Malahide\\_cfinal\\_ro.pdf](http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/speeches/25-5-2004-files/Malahide_cfinal_ro.pdf)) across the 31 EEA member countries as a whole (including the 10 new EU Member States, and the three candidate countries), organic farming area increased by around four fifths between 1997 and 2000, to 4.4 million hectares from 2.4 million.

**Box IX.**

<b>Target 4.2</b>	<b>Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			<b>X</b>
Please provide details below.			
<p>The EU has set a more ambitious target than that agreed at the 2002 World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. Instead of the Johannesburg target of reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, the EU has undertaken to halt the decline of biodiversity by the same date. The EU's biodiversity policy is being reviewed, action plans have been decided and biodiversity indicators are being developed. Strategies for protecting soil and the marine environment (essential sources of biodiversity) are also being developed. In October 2003, the Commission published a communication on the sustainable use of natural resources (<b>COM (2003) 572 final</b>) aimed at identifying resource usages with the greatest potential for environmental improvement.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>The EU has developed a range of instruments to promote sustainable consumption and production, such as Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC), the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), EU environmental, social and fair-trade labels, the new framework for taxation of energy products and electricity, and the Integrated Product Policy (IPP). The new EU chemicals policy (REACH) represents another important contribution. EU enlargement has made and continues to make a significant contribution to sustainable development. The ten new Member States have harmonised their legislation with that of the Community (including environmental and social</p>			

legislation).

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

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

One problematic sector is fisheries: a complex set of driving forces has resulted in overexploitation of most fish stocks in EU waters, leading in turn to increased pressures on compensating species. According to the evaluation made by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) in 2003, 38 stocks out of 43 assessed (i.e. 88%) occurring in EU Atlantic waters are overfished and only 5 are fished at levels corresponding to the highest yields. This prompts the Community to develop a strategy to restore stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yields (MSY) by 2015. This work is currently underway.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box X.**

<b>Target 4.3</b>	<b>No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	<b>X</b>		
Please provide details below.			
<p>This target is consistent with the main purpose of the CITES Strategic Plan (to 2005): 'No species of wild flora subject to unsustainable exploitation because of international trade'. The EC Biodiversity Strategy and the EC Biodiversity Action Plan for the Conservation of Natural Resources (<b>COM(2001) 162 final, volume II</b>) set several relevant targets, including to implement the EC CITES Regulation and to adapt it to reflect further decisions by the Conference of the Parties to CITES.</p> <p>In 2003, the EU adopted an Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) (<b>COM (2003) 251 final</b>) to combat illegal logging and associated illegal trade and to strengthen international co-operation to address violations of forest law, and forest crime. The Action Plan is an EU Priority in the follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The Action Plan emphasises governance reform and capacity building in producer countries as well as demand-side measures to reduce the consumption of illegal timber within the EU.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	<b>X</b>
Please provide details below.	
<p>Despite not being a Party to the CITES agreement, the EU implements CITES by regulations that go considerably further than the basic Convention. <b>Council Regulation (EC) N° 338/97</b>, as up-dated by Commission Regulation <b>N° 1497/2003</b>, is the core legal tool within the EU and is directly applicable to all Member States.</p>	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
<p>There has been reasonable progress on most CITES-related actions and targets, despite limited resources. In terms of implementation, the species annexes of the EC Regulation were amended post CoP11 in 2001 and post CoP12 in 2003. Support for research is ongoing via study contracts and subsidies. The EC has funded service contracts on monitoring and implementation of CITES Regulations, publicity etc. Study contracts include a review of the role of the CITES legislation in dealing with alien invasive species, and a review of the status of species whose import into the EU is currently suspended under the CITES Regulations.</p> <p>In terms of the EU FLEGT action plan, initial efforts have focused around the three actions requested by the Council in 2004, namely to open discussions with timber producer countries and regional organisations about the scope for voluntary FLEGT Partnership Agreements; prepare a regulation to implement the timber import licensing scheme; and review options for further legislation to control imports of illegally harvested timber to the EU.</p>	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	
<p>When CITES entered into force in 1975 no provision was made for regional economic integration organisations such as the European Community to join. Although the text of the Convention was amended in 1983 (the Gaborone Amendment) to allow this to happen, an insufficient number of CITES Parties have ratified this change to allow it to come into effect. This causes difficulties in international implementation and on the Community's ability to play a full role in the work of CITES.</p>	

**Box XI .**

<b>Goal 5</b>	<b>Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.</b>
<b>Target 5.1</b>	<b>Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased</b>
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	<b>X</b>
Please provide details below.	
<p>Several of the objectives in the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans referred to under goal 1, 2 and 4 are also relevant to this goal (e.g. implementing the EC Habitats Directive, preservation of high nature farmland, etc...). They are not reported against separately under this goal.</p>	



Several important areas where pressure on natural habitats can arise include transport & energy, tourism and infrastructure development. The EC Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans include the following related objectives:

**On infrastructure development, regional development, special planning, energy and transport:**

- To implement acidification and climate change strategies with a view to minimising negative impacts on biodiversity
- To minimise the impact on biodiversity of the development of infrastructures for energy from conventional and renewable resources
- To assess the best options for biodiversity when deciding which energy sources are used to match demands at regional level.
- To minimize the impacts on biodiversity of transport infrastructure by optimizing the capacity and efficiency of the existing infrastructure and, for new infrastructure, giving full consideration to environmental concerns.
- To promote the policy options identified in the spatial planning initiatives which can assist in conserving and enhancing biodiversity throughout the European territory. Particular attention should be paid to:
  - ecological corridors and buffer zones;
  - unprotected, sensitive areas with high levels of biodiversity such as mountains, coastal areas and islands;
  - rural areas in order to ensure better synergy between the objectives of economic development and conservation of biodiversity needs.
- In coastal zones, to develop integrated management and planning of both land and sea, including fisheries, shipping, coastal infrastructure and impacts from agricultural and forestry activities in the hinterland.
- To promote sustainable development based on an integrated spatial planning approach
- To encourage sustainable regional development within the Operational Programmes as well as translational cooperation programmes including measures to conserve and make sustainable use of biodiversity.

**On tourism**

- To encourage the assessment of the tourism carrying capacity of different ecosystems and habitats.
- To encourage the exchange of best practice among public and private tourism interests.
- To promote the development of international guidelines for sustainable tourism.

**Additional objectives include:**

- To use the Water Framework Directive as a tool for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and in this context to develop analyses of water quantity and quality versus demand for every river basin including agricultural irrigation, energy generation, industrial, drinking and ecological uses. (BAP-NR objective 3.1)
- To enhance the ecological function of land cover, including riparian and alluvial vegetation, to combat erosion and maintain the water cycle supporting ecosystems and habitats important for biodiversity. (BAP-NR objective 3.2)
- To protect wetlands within the community and restore the ecological character of degraded wetlands. (BAP-NR objective 3.3)

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			

d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>Preliminary analyses from the Corine Land Cover (CLC) update show that between 1990 and 2000 across 17 EU Member States there was a five percent decrease in the area of mire, bogs and fens, and a two percent decrease in heath land, scrub and tundra. In contrast, there was an increase of more than seven percent in constructed, industrial and artificial surfaces over this period. Additional analysis of the CLC update has shown the high levels of landscape fragmentation due to transport infrastructure within Europe.</p> <p>A new European eco-label for tourist accommodation services has been established - see Commission decision (2003/287/EC). All kind of tourist accommodation services like hotels, youth hostels, mountain huts etc. which fulfil fixed ecological criteria can apply for the EU Flower. Using this eco-label helps them to communicate their good environmental performance to their customers with a clear and simple message. A European eco-label for camping sites will follow very soon. Other tourist services will follow.</p> <p>The Commission has not taken specific policy initiatives directly related to 'Spatial Planning', as a result of the difficulties this sector presents (subsidiarity issues, lack of clear methodology, different conditions in Member States etc). However, co-operation between the Member States led to the elaboration of the European Spatial Development Perspective in 1999. An Interreg IIIC programme is currently in operation to implement the European Planning Observatory Network (ESPON) between 2000-6.</p> <p>Some measures related to Spatial Planning are included through the integration of environmental elements in Structural Funds programmes as well as for Integrated Coastal Zone Management.</p> <p>The current General Regulations applying to the Structural Funds 1260/1999 state that "the protection and improvement of the environment is to be integrated as horizontal principle" (Article 1). This is reinforced by the Commission's non-binding guidelines. There is also the requirement that any co-financing must respect Community legislation and policy, including environmental legislation.</p> <p>The bottom-up approach of the Cohesion policy operations means that the initiative to present projects rests on Member States and regions.</p> <p>In the current programming period (2000-2006) around 14% of all the Structural Funds in the EU15 has been devoted to the environment. Including the Cohesion Fund and pre-accession aid, an overall total of over €40 billion is being planned to be used for this purpose.</p> <p>The partnership principle has meant that environmental authorities and in some cases environmental NGOs have played a role in the preparation, assessment, implementation and monitoring of the Cohesion Policy.</p> <p>The basis for ICZM is the Recommendation (2002/413/EC, OJ L148, 6.6.2002, p.24) and the Commission Communication COM(2000)547final of 27.09.2000.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

A land cover change indicator and an indicator on fragmentation of landscape due to transport infrastructure have been computed by the EEA. The sustainable development indicator set also includes indicators such as 'groundwater abstraction as % of available groundwater resources', and land use indicators such as 'built-up area' as a proxy for 'land use change, by category'.

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

The difficulties with respect to spatial planning refer to the sensitivity of the issue (subsidiarity, lack of common methodology and approach etc). Despite the fact that general rules and guidelines from the Commission do exist, in practice it is difficult to turn investments to fields other than those considered by the Member States themselves as a priority. Overall specific measures to protect and enhance biodiversity have been very limited as development priorities usually put more emphasis on to economic/social component of sustainable development.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box XII.**

<b>Goal 6</b>	<b>Control threats from invasive alien species.</b>		
<b>Target 6.1</b>	<b>Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			<b>X</b>
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>Stakeholders at the 2004 Malahide conference agreed a set of non-binding targets in relation to invasive alien species (IAS). These included the adoption of a strategy on IAS by 2005, taking into account the CBD's guiding principles on IAS, considering potential legal instruments, and identifying priorities for eradication programmes and measures to prevent further intentional or non-intentional introductions of potential IAS.</p> <p>The European Plant Conservation Strategy, which is a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and Planta Europa, contains several relevant targets including up-to-date information on European invasive species made available to relevant target audiences, with national lists of invasive plant species compiled in at least 90% of Planta Europa member countries and publicised as appropriate; and, all relevant information included in the web database of the Global Invasive Species Programme by 2004.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			

f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
<p>Member State enforcement of the EU Plant Health Directive (<b>2000/29/EC</b>) ensures the prevention of invasive alien species into EC countries. This involves, among other measures, port inspections, plant passports to accompany the transport of forest trees and forest produce, and monitoring of designated forest plots.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>The standing committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention) prepared a European Strategy on Alien Invasive Species (IAS) in 2003. This Strategy provides guidance to help Bern Convention Parties (including the EC) promote the development and implementation of coordinated measures and cooperative efforts throughout Europe to prevent or minimise adverse impacts of IAS on Europe's biodiversity,</p> <p>The EC is supporting a strategic targeted research project DAISIE (Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe, website: <a href="http://www.daisie.ceh.ac.uk/">http://www.daisie.ceh.ac.uk/</a>) under the Sixth Framework Programme for Research. This project is intended to fill gaps in EU-wide knowledge of species invasion. The cost of such invasions is difficult to assess with the exception of plagues, where it tends to be high.</p> <p>Under the SEBI2010 process, an expert group on IAS is compiling and documenting a list of the 100 most invasive species in Pan-Europe. An expert group dedicated to this indicator has been established in the SEBI 2010 process.</p> <p>In addition, in the Integrated Project "ALARM" <a href="http://www.alarmproject.net">http://www.alarmproject.net</a>, also funded under the 6th Framework Programme for RTD (FP6), the module "biological invasion" aims to deliver novel insights into biological invasion, original approaches to management of vulnerable ecosystems and new perspectives in local and regional policies.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>The 2004 Malahide Conference proposed an EU Headline Indicator for development: 'numbers and costs of invasive alien species'.</p>			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<p>Reliable data on vascular plants exist, and maps are available at different scales, e.g. Atlas of <i>Flora Europaea</i> (although out-of-date and very incomplete), Vegetation Map of Europe, national Floras. Data on communities or vegetation types are less accurate and more difficult to compare at the EU scale.</p> <p>A study commissioned by the Commission highlighted limited usefulness of CITES legislation for dealing with alien invasive species. This suggests a dedicated instrument or instruments is needed.</p>			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			
<p>Europe is a major trading bloc with many contiguous States and shared borders and highly-developed free trade arrangements. Huge volumes of species are translocated, intentionally and unintentionally, across easily-reached neighbouring States or ecologically different parts of the same State. The need for a regional approach has long been recognised by European institutions such as the Bern Convention, the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) and the European Community. The EC has started an exercise to screen the legislation and policy in place to see if there are any gaps in relation to COP decision VI/23 and the Bern Convention strategy. The EC is also working on a draft proposal for legislation on the use of IAS in aquaculture.</p>			

**Box XIII.**

<b>Target 6.2</b>		<b>Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species</b>	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No		<b>X</b>	
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>Stakeholders at the 2004 Malahide conference agreed several non-binding targets in relation to invasive alien species, including: 'Member States should be encouraged to develop national strategies by 2007 and implement them fully by 2010'.</p> <p>The European Plant Conservation Strategy, which is a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and Planta Europa, contains two relevant targets: firstly, the publication of a list of alien invasive species in Europe, including their distribution and their negative ecological and economical effects; and secondly, the publication of fact sheets on the biology including information about control measures of one hundred of the worst invasive species. Both targets are to be completed by 2006.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>Since 1992 the EU has supported, through the LIFE financial instrument, projects aimed at the development of the Natura 2000 network. Out of a total of 715 of projects from the Nature component of the LIFE programme financed from 1992 to 2002, 14% (just over 100) included actions addressed at alien species, mobilising significant human and financial resources. Eradication and control activities, together with wide reaching information campaigns and networks to raise public awareness, have been implemented.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

In the SEBI 2010 process, the Expert Group dedicated to 'numbers and costs of invasive alien species' will eventually explore this indicator theme

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

The Sixth Community Environment Action Programme calls for the development of measures aimed at preventing and controlling invasive alien species and alien genotypes. There remains a need for a comprehensive assessment in this regard and in response to CBD Decision VI/23 on Invasive Alien Species.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**E P I D E M I E:** *Exotic Plant Invasions: Deleterious Effects on Mediterranean Island Ecosystems* is a research project supported by the European Commission. The project aims to raise awareness of the problems posed by invasive plants in the Mediterranean and develop management strategies to tackle this problem (website: <http://www.ceh.ac.uk/epidemie/>).

#### Box XIV.

<b>Goal 7</b>	<b>Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.</b>		
<b>Target 7.1</b>	<b>Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			<b>X</b>
Please provide details below.			
<p>The EC Biodiversity Strategy includes the objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To implement acidification and climate change strategies with a view to minimising negative impacts on biodiversity</li> </ul> <p>The Sixth Community Environment Action Programme identifies climate change as a priority for action and provides for the establishment of a Community-wide emissions trading scheme by 2005. The Programme recognises that the Community is committed to achieving an 8 % reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases by 2008 to 2012 compared to 1990 levels.</p> <p>Stakeholders at the 2004 Malahide conference agreed four non-binding targets in relation to mitigating the impact of climate change on biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitments made under the Kyoto Protocol respected, and further ambitious measures agreed in line with the long-term Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessments.</li> <li>All climate change adaptation and mitigation measures assessed to ensure they have no negative impacts and, wherever possible, provide positive benefits to biodiversity.</li> <li>The ecological connectivity of Natura 2000 network supported in order to achieve or maintain favourable conservation status of species and habitats in the face of climate change, including the promotion of cross-border ecological corridors between the EU and neighbouring states.</li> <li>Habitats and species most at risk from climate change assessed by 2007, and appropriate management plans subsequently prepared.</li> </ul> <p>The forthcoming Commission <b>Biodiversity Communication</b> will build on these proposals.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Details</b>

a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
See above. Reducing pollution and climate change are two of the key priorities of the EU's environment policy as set out in the 6 <sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme and the EU sustainable development strategy.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>In March 2000 the Commission launched the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP) [website: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/eccp.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/eccp.htm</a>]. The goal of the ECCP is to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. The ECCP has led to the adoption of a range of new policies and measures, among which the EU's emissions trading scheme (EU ETS) will play a key role. This scheme commenced operation in January 2005 as the largest multi-country, multi-sector greenhouse gas emission trading scheme world-wide. The scheme is based on <b>Directive 2003/87/EC</b>.</p> <p>The European Union and its Member States are not yet on target to meet their joint and individual national targets under the Kyoto protocol and will need to take additional measures in the coming years to reach these targets. Due to the slow or limited rates of reduction in emissions and time lags in the climate system, pressures on the climate and hence on biodiversity in Europe are therefore set to increase for many years to come.</p> <p>According to the EEA 2004 report, <i>The state of biological diversity in the European Union</i>, the average annual growing season in most areas of Europe has increased by about 10 days over the past 20 years. Green biomass (needles and leaves) of vegetation increased by 12 %, an indicator of enhanced plant growth. These positive effects of rising temperature on plant growth may be offset by an increased risk of water shortage that would harm vegetation.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
The 2004 Malahide Conference proposed the following EU Headline Indicator: 'impact of climate change on biodiversity'.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			
The EUROMOVE model (website: <a href="http://arch.rivm.nl/iweb/iweb/index.html?tools/euromove.html">http://arch.rivm.nl/iweb/iweb/index.html?tools/euromove.html</a> ) estimates 'Biodiversity loss', based on an assessment of potential changes in the distribution of a selection of plant species (information on 1,492 species based on Atlas Flora Europaea) in relation to			

climate variables. Among the main trends expected are that climate change will not have a dramatic effect on Europe before 2010. In most parts of northern and western Europe, the percentage of species with a stable distribution is between 80 and 100%, indicating stability. In parts of the Iberian Peninsula, France and eastern Europe, the percentage of stable species is less than 80%, which may indicate a potentially significant change in biodiversity.

**Box XV.**

Target 7.2		Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		<b>X</b>	
Please provide details below.			
<p>Council Directive <b>91/676/EEC</b> (the Nitrates Directive) concerns the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. Article 10 of the Nitrates Directive requires that Member States submit a report to the Commission every four years following its notification. This report should include information pertaining to codes of good farm practice, designated nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZs), results of water monitoring and a summary of relevant aspects of action programmes for vulnerable zones.</p> <p>The Sixth Community Environment Action Programme called for the development of a Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution. The Commission aims to achieve this by July 2005. To this end, the Commission has launched the Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) programme (<b>COM (2001) 245 final</b>). Its aim is to develop long-term, strategic and integrated policy advice to protect against significant negative effects of air pollution on human health and the environment.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		<b>X</b>	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		<b>X</b>	
Please provide details below.			
See above			



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

The European Commission report (**COM(2002) 407**) provides a synthesis from year 2000 Member States reports on implementing the Nitrates Directive. Although incomplete, the water monitoring networks set up by Member States show that more than 20% of EU groundwaters are facing excessive nitrates concentrations, with a continuous increasing trend in the most intensive areas of livestock breeding and fertiliser consumption. According to the EEA 2004 report, *The state of biological diversity in the European Union*, there is ample evidence that an increase of nitrogen input to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems causes a decrease of biodiversity, enhancing the domination of individual species. The 'nitrogen surplus' indicates the nitrogen which potentially can be lost to groundwater and surface waters and cause eutrophication problems. At EU-15 level the nitrogen surplus was estimated to be 55 kg per hectare of agricultural area in 2000, which is 16% lower than the surplus estimated in 1990, which was 65 kg N/ha. Despite this reduction over the last decade, there are EU countries with high nitrogen surpluses (e.g., The Netherlands, Belgium) Nitrate concentrations in rivers are linked to the proportion of arable land in the upstream catchment, with highest levels occurring where large amounts of nitrogenous fertilisers and animal manure are used. In 2001, nitrate levels in rivers where arable land covers more than 50 % of the upstream catchment area were three times higher than in catchments with arable land cover of less than 10 %.

Insufficient emission reduction of NOx and ammonia is foreseen for 2010 in most Member States. The actual emission reduction plans as established under the National Emission Ceiling Directive (**2001/81/EC**) by the Member States are demonstrating that the established ceilings will not be reached without additional initiatives.

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

The 2004 Malahide Conference proposed an EU Headline Indicator for immediate testing: 'nitrogen deposition'. In the SEBI 2010 process, an Expert Group dedicated to this indicator has been set up.

Nitrogen surplus is also part of the SDI set, as well as an indicator on waste water treatment systems. Air pollution indicators such as 'population exposure to air pollution' are part of both the SI and SDI sets.

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

Reducing NOx emissions from transport and ammonia emissions from agriculture will require additional complex measures beyond those established under the National Emission Ceiling Directive .

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

The Member States have defined Codes of Good Farming Practice (GFP) in their rural development plans as the baseline for agri-environmental measures and payments for less-favoured areas. The codes of GFP have proved to be a valuable tool for minimising some of the potential negative environmental effects of agricultural activity.

**Box XVI .**

<b>Goal 8</b>	<b>Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods.</b>	
<b>Target 8.1</b>	<b>Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained</b>	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		<b>X</b>
Please provide details below.		
Maintaining the capacity of agriculture and marine areas to deliver goods and services to support livelihoods of farmers, fishermen, rural communities and consumers are key objectives of the EU Common Agriculture Policy, its Rural Development policy and the EU's Common Fisheries Policy. Relevant objectives of the EC Biodiversity Strategy have been outlined under Goal 4. A wide range of		

specific objectives, targets and activities have been included in the EC Biodiversity Action Plans on Agriculture and Fisheries **COM(2001) 162 final volumes III and IV**.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

Maintaining the capacity of agriculture and marine areas to deliver goods and services to support livelihoods of farmers, fishermen, rural communities and consumers are key objectives of the EU Common Agriculture Policy, its Rural Development policy and the EU's Common Fisheries Policy.

The European Union's Common Fisheries Policy's objective is to manage fisheries for the benefit of both fishing communities and consumers. Common measures are agreed in four main areas:

1. Conservation - to protect fish resources by regulating the amount of fish taken from the sea, by allowing young fish to reproduce, and by ensuring that measures are respected.
2. Structures - to help the fishing and aquaculture industries adapt their equipment and organisations to the constraints imposed by scarce resources and the market;
3. Markets - to maintain a common organisation of the market in fish products and to match supply and demand for the benefit of both producers and consumers;
4. Relations with the outside world - to conclude fisheries agreements and to negotiate at the international level within regional and international fisheries organisations common conservation measures to manage fisheries in non-EU waters.

The EU's **Common Agriculture Policy's** objectives are to

- ensuring a stable supply of affordable and safe food for its population;
- providing a reasonable standard of living for EU farmers, while allowing the agriculture industry to modernise and develop;
- ensuring that farming could continue in all regions of the EU.
- looking after the well-being of rural society;
- improving the quality of Europe's food;
- guaranteeing food safety;
- ensuring that the environment is protected for future generations;

· providing better animal health and welfare conditions;

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

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

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

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Describing key developments, achievements, challenges and obstacles in implementing the EU CFP and CAP would go beyond the scope of this report. In general, the recent reforms of those major EU policies, together with the implementation of BAP agriculture, BAP fisheries and the upcoming marine strategy are expected to guarantee the sustainable development of both agriculture and marine resources to ensure their capacity to deliver goods and services to livelihoods. More information on the CAP is available at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/index_en.htm) More information on indicators available at: <http://webpubs.eea.eu.int/content/irena/index.htm>

More information of the CFP is available at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/doc\\_et\\_publ/cfp\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/doc_et_publ/cfp_en.htm)

**Box XVII.**

<b>Target 8.2</b>	<b>Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			<b>X</b>
Please provide details below.			
See target 8.1			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X
Please provide details below.	
See target 8.1.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
<p>The EC has supported the 'Project on Biodiversity Implementation Indicators for the Community Biodiversity Action Plans' (Bio-IMPs), in parallel to the ongoing review of the EC Biodiversity Strategy. The project contributed to the framing of the EU headline indicators and the design of a consistent architecture of structural, headline and policy sector-related biodiversity indicators. EU headline biodiversity indicators are consistent with the indicators endorsed by the CBD for measuring progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target and connected to the important objectives the policy is aiming for – full implementation of Natura 2000, integration of biodiversity in environment and sectoral policies. For communication on key stakeholder-policy themes a package of 13 policy implementation indicators is proposed. The package incorporates existing economic sector indicators for environment integration and additional proposals. The package comprises indicators for nature, environment, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and transport, and has strong ties to the EU headline biodiversity indicators. The project report is expected to be available in 2005.</p>	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	
See target 8.1	

**Box XVIII.**

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

d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			
<p>The Community initiative for rural development (Leader+) funds projects that help to protect local knowledge and support local development adapted to specific environmental conditions (bottom-up approach). Leader has a strong focus on partnership and networks of exchange of experience. Such programmes are available for and implemented in all EU member states.</p> <p>A large number of LIFE projects across Europe are promoting the uptake of existing agri-environmental measures to help manage Natura 2000 sites. Site management is developed through a dialogue with the local farming community, making best use of traditional knowledge, with assistance provided to owners to access specific agri-environmental measures best suited to Natura 2000 needs.</p>			

**Box XIX.**

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

a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			
<p>The number of indigenous people within the EU is small and limited to two or three Member States (e.g. Finland, Sweden, France (overseas departments and territories)). Relevant Community legislation is limited to a Protocol to the Instrument of Accession of Sweden and Finland to the EC, which allows for exclusive rights to be granted for the indigenous Sami people to reindeer husbandry within traditional areas, with the possibility for the extension of such rights linked to their traditional lifestyle.</p>			

**Box XX.**

<b>Goal 10</b>	<b>Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.</b>
<b>Target 10.1</b>	<b>All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements</b>
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	

Please provide details below.

The implementation by the European Community of the Bonn Guidelines on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing (ABS) was described in Communication **(COM (2003) 821 final)**. Council Regulation **N° 1590/2004**, establishing a Community programme on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture, takes into account the obligations set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No

b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan

c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes

Please provide details below.

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

The European Commission has placed a contract to identify the most cost-effective way of establishing a European network of access and benefit-sharing focal points; to collect all relevant information to be fed into a specific section of the European Community Clearing-House Mechanism (EC-CHM) devoted to the issue of access and benefit-sharing; and to widely publicise the EC-CHM website with all relevant stakeholder groups encouraging them to register with the EC-CHM.

The EC has provided support for the implementation of institutional policies and codes of conduct on ABS by stakeholder groups, including for *ex situ* collections. Specifically, the Commission supported the development of the Micro-organisms Sustainable Use and Access Regulation International Code of Conduct (MOSAICC) by the Belgian Co-ordinated Collections of Micro-organisms (BCCM).

The EC and its Member States are actively involved in the process aimed at developing a standard Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) in the framework of the multilateral system of the FAO International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT-PGRFA) and the Bonn Guidelines.

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

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

The area of ABS is complex and in evolution it ranges from science to environment and agriculture, from trade to intellectual property instruments.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

In order to assist Parties, Governments and relevant stakeholders with the implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties adopted at its sixth meeting the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits arising from their Utilization. These voluntary guidelines are meant to assist Parties and relevant stakeholders when establishing legislative, administrative and policy measures on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing and/or when negotiating contractual arrangements for access and benefit sharing.

**Box XXI .**

Target 10.2	<b>Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	<b>X</b>		
Please provide details below.			
<p>The 1998 EC Biodiversity Strategy (<b>COM(1998) 42</b>) listed the following relevant objectives: the Community should a) promote appropriate multilateral frameworks [for access and benefit sharing]; b) promote guidelines for bilateral co-operation on a voluntary basis to be applied particularly in cases where only some countries have or need access to the genetic resource in question; and, c) support the countries of origin of genetic resources to develop national strategies on bioprospecting and access taking into account relevant multilateral frameworks and instruments. No time limits were set for these objectives.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			



IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.
Most areas of the first two objectives have been achieved by the successful completion of the negotiations of the CBD Bonn Guidelines and of the FAO International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT-PGRFA). Less progress has been made with the third objective.
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
The EC Biodiversity Action Plan for the Conservation of Natural Resources ( <b>COM(2001) 162 final, volume II</b> ) proposed a possible overall target for 2010 as the 'completion of the international regime on ABS by filling in existing gaps and developing tools to achieve all listed objectives'.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
This is a politically sensitive topic and negotiations for both the Bonn Guidelines and the IT-PGRFA proved difficult but were finally resolved through strong EU action. The 2004 assessment report of the Biodiversity Action Plan for economic and development cooperation ( <b>Audit Report no.4 (BAP-EDC)</b> ) noted there has been insufficient attention by the EC to ABS in development co-operation and on technology transfer, as well as the development of technology for conservation and sustainable use. In addition, resistance has come from the intellectual property sector to 'new proposals' for the protection of traditional knowledge.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.
The European Commission has addressed in some detail the issue of specific measures to support compliance with prior informed consent (PIC) of provider countries as well as with regional and international instruments in its Communication ( <b>COM(2003)821 final</b> ) on the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines in the EC. Material transfer agreements (MTAs) and stakeholders' codes of conduct are also considered by the EC as key instruments for stakeholders to live up to their responsibilities, as identified by the Bonn Guidelines.

**Box XXII.**

<b>Goal 11</b>	<b>Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention.</b>	
<b>Target 11.1</b>	<b>New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20</b>	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		<b>X</b>
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		
Please provide details below.		
The 1998 EC Biodiversity Strategy includes the objectives		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide sufficient funding for biodiversity on bilateral aid programmes as well as for international mechanisms (e.g., CBD).</li> </ul>		
It also contains the related objectives		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To mainstream biodiversity objectives into Community development and economic cooperation strategies and policy dialogue with developing countries and economies in transition. Biodiversity objectives should be integrated in development projects across different sectors of the economy of the recipient countries ensuring greater coherence between Community development cooperation policy and other Community policies, such as international trade, agriculture and forests.</li> <li>To support sustainable use of natural resources, particularly in relation to forests, grasslands and marine/coastal ecosystems.</li> </ul>		

- To support capacity of relevant agencies involved in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- To further integrate EIA practices into development and economic cooperation.
- To coordinate the implementation of this strategy and the Action plans emerging from it, with third countries strategies ensuring coherence between Community support to third countries and the objectives of those countries own biodiversity strategies.
- To ensure complementarity and coordination of policies and approaches in Community and MS' aid programmes, as well as other donors and international institutions, particularly the Global Environment Facility, for a coherent implementation of the CBD.
- To promote schemes for the integration of biodiversity objectives into agriculture in accession countries.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

In its Communication COM(2005) 134 final on "Policy Coherence for Development -Accelerating progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals", the Commission stated that "the EU will assist developing countries to implement the MEAs, and will work to ensure that the capacities of developing countries are taken into account during MEA negotiations. The EU will continue to promote pro-poor environment-related initiatives and policies". Mores specifically on biodiversity, it states that "The EU aspires to a leading role in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) target on biodiversity. The EU should enhance funding earmarked for biodiversity and strengthen measures to mainstream biodiversity in development assistance.

The Commission Communication with a Proposal for a joint declaration by the EU Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on the future European Union Development Policy - 'The European Consensus' COM(2005)311 final includes the following relevant commitments:

"The Community will support the efforts undertaken by its partner countries (Governments and civil society) and help increase their capacity to incorporate environmental considerations into development, including implementation of multilateral environmental agreements".

"It will strengthen its initiatives to ensure that natural resources are properly preserved and sustainably managed, as a source of income amongst other things (e.g. forests, fisheries etc.). To

this end it will support national and regional strategies; it will also take part in/contribute to European or global initiatives and organisations. There will also be increased funding for development-related research in the 7th Framework Programme.

"Several activities are currently underway to improve the situation. For example an *environment help desk* has been set up to provide guidance to Commission staff involved in external assistance programmes to integrate environmental concerns in the programming and implementation of operations"

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

Estimates of aggregated EC spending on biodiversity are extremely difficult to obtain. **Audit Report no.4 (BAP-EDC)** identified projects with DAC sector codes for Biodiversity (code 41030), from 1996 to present, whose principal objective includes biodiversity. Total spending on these projects indicates an EU expenditure of €66 million on primary biodiversity projects in ACP countries since 1996 (Annex 4a). An additional €382 million (Annex 4b) was committed to ALAMED countries: Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean. An analysis of a complementary data set within the same report shows the absence of any trend revealing a systematic increase in expenditure since 2001.

Apart from the fact that there has been a long tradition of EC spending on wildlife and conservation projects in certain key biodiversity hotspots (Central Africa, Brazil, Indonesia inter alia), the EC response to this has been, following the ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) by the EC and the Member States, to prepare a Biodiversity Strategy (1998) which established a set of objectives for biodiversity as well as 4 action plans including the Biodiversity Action Plan for Economic and Development Co-operation (BAP-EDC 2001) for the international aspects. A specific "Biodiversity in Development Group" of EC, Member States and civil society experts on development cooperation and biodiversity was reactivated in 2003 in order to follow up on this Action Plan.

Although a number of biodiversity-specific projects have been successfully implemented, the impact of these is very localised. One of the main objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy is the mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives into other (non-environment) sectors, and in this respect implementation has been mixed. This is largely due to lack of understanding and awareness of the linkages between biodiversity and the key development objectives (poverty alleviation, food security etc), and lack of ownership of biodiversity issues in the EC as well as in partner countries, and the lack of awareness of the links between poverty and biodiversity.

Several activities are currently under way to improve the situation. For example, an environmental integration manual and helpdesk have been set up in order to provide support to Commission staff at all stages of the project cycle. The manual is also accessible to the outside world, e.g. to government officers in recipient countries, NGOs, consultants and civil society.

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

The European Commission is using the OECD DAC Rio Marker Nr. 37 "Biodiversity" to assess how much of its development cooperation funding has been provided to partner countries.

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

The main challenge is the lack of priority in the partner countries. EC development policy is demand-driven. Biodiversity is usually not high on the agenda of the most powerful Government departments in partner countries, and this means in practice that it is difficult to obtain their support for biodiversity projects. Many developing countries are signatories to biodiversity related MEAs, but environment ministries and departments are generally weaker than those of trade and finance.

Other challenges include

- Improving general development policy objectives (financial support restricted to six specified focal areas (which do not include natural resource management), the new development policy proposals are a good basis for better integration of environment and biodiversity into the EU's development cooperation policies.
- Improving financial instruments and rules (difficulty to provide small funds, long term commitments difficult, geographical coverage).
- Improve participation of those who will benefit or feel the impacts (the rural poor including indigenous peoples) in national decision making.
- Improve monitoring and reporting

- Improve education and awareness about biodiversity within the Commission staff, particularly in the Delegations on the linkages between biodiversity and the key development objectives (poverty alleviation, food security), the CBD and biodiversity in general.
- The implementation of ongoing actions towards the objective of mainstreaming environment including biodiversity concerns must be given priority
- Output-oriented targets (e.g. number of projects aiming at reversing biodiversity loss, within overall focus of poverty reduction) and indicators need to be developed.
- Improved co-ordination is essential at all levels to enable the mainstreaming of biodiversity issues, including between the Member States and the Commission.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

**Box XXIII.**

<b>Target 11.2</b>	<b>Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4</b>		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			<b>X</b>
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
The 1998 EC Biodiversity Strategy ( <b>COM(1998) 42</b> ) listed the following relevant objectives: the Community should a) increase the development of technology for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; b) facilitate the transfer of technology for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to developing countries; and, c) promote both within and outside the Community the wider application of knowledge and technologies for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including knowledge, innovations and practices of local and indigenous communities. However, no time scale was set for achieving these objectives.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X
Please provide details below.	
See target 11.1	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
See target 11.1	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
See target 11.1	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

## Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)

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

### Box XXIV.

<b>Target 1. A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>A working list of the accepted names of known plant species is an important step in implementing the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) of the CBD. The EC is supporting implementation of the GTI work programme mainly through supporting specific projects under its Research and Technical Development Framework Programmes and its Development Cooperation Programmes. For example, the Information Resource for Euro-Mediterranean Plant Diversity (Euro+Med) is a European project that is building an on-line database and information system for the vascular plants of Europe and the Mediterranean region, against an up-to-date and critically evaluated consensus taxonomic core of the species concerned. The first stage of the project (Phase One, 2000–2004) was partly funded by the European Union under the 5<sup>th</sup> Framework. By September 2004, a large database had been prepared of the plant names to be considered. (Project website: <a href="http://www.euromed.org.uk/index.php">http://www.euromed.org.uk/index.php</a>)</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXV.**

<b>Target 2. A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Red Data Books and Lists provide conservation assessments for species using internationally agreed IUCN criteria. No European Red List of species is currently available, although a database on the most endangered European plant species (IUCN criteria EX, EW, CR) has been developed by the EEA / European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with the Conservatoire Botanique National de Brest (FR). It will be made publicly available after validation. The database should be further developed for species falling under other IUCN categories.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXVI.**

<b>Target 3. Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXVII.**

<b>Target 4. At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
This target is identical to Target 1.1 of the 2010 Targets. Please refer to Box III.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	



V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target
VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXVIII.**

<b>Target 5. Protection of fifty percent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>The identification of important plant areas (IPAs) is the first step in implementing this target. A Pan-European IPA programme that aims to identify (and ultimately protect) those sites of the greatest botanical and mycological importance is underway, with financial support from The Netherlands government. This project is coordinated by PlantLife International. Project website: <a href="http://www.plantlife.org.uk/html/important_plant_areas/important_plant_areas3.htm">http://www.plantlife.org.uk/html/important_plant_areas/important_plant_areas3.htm</a></p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
<p>IPAs have been identified in 5 EU countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia) and a further two neighbouring countries (Belarus, Romania). A number of national and regional workshops have been held, and IPA processes started on a national scale in a small number of other EU countries. This has resulted in regional experience being developed and regional guidelines and a common regional methodology agreed.</p> <p>(see <a href="http://www.plantlife.org.uk/IPAmanuals.htm">www.plantlife.org.uk/IPAmanuals.htm</a>).</p>	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
The EU Biodiversity Strategy review process does not recognise the IPA process as a priority.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

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**Box XXIX.**

<b>Target 6. At least thirty percent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>Approximately half of the EU territory is farmland. EU agri-environment schemes aim to make a major contribution to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity on farmland, thus contributing to the conservation of plant diversity. The share of agricultural land enrolled in such schemes in 2001 stood at 27%, up from 15% in 1998. In 2003, Europe's environment ministers agreed to identify all farmland areas with high nature value and take conservation measures. These areas cover roughly 15-25 % of the European countryside and suffer from both land abandonment and intensification.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
<p>To improve, develop and compile the agri-environment indicators, the EC-supported IRENA (Indicator Reporting on the integration of Environmental concerns into Agricultural policy) project was launched in September 2002. This project is a collaborative effort between the Directorates General for Agriculture, Environment, Eurostat, Joint Research Centre and the European Environment Agency, which is responsible for co-ordination. (IRENA website: <a href="http://webpubs.eea.eu.int/content/irena/index.htm">http://webpubs.eea.eu.int/content/irena/index.htm</a>)</p>	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXX.**

<b>Target 7. Sixty percent of the world's threatened species conserved <i>In-situ</i>.</b>
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>No European Red List of plant species is currently available. The number of threatened plant species in Europe is estimated at 2,000–3,000, depending on the criteria adopted. However, it is more difficult to assess the number of species for which management, conservation or recovery plans have been prepared and or implemented. Often national data are incomplete or unavailable.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
<p>The suggested long-term action (No. 11) proposed in the European Plant Conservation Strategy is <i>'Prepare and implement recovery plans for threatened plant species, with priority for those on the Bern Convention (Appendix I) and the Habitats Directive (Annex IIb)'</i>.</p> <p>The 2004 mid-term review of the European Plant Conservation Strategy recommended the two following relevant targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To have promoted the development and implementation of recovery programmes in relevant countries for 50 priority plants across all taxa, their selection to be informed by appropriate European priority species lists and lists of rapidly declining but widely scattered species as these become available.</li> <li>▪ Information on the implementation of species recovery plans and management programmes (local, national and regional - Pan Europe, Mediterranean and EU) to be made available from one central place or clearing house for the species on the following priority lists: Bern Convention, IUCN Top 50, 50 Threatened Species of the European Flora in need of urgent conservation.</li> </ul>	

**Box XXXI.**

<b>Target 8. Sixty percent of threatened plant species in accessible <i>Ex-situ</i> collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 percent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
In April 2001, Botanic Gardens Conservation International launched the Action Plan for Botanic Gardens in the European Union. The goal of this plan is to provide an EU-wide regional framework and to promote the sharing of priorities and strategies in the future.	

**Box XXXII.**

<b>Target 9. Seventy percent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	

a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
<b>III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)</b>	
<p>Major threats to crop wild relatives are habitat alteration and loss, changes in agricultural practices, and genetic pollution. Europe is an important centre for crop wild relative diversity, with more than 21,000 taxa found across the region. Although it is acknowledged that populations of crop wild relatives throughout Europe are under threat from habitat alteration and loss, their conservation has received relatively little systematic attention. The European Community-funded project, PGR Forum (European crop wild relative diversity assessment and conservation forum, website: <a href="http://www.pgrforum.org/">http://www.pgrforum.org/</a>) is building an online information system to draw attention to these threatened taxa and provide access to crop wild relative data, and is developing guidelines for their conservation, with a particular focus on in situ techniques. The database will include all socio-economically important species occurring in Europe and their wild relatives; including food, fodder and forage, medicinal plants, condiments, ornamentals, forestry species, as well as plants used for industrial purposes, such as oils and fibres.</p>	
<b>IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)</b>	
<b>V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)</b>	
<b>VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target</b>	
<b>VII) Any other relevant information</b>	

**Box XXXIII.**

<b>Target 10. Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.</b>	
<b>I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?</b>	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
This target is similar to Target 6.2 of the 2010 Targets. Please refer to Box XIII.	
<b>II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?</b>	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
<b>III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)</b>	

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target
VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXXIV.**

<b>Target 11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
This target is identical to Target 4.3 of the 2010 Targets (although restricted to plant species). Please refer to Box X.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXXV.**

<b>Target 12. Thirty percent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
Several certification schemes for farming and forestry, which promote sustainably managed systems of production, exist across Europe. By mid-July 2004, 45% of European forests were certified by one or more of the leading forest certification schemes.	

**Box XXXVI.**

<b>Target 13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	

a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
This target recognizes that locally managed plant resources are essential biological assets for improving the livelihoods of the rural poor. Subsistence use of plant products is rare in Europe, although some livelihoods depend on the collection of wild plants for onward sale into the cash economy.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

**Box XXXVII .**

<b>Target 14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
'Education, training and public-awareness' is one of four major themes of the 1998 European Community Biodiversity Strategy.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The Commission has undertaken a range of relevant actions under the Nature component of the LIFE programme and support to non-governmental organisations engaged in biodiversity education, awareness and training at the European level. In addition, the Commission is running a specific programme on Natura 2000 that has a communication and awareness-raising focus [website: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/nature_conservation/index_en.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/nature_conservation/index_en.htm</a> ].	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	



A six-month biodiversity campaign by Commissioner Wallström was carried out between January and June 2004 covering the CBD COP7 and the EU biodiversity policy review process, leading up to the Irish presidency conference on 'Biodiversity and the EU' (the Malahide Conference).

The EC has published a large number of brochures and leaflets on various biodiversity issues, particularly related to the Habitat Directive.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

VII) Any other relevant information

**Box XXXVIII.**

**Target 15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.**

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes

b) No

**X**

Please specify

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) Yes

b) No

**X**

Please specify

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

VII) Any other relevant information	
The EC contributes to this target mainly through its support to development programmes such as the EC-ASEAN Biodiversity Centre or WWF's People and Plants project. Within the EU, the private sector is involved in a large number of projects and networks aimed at the protection of plants and rare species.	

**Box XXXIX.**

<b>Target 16. Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.</b>	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	<b>X</b>
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
Planta Europa forms a unique regional network for plant conservation by bringing together governmental and non-governmental organisations to facilitate the development of the European Strategy for Plant Conservation (see box XL) and to support the coordination of activities to implement its targets. Currently, the network has 60 member organisations from 34 European countries. More information available at: <a href="http://www.plantaeuropa.org">www.plantaeuropa.org</a> .	

**Box XL.**

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

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

There have been limited EC actions in support of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

The European Plant Conservation Strategy, developed by the Council of Europe and Planta Europa, has been accepted by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (7<sup>th</sup> meeting, recommendation VII/8) as a valuable contribution to global plant conservation. It gives concrete, measurable and realistic targets for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation at a pan-European level. The 42 targets in the European Plant Conservation Strategy fall under the same 5 objectives as given in the Global Strategy for plant conservation, and translate the global targets to the regional level. Through delivering the European Plant Conservation Strategy, the obligations under the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation are being fulfilled. The European Strategy can be downloaded at [www.plantaeuropa.org](http://www.plantaeuropa.org).

Planta Europa published a mid-term review of the European Plant Conservation Strategy in 2005, which noted that more than 50 per cent of the targets show progress. Constraints in the implementation were identified as a lack of financial support and the need for improved coordination of efforts and activities at the European scale. The mid-term review can be downloaded at [www.plantaeuropa.org](http://www.plantaeuropa.org).

In light of the very recent development of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, it has not been fully integrated into EU biodiversity conservation policies. This can be seen in the recent review process of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, which does not acknowledge the implementation of the strategy as a priority activity towards achieving the 2010 biodiversity target. However, it can be argued that EU policies on nature conservation and biodiversity, in particular The Habitats Directive, Agriculture and Forest Plant Protection legislation and Agri-Environment measures will contribute significantly to plant conservation in the EU.

## Ecosystem Approach

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

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

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

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

<b>6. ?</b> Has your country promoted regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) Yes, informal cooperation (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, formal cooperation (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

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

Further comments on regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders.

The ecosystem approach underpins both the EC Biodiversity Strategy (**COM (1998) 42 final**) and the EU Common Fisheries Policy (Council Regulation (EC) **N° 2371/2002**), implying the sustainable management of both marine and terrestrial ecosystems integrating the ecological, economic and social aspects. Regional cooperation between different Member States within the EU, with regard to the Natura 2000 network and the Water Framework Directive, is beginning to apply some of the principles of the ecosystem approach.

**7. Is your country facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach? (decisions VI/12 and VII/11)**

a) No	
b) No, some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach.

Several initiatives have been taken to develop a Pan-European understanding of the ecosystem approach:

- The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) convened a working group in 2003 to identify European research priorities concerning the implementation of the ecosystem approach.
- A joint MCPFE/PEBLDS ad hoc working group is examining the linkages between sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach.
- An ecosystem approach working group was established during the stakeholder consultations on the thematic strategy on the protection and conservation of the marine environment.

**8. Is your country creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach, including through development of appropriate institutional frameworks? (decision VII/11)**

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

Further comments on the creation of an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach.

Within Europe, the ecosystem approach features prominently within the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and in the outcomes from the North Sea Ministers Conferences and OSPAR, where there is a strong commitment to its implementation. Guidance on using the ecosystem approach is under preparation as part of the development of the European Marine Strategy. This strategy will provide a future framework within which Member States will work to achieve sustainable use of marine resources.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Vienna, and the 5<sup>th</sup>

Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Kyiv, also in 2003, committed European countries to apply the ecosystem approach and to clarify the relationship with sustainable forest management.

The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) is another example where the ecosystem approach has been adopted through the implementation of river basin management within the EC.

## C. ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

### Article 5 – Cooperation

**9. 2** Is your country actively cooperating with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, multilateral cooperation (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
e) Yes, other forms of cooperation (please give details below)	

Further comments on cooperation with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Q 9 b) Bilateral cooperation: the EC has provided funding for numerous projects outside the EU dealing with the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. However, estimates of aggregated expenditure are difficult to obtain. The 2004 assessment report of the BAP-EDC (<http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/theme/environment/docs/Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%20Audit%20report.pdf>) listed €66 million (Annex 4a) as being committed to biodiversity projects in ACP countries since 1996 under the European Development Fund. An additional €382 million (Annex 4b) was committed to ALAMED countries (Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean).

Q 9 c) Multilateral cooperation: in terms of support for international programmes, the EC was the major donor for the Fishbase project, which is a global database on fish biodiversity <http://www.fishbase.org/home.htm>; it was also the major donor for the EC-ASEAN Biodiversity Centre (1999 – 2004) <http://www.arcbc.org.ph/>; and an important donor in the multi-donor Pilot Programme to Conserve the Brazilian Rainforest (PPG7) <http://www.worldbank.org/rfpp/index.htm>.

Q 9 d) Ratification of the CBD by the European Community (EC) and all the implementation outlined in this report constitutes in fact a very high degree of regional implementation of the CBD. All the EU 25 Member States and the European Commission cooperate very closely on several aspects related to the implementation of the CBD (see more details in box XLI).

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

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

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

Ratification of the CBD by the European Community (EC) and all the implementation outlined in this report constitutes in fact a very high degree of regional implementation of the CBD. All the EU 25 Member States and the European Commission cooperate very closely on several aspects related to the implementation of the CBD (see more details in box XLI).

The Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), in its role as an instrument for regional implementation of the CBD in the pan-European region, provides a forum to prepare for the Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This preparation takes place through the *Biodiversity in Europe* Conferences. The EC participates in this network.

The EU is also a signatory to the 1976 Barcelona Convention, amended in 1995, and the Protocols drawn up in line with this Convention, which aim to reduce pollution in the Mediterranean Sea and protect and improve the marine environment in the area. Similar protocols, also supported by the EC, apply for the Baltic (the Helsinki Commission) and the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Commission).

In terms of bio-regional mechanisms, consultations are currently under way with the UNEP Coral Reef Unit concerning a proposal for institutional strengthening and capacity development for the long-term management and conservation of marine and coastal protected areas encompassing coral reef resources in South Asia.

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

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

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

In 2001 the European Commission adopted a Strategy on integrating the environment into EC Economic and Development Cooperation. The **Environment integration strategy (SEC (2001) 609)** outlines how, in the overall context of poverty reduction, EC economic and development co-operation can best assist developing country partners to respond to the environmental challenges they face. The European Council subsequently endorsed this Strategy and emphasised that environmental considerations should be systematically incorporated into the preparation of all strategic plans and programmes of EC development co-operation, in particular Country Strategy Papers as well as indicative programmes, structural adjustment programmes and sector-wide reform and support programmes.

A policy briefing paper on EC policy and its approach to Multilateral Environmental Agreements has been prepared by DG Development:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/theme/environment/docs/Policy%20brief%20MEAs.pdf>. An internal overview of the major Multilateral Environmental Agreements and processes: *Commitments and options for EC Development Cooperation* has also been written. Both of these documents were prepared in an effort to harmonise EC policies and programmes.

To improve synergies between the CBD and other biodiversity-related MEAs (e.g. CITES and RAMSAR) the EC is currently planning to support a new UNEP Project that will develop issue-based information modules on topics common to the various MEAs.

## Box XLI.

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

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

At the 2001 Gothenburg European Council meeting, EU Heads of State agreed the challenging objective of halting the decline of biodiversity by 2010. The Malahide Conference to review implementation of the 1998 Community Biodiversity Strategy and the Conference on 25 Years of the Birds Directive identified a number of targets and priority actions for achieving the 2010 target. Though non-binding, these have been endorsed by the European Council and a new EC Communication is being developed (due end 2005).

Under the Treaty of Amsterdam, which entered into force on 1st May 1999, the European Community's overall objectives include: a) sustainable economic development, and b) a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. Article 6 states that "environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Community policies . . . in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development".

The European Community derives its legal competence for environmental policy from Articles 174 and 175 of the Treaty Establishing the European Community, as amended by the Treaty of Amsterdam. It is logical that there should be a European, as well as national, dimension to environmental policy, given that many environmental problems and solutions are transboundary in nature and are therefore best tackled at the EU level. The Treaty states that one of the objectives of EC environmental policy is to promote measures at the international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems. The European Community legal competence on environmental issues also includes those areas where the EU has developed specific legislation within the general framework of the Treaty.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was ratified by the European Community on 21st December 1993. An attached Declaration states that the Community alongside its Member States has competence to take actions aiming at the protection of the environment.

Apart from environmental policy, the European Community also has legal competence to deal with many other areas of policy relevant to the CBD, including agriculture, fisheries, trade, development cooperation, research, regional policy.

One means by which policy is implemented is through legislation, which is binding on the Community and EU Member States. Legislation may be in the form of Regulations, which are directly applicable to Member States, or of Directives, which state the outcomes to be attained and require Member States to translate their provisions into national level legislation. A third form of legislation are Decisions, which are generally more operational in nature and are not discussed further. The Commission has the legal responsibility of ensuring that Regulations, Directives and Decisions are correctly implemented by Member States.

A second means to implement policy and achieve agreed objectives is through the execution of Community programmes. Total annual expenditure for the operation of the Community institutions and the execution of Community policies is set to rise from about 90 billion EUR in 2000 to 100 billion EUR in 2006, representing over 1% of EU GNP. The greatest areas of expenditure are in the areas of agriculture and economic and social cohesion – the latter provides support through investment in the poorer parts of the EU or areas with structural difficulties as well as more general support for training. Many of the programmes and projects funded by the Community have an impact on biodiversity.

Community environmental policy is developed in the framework of multi-annual Environment Action Programmes. The 6th Environment Action Programme, agreed in 2002, will run until 2010.

The European Community (EC) has made a number of international commitments (CBD, WSSD, MDGs) with respect to halting biodiversity loss. A Biodiversity Action Plan for Economic and Development Cooperation (BAP-EDC) was adopted by the EC in 2001. This plan provides the



framework for mainstreaming biodiversity objectives into Community development cooperation strategies and policy dialogue.

The EC and Member States cooperate closely through several bodies:

- The EC and the MS speak with one voice at international meetings such as CBD COPs and prepare their position as well as follow-up to notifications with a European dimension at a specific working group on international biodiversity issues of the European Council

- Since 2002, the EC has convened a Biodiversity Expert Group (BEG). The group meets at least twice per year to promote implementation of the EC Biodiversity Action Plans, monitor progress, promote complementarity with equivalent Member State instruments and share relevant information. Membership consists of representatives of EU Member States and civil society groups (NGOs, business, ...) as well as the relevant services of the Commission. The BEG has established a number of working groups dealing with specific EU policy subjects (natural resources, agriculture, fisheries, development cooperation, monitoring/indicators).

- The EC supports the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS), [website: <http://www.epbrs.org/>], which includes researchers and policy makers from the Commission and EU Member States and aims to identify and promote strategically important biodiversity research that will contribute to policies and management to reduce biodiversity loss, and help to conserve, protect, restore and make the use of the components of biodiversity sustainable –see Q 90 for more details.

- Many advisory or mandatory Committees representing Member States and civil society also deal with other issues of EU policy which are related to biodiversity such as the Habitats and Ornis committees or the committee on agriculture and environment.

Support to other regional processes has furthermore been provided through EC's financial instruments for development cooperation which are linked to specific regions. An Example is the MedWet programme <http://www.medwet.org/>, which supports the implementation of the RAMSAR Convention in the Mediterranean basin.

The Biodiversity Action Plan for Economic and Development Cooperation was adopted in 2001. This Action Plan was subject to a major external evaluation in 2004, which noted that the implementation of the BAP-EDC has been generally poor. In particular, there has been little mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives into non-environmental sectors. Key obstacles to implementation include a lack of political will, awareness and human and financial resources (in the EC, Member States and partner countries). All of the EC's regional agreements for development cooperation mention environment, and by implication, biodiversity, as a priority for cooperation. There are adequate resources available if countries and regions decide that biodiversity should be a priority within their cooperation with the EC, and also if activities supportive of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are integrated into sectoral, regional or scientific programmes.

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

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

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

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

EU Biodiversity Policy is laid down in a number of documents. The 1998 EC Biodiversity Strategy was

developed to meet the EC's obligations as a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The four thematic Biodiversity Action Plans, introduced in 2001, lay out in detail what actions should be taken to implement the strategy.

The 2001 Gothenburg Council adopted the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) which contains the headline objective 'to protect and restore habitats and natural systems and halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010.' The EU's 2002 Sixth Environment Action Programme indicates priorities for the environmental dimension of the SDS. It aims, *inter alia*, at 'protecting, conserving, restoring and developing the functioning of natural ecosystems, natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, with the aim of halting... the loss of biodiversity including diversity of genetic resources both in the European Union and at the global scale', and in particular sets the objective of 'halting biodiversity decline with the aim to reach this objective by 2010.'

Based on a year-long review of the EC Biodiversity Strategy (see next question), the EC is preparing a new **Communication on Biodiversity**, which is scheduled to be published in late 2005 / early 2006.

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

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

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

During 2003, the European Commission initiated a process to review its Biodiversity Strategy and to develop a delivery plan to achieve the objective of halting biodiversity loss ('the 2010 target'). Through its Biodiversity Expert Group, and various thematic working groups, a review of the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy was undertaken, shortcomings were identified and a framework for a delivery plan was discussed. The review process culminated in the stakeholders' conference '*Biodiversity and the EU – Sustainable Life, Sustaining Livelihoods*', which took place on 25-27 May 2004 in Malahide, Ireland. At this conference a framework was agreed with priority objectives and targets to achieve the 2010 target, called the 'Message from Malahide'. A similar set of targets was discussed and agreed upon at the Conference on 25 Years of the Birds Directive in Bergen op Zoom, the Netherlands, in November 2004. Though non-binding, these targets have been considered by the European Council and a new EC Communication is now being developed (due in end 2005 –early 2006). This will, as far as possible, take into account the objectives and targets recommended by these two processes.

**14.** Has your country identified priority actions in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan? (decision VI/27 A)

a) No	
b) No, but priority actions are being identified	
c) Yes, priority actions identified (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

Further comments on priority actions identified in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Many specific actions have been included in the EC Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans. However, it can be argued that more prioritisation is needed in view of achieving the 2010 target. Priority actions were suggested at the 2004 stakeholder conference at Malahide, which could form the basis for future priority action in reaching the 2010 EU target of halting the loss of biodiversity by that

date. [Also, see answer to previous question].

**15.** Has your country integrated the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as benefit sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision VI/27 A)

a) No	
b) Yes, in some sectors (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, in major sectors (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, in all sectors (please provide details below)	

Further information on integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

The EU strategy for sustainable development (**COM (2001) 264 final**) [SDS] was adopted by the EU Council in Gothenburg in June 2001. It provides the overarching framework to ensure policy coherence between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. The strategy focuses on four key-priorities: limiting climate change and increasing the use of clean energy; addressing threats to public health; managing natural resources more responsibly; and, improving the transport system and land use. One of the headline objectives under the third key priority is to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The SDS is currently being reviewed.

Conservation and sustainable use objectives have been incorporated into a number of EC sectoral policies and plans:

- The 2003-2004 reforms of the Common Agriculture Policy represent a significant move forward in the integration of environmental and biodiversity concerns, with measures that encompass, on the one hand, mandatory cross-compliance and decoupling of support from production, which are integrated into the market and income policy, and, on the other hand, targeted environmental and land management measures that are part of the rural development policy. One of the key elements of this reform is the establishment of a single farm payment (decoupled support), which is linked to the respect of statutory environmental requirements, as well as keeping all farmland in good agricultural and environmental condition ('cross-compliance') (see also thematic areas: agricultural biological diversity)". As regards the rural development policy, the new regulation for the period 2007-2013 offers further opportunities to strengthen the contribution of rural development to the achievement of the biodiversity target, in particular as regards the protection of Natura 2000 sites and other high nature value farmland. The protection of the biodiversity and the contribution to the management of Natura 2000 are acknowledged as key issues to be addressed in the future national and regional rural development programmes
- EC communication (COM(2002)186 final) sets out an action plan to integrate environmental protection requirements into the Common Fisheries Policy, by defining guiding principles, management measures and a work programme, with a view to promoting sustainable development.
- The EC Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) embodies the principles of sustainable development, promoted through the concept of river basin management planning.

**16.** Are migratory species and their habitats addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan (NBSAP)? (decision VI/20)

a) Yes	
b) No	<b>X</b>

I) If **YES**, please briefly describe the extent to which it addresses

(a) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species	
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(b) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats, including protected areas	
(c) Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration	
(d) Research and monitoring for migratory species	
(e) Transboundary movement	
II) If <b>NO</b> , please briefly indicate below	
(a) The extent to which your country addresses migratory species at national level	Many species included in the Annexes of the Birds and Habitats Directives (see Questions on Article 8 33-44) are also Migratory, but there is no specific EU programme on Migratory Species.
(b) Cooperation with other Range States since 2000	The EC is a signatory to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), and other Conventions which deal with migrating species.

### Biodiversity and Climate Change

<b>17.</b> Has your country implemented projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	
b) No, but some projects or programs are under development	
c) Yes, some projects have been implemented (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.	
<p>The 2004 EEA report <i>Impacts of Europe's changing climate</i> (report website: <a href="http://reports.eea.eu.int/climate_report_2_2004/en">http://reports.eea.eu.int/climate_report_2_2004/en</a>) describes the results of a number of EC-implemented projects on biodiversity and climate change.</p> <p>The EPBRS meeting held under the UK presidency identified knowledge and knowledge gaps with regards to "Climate change and biodiversity conservation: knowledge needed to support development of integrated adaptation strategies". The EPBRS findings can be found under <a href="http://www.epbrs.org">http://www.epbrs.org</a>.</p>	

<b>18.</b> Has your country facilitated coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, relevant mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the UNFCCC and the UNCCD.	
<p>In March 2000 the Commission launched the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP), website: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/eccp.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/eccp.htm</a>. The goal of the ECCP is to identify and</p>	

develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. The ECCP has led to the adoption of a range of new mitigation measures, among which the EU's emissions trading scheme (EU ETS), which came into operation in January 2005, will play a key role. A number of ECCP working groups have been set up: on forest-related sinks, agricultural soils and agriculture. These groups are examining possible mitigation measures in a number of sectors. As far as coordination of adaptation projects, the EU is at a very early stage, with no European-wide strategy yet produced.

The Community places great emphasis on supporting developing countries efforts to respond to global environmental issues and to implement the major UN Environmental Conventions on climate, biodiversity and desertification.

**Box XLII .**

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

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

**Article 7 - Identification and monitoring**

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

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

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

1. Habitats and species

A requirement of the 1992 Habitats Directive (**92/43/EEC**) is that Member States undertake site assessments for both natural habitat types specified in the Directive and habitats of species listed in the Directive, in order to identify priority areas for conservation. Similarly, the 1979 Birds Directive (**79/409/EEC**) requires Member States to assess habitat importance in terms of the conservation of bird species.

The Natura 2000 network (<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/home.htm>) consists of sites hosting natural habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, as well as plant and animal species listed in Annex II. The Natura network also consists of areas protected under the Birds Directive, which requires Member States to take the necessary measures to preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity of bird habitats. This includes special protection areas (SPA) for those endangered or vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Directive, as well as for regularly occurring migratory species.

2. Genetic resources

A new Community programme on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of

genetic resources in agriculture covers the period 2004-2006, Council Regulation (EC) N° 870/2004. It will promote the exchange of information and close co-ordination between Member States and between the Member States and the Commission, with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in agriculture, in line with the requirements and needs of the Common Agricultural Policy.

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

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

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

Monitoring of the conservation status is an obligation arising from Article 11 of the Habitats Directive for all habitats (Annex I) and species (Annexes II, IV and V) of Community interest. Consequently this provision is not restricted to Natura 2000 sites and data need to be collected both in and outside the Natura 2000 network to achieve a full appreciation of conservation status. The overall objective of the Directive is to achieve and maintain *favourable conservation status* (FCS) for all habitats and species of Community interest and to contribute towards maintaining biodiversity of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States. Monitoring must therefore lead to a clear picture of the actual conservation status and its trends on various levels and indicate the effectiveness of the Directive in terms of approaching and reaching this objective. The main results of this monitoring have to be reported to the Commission every six years according to Article 17 of the Directive. A common reporting format was agreed-upon by EU Member States in April 2005 and will be used by Member States for the next report due in 2006. See:

[http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/committeesworkinggroup/habitatsscommittee/swg/reporting\\_framework&vm=detailed&sb=Title](http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/monnat/library?l=/committeesworkinggroup/habitatsscommittee/swg/reporting_framework&vm=detailed&sb=Title)

The resulting information would be stored in the European Nature Information System (EUNIS) [<http://eunis.eea.eu.int/index.jsp> ], which hosts information on other species, habitats and sites developed and managed by the EEA / European Topic Centre on Biological Diversity. The EUNIS database provides access to publicly available data in a consolidated database. The information includes:

- Data on Species, Habitats and Sites compiled in the framework of Natura2000 (EU Habitats and Birds Directives),
- Data collected from frameworks, data sources or material published by the EEA / European Centre on Biological Diversity
- Information on Species, Habitats and Sites taken into account in relevant international conventions or from International Red Lists.
- Specific data collected in the framework of the EEA's reporting activities, which also constitute a core set of data to be updated periodically.

The EC project EuMon (EU-wide monitoring methods and systems of surveillance for species and habitats of Community interest, website: <http://eumon.ckff.si/> ), funded under FP6, attempts to provide a European framework that standardizes, focuses and coordinates existing monitoring programs by comparing and integrating existing methods and monitoring schemes of species and habitats of community interests.

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

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

Further comments on monitoring programmes on key threats to biodiversity.

A number of monitoring programmes are carried out by EU Member States and reported to the European Community and the European Environment Agency (EEA). Information on some of these activities is used by the EEA to construct indicators of 'drivers' of biodiversity loss, e.g. road density. Some major monitoring programmes include:

Q. 21 c). The EC, as a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), reports annually on greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories within the area covered by its Member States. The legal basis of the compilation of the EC inventory is Council Decision **280/2004/EC**, concerning a mechanism for monitoring Community greenhouse gas emissions and for implementing the Kyoto Protocol.

Q.21 d). **Forest Focus** is a Community scheme for harmonised, broad-based, comprehensive and long-term monitoring of European forest ecosystems. It has concentrated on monitoring air pollution and fire.

Q.21 e). The European Environmental Agency's **Corine Land Cover 2000 database** enables comparisons to be made and trends to be calculated on changes in land cover and hence in the extent of certain ecosystems over the period from around 1990 to 2000 for the whole of EU-25 territory. The CLC database allows detailed analyses to be carried out and mapped on changes between each of the 44 land cover categories. The data can also be merged with other spatial data to provide the basis for detailed analysis of the state of Europe's environment.

Q.21 f). **Agriculture**: The **IRENA** project (Indicator Reporting on the Integration of Environmental Concerns into Agriculture Policy) is a major EC initiative launched to further develop agri-environmental indicators for monitoring the integration of environmental concerns into the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Website: <http://webpubs.eea.eu.int/content/irena/index.htm>.

Q.21 f). **Fisheries**: The EC Common Fisheries Policy **Regulation N° 2371/2002** states that the Council shall adopt recovery plans for all stocks outside safe biological limits; long-term management plans shall be adopted for stocks within safe biological limits. At present, 32 % of the commercially exploited fish stocks in Community waters are assessed but these constitute more than 85% of the total catch. Monitoring of the state of commercial fish stocks in the north-east Atlantic is currently under way with the help of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The Commission has a contract with ICES by which the latter produces recurrent advice (generally on the state of most commercial stocks and fisheries) and which also allows for ad-hoc requests. For the Mediterranean, the main scientific body in charge of regular monitoring and assessment is the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

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

a) No	
b) No, but some mechanisms or systems are being considered	
c) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are being established	
d) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
e) Yes, a relatively complete system is in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the coordination of data and information collection and management.

EU regulations and strategies most relevant to biodiversity that call for regular reporting by Member States are:

- i. the Birds Directive (1979) and the Habitats Directive (1992)
- ii. the Water Framework Directive
- iii. agri-environmental measures and rural development measures
- iv. the Sustainable Development Strategy
- v. the EU Biodiversity Strategy

In addition, the draft INSPIRE directive (**COM (2004)516**) will streamline reporting by countries on spatially-related information, and will support environmental protection policies. The EEA assists the EC in data collection and analysis. It is supported by EIONET - the European Environmental Information Network ([www.eionet.eu.int](http://www.eionet.eu.int)), which is a collaborative network of government, research and non-government organisations at national level and at European level, of the EEA and National Reference Centres for specific topics. Eurostat also collects data and assesses their quality, principally within the sets of structural and sustainable development indicators (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.eu.int/>).

ENBI, the European Network for Biodiversity Information, is a Thematic Network funded by the European Union for a period of three years. The Network began functioning in January 2003 with the aim of coordinating Europe's efforts in the broad field of biodiversity information, and providing an integrated contribution to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). More information is available at: <http://www.enbi.info/forums/enbi/index.php>.

EIONET, the European Information Observation Network, is a network set up by the European Environment Agency to streamline information on the environment, including biodiversity and therefore on plants, from national to European level. The information is gathered in support of European environmental policies, and has been consolidated in relation to the EEA Core Set Indicators (see <http://themes.eea.eu.int/IMS/CSI> )



<b>23. ?</b> Does your country use indicators for national-level monitoring of biodiversity? (decision III/10)	
a) No	
b) No, but identification of potential indicators is under way (please describe)	
c) Yes, some indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, a relatively complete set of indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
Further comments on the indicators identified and in use.	
<p>Biodiversity indicators are part of the EEA core set of environment indicators (website: <a href="http://themes.eea.eu.int/IMS/CSI">http://themes.eea.eu.int/IMS/CSI</a> ). The EC regularly produces indicators such as the Natura barometer, the distance to target for protected areas under the Habitats Directive and the farmland bird index. Following the 2003/4 review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and action plans, the EU Stakeholders conference at Malahide endorsed a first set of biodiversity headline indicators for testing, which was taken up in EU Council Decision of 28 June 2004 (10997/04). The EC has subsequently funded the EEA to carry out a project '<i>Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI2010)</i>', to develop and implement appropriate indicators (information on SEBI 2010 can be obtained in <a href="http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/information/indicator/F1090245995">http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/information/indicator/F1090245995</a> ). This process is compatible with the CBD set of biodiversity indicators, as agreed at COP7. Consistent with this first set of EU headline indicators, a package of 13 policy implementation indicators is currently under consideration by the EC. The package comprises indicators for nature, environment, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and transport. Other indicators related to various European environmental assets – some of them relevant to biodiversity - are being produced and compiled by the EEA.</p>	

**Box XLIII.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>
<p>An assessment of the status of priority habitat types and species is a requirement of the 1979 Birds Directive and the 1992 Habitats Directive. Member States are also required to undertake surveillance of the priority habitat types and species. Availability of resources is adequate for priority species and habitat types but insufficient to cover all threatened (and non-threatened) species and habitat types. A report on the implementation of the EC Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans should in principle be produced every three years, a comprehensive report will be submitted in conjunction with the upcoming biodiversity communication.</p>

## Decisions on Taxonomy

<b>24.?</b> Has your country developed a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but a plan is under development	
c) Yes, a plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, reports on implementation available (please provide details below)	
Further information on a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1.	
<p>No EC plan has been developed, although some of the actions listed in decision IV/1 have been acted upon, e.g. the EC-supported Euro+Med Project. This project aims to provide an on-line database and information system for the vascular plants of Europe and the Mediterranean region, based on an up-to-date and critically evaluated taxonomic knowledge of the species concerned.</p> <p>Under the 6th Framework Programme for RTD the EC Network of Excellence, (Toward the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy) – under negotiation at the time of editing this report – aims to integrate European taxonomic effort within the European Research Area and to build a world leading capacity. EDIT will create a European virtual centre of excellence, which will increase both the scientific basis and capacity for biodiversity conservation</p>	

<b>25.?</b> Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	<b>X</b>
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on investment on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections.	
<p>The EC does not possess or manage taxonomic collections; national collections are the responsibility of the EU Member States, who provide their long-term funding.</p>	

<b>26.?</b> Does your country provide training programmes in taxonomy and work to increase its capacity of taxonomic research? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further information on training programmes in taxonomy and efforts to increase the capacity of taxonomic research.	
<p>EC support is mainly provided through its support to development programmes such as the EC-ASEAN Biodiversity Centre [website: <a href="http://www.arcbc.org.ph/default.asp">http://www.arcbc.org.ph/default.asp</a>].</p>	

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

<b>28.*<sup>2</sup></b> Is your country collaborating with the existing regional, subregional and global initiatives, partnerships and institutions in carrying out the programme of work, including assessing regional taxonomic needs and identifying regional-level priorities? (decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) No, but collaborative programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessments)	
d) Yes, comprehensive collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessment and priority identification)	
Further information on the collaboration your country is carrying out to implement the programme of work for the GTI, including regional needs assessment and priority identification.	
* The EC has submitted a report on implementation of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, (to be downloaded at <a href="http://www.biodiv.org/doc/world/eur/eur-nr-gti-en.doc">http://www.biodiv.org/doc/world/eur/eur-nr-gti-en.doc</a> , no further information is needed.	

<b>29. *</b> Has your country made an assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities at the national level for the implementation of the Convention? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) Yes, basic assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
c) Yes, thorough assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
Further comments on national assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities.	
See Q.28.	

<b>30. *</b> Is your country working on regional or global capacity building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) Yes, relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
Further comments on regional or global capacity-building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties.	

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

See Q. 28.

**31. \*** Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8? (annex to decision VI/8)

a) No	
b) Yes, for forest biodiversity (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for marine and coastal biodiversity (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for dry and sub-humid lands (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for inland waters biodiversity (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for mountain biodiversity (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for protected areas (please provide details below)	
h) Yes, for agricultural biodiversity (please provide details below)	
i) Yes, for island biodiversity (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention.

See Q. 28.

**32. \*** Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8?

a) No	
b) Yes, for access and benefit-sharing (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for Article 8(j) (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for the ecosystem approach (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for impact assessment, monitoring and indicators (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for others (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention.

See Q. 28.

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

**33. ?** On Article 8(i), has your country endeavoured to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are being identified	
c) Yes, some measures undertaken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.

EC **Regulation N° 1257/99** provides financial support for agri-environment measures from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), thus contributing to increasing the compatibility between present day use (agriculture) and CBD objectives of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The share of agricultural land enrolled in such measures has increased from approximately 15 % in 1998 to 27% in 2001.

The issue of compatibility between present uses and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a debate at the heart of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The new 2003 CFP allows for long-term management plans with appropriate regulation mechanisms for stocks outside safe biological limits.

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

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

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

Full transposition to national law in EU Member States of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive has been largely achieved for all Member States (although some infringements remain pending). The EC carries out conformity-checking of the national transposition measures with the provisions of the Directives and initiates infringement procedures where necessary.

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

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

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

The EC regulates rather than manages. There is a considerable body of EC environmental legislation aimed at reducing pollution and its impact on both human health and biological diversity. Legislation under the Common Fisheries Policy aims to prevent unsustainable fishing by limiting catches. Community funds are provided to help reduce uncontrolled forest fires, which can adversely affect biodiversity.

**Box XLIV.**

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

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

The establishment of a European-wide network of areas of special interest for biodiversity conservation (Natura 2000) is one of the pillars of EC environmental policy. The Nature component of the LIFE programme is aimed at supporting the Natura 2000 network through the co-funding of demonstration projects and networking events.

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

**36.** Has your country established suitable time bound and measurable national-level protected areas targets and indicators? (decision VII/28)

a) No (please specify reasons)	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes, some targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	

Further comments on targets and indicators for protected areas.

At the 2001 Gothenburg (Sweden) European Council meeting, EU Heads of State agreed the challenging objective of halting the decline of biodiversity by 2010 in the EU. The 2002 El Teide (Spain) Declaration developed on the Gothenburg commitment and reiterated the engagements in the 6th Environmental Action Programme, to take all necessary measures to halt bio-diversity loss by 2010, in particular by the finalisation and active management of the EU protected areas network, called Natura 2000. This declaration was subsequently signed not only by environment ministers from the then 15 EU Member States but also by the 13 candidate countries.

Two European laws, the Wild Birds Directive (Council Directive (79/409/EEC)) and the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) are the legal basis.

The 2004 Malahide (Ireland) Conference, an important milestone in reviewing the implementation of the 1998 European Community Biodiversity Strategy (and its four sectoral Biodiversity Action Plans of 2001), and the 2004 Bergen-op-Zoom (Netherlands) Conference celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Birds Directive identified a number of targets and priority actions for achieving the 2010 target. The Environment Council took note of the recommendations from the Malahide Conference and asked the European Commission to produce a communication on biodiversity taking in to account the Message from Malahide.

While in practice development of the Natura 2000 network will eventually cover 15 – 20% of EU territory, in overall percentage terms there is no target for protected area coverage of the under the Habitats or the Birds Directives. The objective is to achieve a sufficient network of sites to provide for the guarantee of conservation protection. The coverage varies considerably between member states, reflecting the differences in the extent and importance of their biodiversity.

**37.** Has your country taken action to establish or expand protected areas in any large or relatively unfragmented natural area or areas under high threat, including securing threatened species? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

Further comments on actions taken to establish or expand protected areas.

The EU has established a systematic planning process for the development and implementation of a regional protected area system within the framework of the EU Natura 2000 Network, representative of the most important and threatened natural areas and species across seven biogeographic regions. The Natura 2000 network of protected areas constitutes the centrepiece of EU nature and conservation policy aimed at the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. The developing Natura 2000 network consists of sites of community importance hosting natural habitat types listed in Annex I, as well as plant and animal species listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). Following scientific assessment, these sites are adopted by decisions of the European Commission, and thereafter the Member States have the obligation to designate them as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). The Natura 2000 network also includes areas protected under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), which requires Member States to take the necessary measures to preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity of bird habitats. This includes Special Protection Areas (SPA) for those endangered or vulnerable species listed in Annex I of the Directive, as well as for regularly occurring migratory species.

This network also includes large or relatively unfragmented natural areas in regions dominated by such landscapes.

The protected areas system is complemented by species protection provisions which cover the entire territory.

**38.** Has your country taken any action to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) Not applicable	
c) No, but relevant actions are being considered	
d) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
e) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on actions taken to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas.

The Natura 2000 network so far adopted has achieved good representation of inland water ecosystems, in line with Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). Wetlands are also represented in the Natura 2000 network as Special Protection Areas and/or Sites of Community Importance preserving, maintaining or re-established for protection of species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), for regularly occurring migratory species and habitat types and species listed in the Habitats Directive annexes.

Under the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, Member States are required to incorporate protected areas into river basin management plans, including the establishment of a register or registers of all areas lying within each river basin district which have been designated as requiring special protection under specific Community legislation for the protection of their surface water and groundwater or for the conservation of habitats and species directly depending on water.

Progress has been slower with marine protected areas. EU Members States are now in the process of including marine sites on their proposed lists for Natura 2000, in line with the EU Biodiversity Action Plan on Fisheries. The Fisheries BAP highlights the need to identify appropriate areas, in line with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, especially habitats and species that are extremely fragile, rare or representative and may be severely impacted despite a general reduction in fishing effort.

The 2004 Malahide Conference to review implementation of the Community Biodiversity Strategy, and the 2004 Conference on 25 Years of the Birds Directive, both recommended 2008 for completion of the Natura 2000 coverage of marine sites. An expert working group on the establishment of Natura 2000 in the marine environment has now been established which is developing guidance for marine extension of the Natura 2000 network. In particular there is a need for greater Natura 2000 coverage of marine sites within the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), for habitat types and species protected by the Habitats and the Birds Directives .

With respect to the Atlantic and Baltic seas, Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Helsinki and OSPAR Commissions (June 2003) committed to complete by 2010 a joint network of well-managed marine protected areas that, together with the Natura 2000 network, would be ecologically coherent. The EU is also committed to follow-up COP7 and UNGA decisions calling for the establishment of marine protected areas in areas outside national jurisdictions and is actively pursuing this aim in the different competent regional and international organisations, conventions and bodies.

**39.** Has your country identified and implemented practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, many steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on practical steps for improving integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures.

Both the Bird and Habitat Directives emphasise the “beyond sites” requirement, which are not only the general species protection regimes (the second “pillar of the directives”). Specifically, Article 10 of the Habitats Directive urges Member States to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 Network, through the management of landscape features of major importance to flora and fauna. This includes linear corridors such as rivers and their banks, as well as stepping stones such as ponds and small woods to facilitate migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. The Habitats Committee established under the Directive has tabled several studies which looked at different approaches to accounting for the wider landscape, e.g. farming environments.

The EU Biodiversity Action Plan on Conservation of Natural Resources also highlights enhanced connectivity between Natura 2000 sites, while the EU BAP on Agriculture highlights the need to overcome the strict logic of “protected areas” by applying the ecosystem approach as defined in decision V/16 of the CBD. Complementing this are provisions in the Rural Development Regulation, which encourage linear features such as hedges or riverine corridors in order to increase connectivity of forest areas for wildlife.

Despite provisions of the Birds and Habitats Directive on a wider landscape approach, the current priority for the EU is completion of a core network of protected area sites. This includes greater Natura 2000 coverage of marine sites including Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) such as deep water coral beds (e.g. the Darwin Banks off the UK).



40. Is your country applying environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant EIA guidelines are under development	
c) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to some projects or plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to all relevant projects or plans (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on application of environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas.	
<p>According to the Habitats directive, any plan or project likely to affect a Protected Area site must be subject to appropriate assessment in relation to its impact on the conservation targets. The EC has prepared a document (<i>'Article 6 of the Habitat Directive: Interpretation Guide'</i>) to help the Member States. There will be an increasing number of plans affecting the Natura 2000 Network in the Member States, which will need to be assessed. This guide is a generic tool to be translated into national assessment procedures and manuals.</p>	

41. Has your country identified legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes, some gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below))	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, many gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	
Further comments on identification of legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas.	
<p>Despite a comprehensive legislative and policy framework for establishment of protected areas in the EU, and a range of different initiatives to enhance socio-economic incentives (especially within the framework of the 2003 reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU), there remain a number of constraints to implementation – one of them is financing. EU co-financing to support the planning and management of Natura 2000 sites has not been comprehensive, covering only a minority of sites through demonstration projects from the LIFE-Nature programme. However, in future, it is envisaged that substantial financing will be achieved through rural development support.</p>	

42. Has your country undertaken national protected-area capacity needs assessments and established capacity building programmes? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, a basic assessment undertaken and some programmes established (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, a thorough assessment undertaken and comprehensive programmes established (please provide details below)	
Further comments on protected-area capacity needs assessment and establishment of capacity building programmes.	
<p>As part of the review progress of the 1998 European Community Biodiversity Strategy, audits were conducted of the four EU Biodiversity Action Plans on Natural Resource Conservation, Agriculture, Fisheries and Development Cooperation. The 2004 Conference on 25 Years of the Birds Directive</p>	

enabled an equivalent review of progress. Both the Malahide and the Bergen op Zoom Conferences identified a number of priorities, including development of headline indicators, effective and harmonised monitoring and reporting frameworks, stronger research, reinforced measures for communication and awareness raising, and adequate financial support.

The European Commission has contracted Eurosite to run the Natura Network Initiative for capacity-building via sharing examples of best practice of management of Natura 2000 sites

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

a) No	
b) No, but relevant plan is under development	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, relevant plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant plan is being implemented (please provide details below)	

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

Natura 2000 sites have already received support from various Community financial instruments. The cost of financing Natura 2000 has been estimated to be €6.1 billion per year (2004 values) . According to the Commission's Communication on Financing Natura 2000 (following from Article 8 of the Habitats Directive), COM(2004) 431 , rural development as well as structural and cohesion funds will need to contribute substantially towards Natura 2000 management if this level of financing is to be achieved. This is also supported in the European Commission Communication COM(2004) 101 on 'Building Our Common Future; Policy Challenges and Budgetary Means of the Enlarged Union 2007-2013', which proposes that Community Funds (and primarily the Structural and Rural Development Funds) make substantial co-financing available for the implementation of the Natura 2000 network, for the management of sites on agricultural and forest land, for the provision of infrastructure facilities in the Natura 2000 sites and for promoting the uptake of these opportunities by Member States.

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

a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but relevant methods, standards, criteria and indicators are under development	
c) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use and some international methods, standards, criteria and indicators in use (please provide details below)	

Further comments on methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance.

National reporting under the Birds and Habitats Directives provide a basis for regular assessment of the effectiveness of protected area management.

Under the Habitats Directive member states are required to draw up reports every six years, for first time in 2001. Art. 17(1) requires monitoring, reporting and assessment, with reference to:

- (i) conservation measures specified in Art. 6(1), including management plans, management activities, administrative and statutory measures, as well as awareness raising.
- (ii) the impact of those measures on the conservation status of the habitats types and species

specified in Annexes I and II

(iii) surveillance specified in Art. 11.

The first composite report from the European Commission, based on Member States reports was published in 2004, and it focuses on the process rather than the achievements. This will be addressed more in the second reports, due in 2007.

Under the Birds Directive, Art 12 requires that Member States shall forward to the Commission every three years, a report on the implementation of national provisions. In response, the Commission is required to prepare a composite report based on the information submitted by Member States, which is then verified by Member State authorities.

Both the 2004 Malahide Conference to review progress under the European Community Biodiversity Strategy, and the EU Conference on 25 years of the Birds Directive: Challenges for 25 Countries (7 – 9 November 2004, Bergen op Zoom, The Netherlands), called for harmonised monitoring and reporting frameworks in order to establish adequate data flows on the status and trends of species, sites, habitats and related management measures; as well as adoption of best approaches to streamline and ensure adequate and timely reporting under the Birds and Habitats Directives, the EC Biodiversity Strategy and relevant international agreements from 2006 onwards.

Efforts are also now under way to establish a coherent monitoring activity focusing on a defined set of headline environment indicators. A significant element of this activity will be monitoring to assess conservation status in the Natura 2000 network. Both the 2004 Malahide Conference and the 2004 Birds Directive Conference called for a set of biodiversity headline indicators to be developed by 2006, to monitor and evaluate the efficiency of measures taken to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target. The European Commission has now requested the European Environment Agency (EEA) to develop biodiversity indicators for designated sites. This will feed into the EU Sustainable Development Indicator set.

The EU is also now developing GIS tools to monitor land-use changes and how these are affecting Natura 2000 sites. Other means of regularly assessing the effectiveness of protected area management include Forest Focus (2003), which calls upon the Commission to pay special attention to the development of the Community forest fire information system.

#### **Box XLV.**

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

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

Under the Treaty establishing the European Community (EC), environmental protection constitutes an area of shared competence between the EC and Member States. Article 6 of the (renumbered) Treaty establishing the EC demands that environmental protection is integrated into the definition and implementation of the Community's policies and activities. In this context, the EC affords high priority to the development and implementation of protected area systems to address various environmental problems.

Specifically, the European Community has adopted Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (the Habitats Directive). These support implementation of CBD COP decisions on protected areas both on a Community-wide basis, as well as nationally by individual Member States of the EC. One of the key objectives of these is the establishment of Natura 2000 as a common, community-wide network of protected areas; and objectives are well-defined (species and

natural habitat types listed in annexes) and the procedures are also defined for the identification and establishment of sites under Natura 2000. As such, the Directives provide the legal basis and key delivery mechanism for the European Community to fulfil obligations under the CBD, the 1979 Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the 1979 Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats and the 1995 African- Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA).

The Natura 2000 network will have a direct impact on site-related land-use activities in Member States, in its present stage of development covering an estimated 17 % of the EU territory. By the middle of 2005, more than 18,000 nature sites had been included in the network, selected to provide site protection for 197 animal species, 89 plant species and 205 natural habitat types considered of European importance.

However, the establishment of Natura 2000 is not yet completed and there have been long delays in submission of national lists and data which has led to serious slippage in the timetable for its establishment. One of the key obstacles has been opposition in some Member States, frequently due to misunderstandings or misinformation about the intent of the network. The need for prior public consultation in some countries has resulted in long delays in approving lists of sites. Key challenges ahead are the completion of the Natura 2000 network (including in the new Member States), the finalisation of management plans with wider involvement of stakeholders, the provision of adequate financial resources at Member States and Community level and the need to further establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system.

'Distance to Target' measures are now being developed to assess progress in designating Natura 2000 sites. However, marine areas remain a key gap in coverage (though 2008 has been recommended as a target for their inclusion) and negative trends continue, including declining bird populations. Key constraints in implementing provisions of the Community Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans on protected areas include lack of funding as well as inadequate monitoring data. There is an urgent need to fully transpose the Habitats and Birds Directives into national laws, policies and decision-making; strengthen financing, communication and awareness-raising; and establish coherent monitoring of the Natura 2000 network focusing on a defined set of headline environment indicators. More also needs to be known about the likely impacts of climate change, and how to adapt the Natura 2000 Network in response.

Enhanced socio-economic incentive measures for management of Natura 2000 sites, within the framework of the 2003 reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), are an important example of integration of biodiversity objectives into relevant sectors, programmes and policies (in line with Goals 3.3 and 4.4 of the Convention Strategic Plan). Other key contributions to goals of the Convention strategic plan include enhanced communication, education, and public awareness of the Natura 2000 network, as endorsed by the El Teide Declaration, and scientific and technical cooperation with developing countries under the EC BAP on Economic and Development Cooperation.

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

<b>45.</b> Has your country identified alien species introduced into its territory and established a system for tracking the introduction of alien species?	
a) No	
b) Yes, some alien species identified but a tracking system not yet established	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, some alien species identified and tracking system in place	
d) Yes, alien species of major concern identified and tracking system in place	

<b>46. ?</b> Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) No	
b) Yes, but only for some alien species of concern (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, for most alien species (please provide details below)	
Further information on the assessment of the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species.	
<p>A study of lessons learnt from projects from the Nature component of the LIFE programme involving actions on invasive alien species was published in 2004. Available at:</p> <p><a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/infoproducts/alienspecies_en.pdf">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/infoproducts/alienspecies_en.pdf</a>.</p> <p>The EC is currently supporting, under the Sixth Framework Programme, two relevant projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ALARM, assessing large-scale environmental risks for biodiversity with tested methods, which has a module on IAS. Website: <a href="http://www.alarmproject.net">http://www.alarmproject.net</a>.</li> <li>▪ DAISIE, delivering alien invasive species inventories for Europe. Website: <a href="http://www.daisie.ceh.ac.uk/">http://www.daisie.ceh.ac.uk/</a>.</li> </ul>	

<b>47. ?</b> Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate, those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under consideration	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.	
<p>Member States of the European Union implement plant health measures and standards consistent with EC plant health directives and regulations. The EU Council Group of Heads of Plant Health Services adopted a statement on the relevance of phytosanitary measures against invasive alien species affecting plants in December 2002. EC Council Directive <b>2000/29/EC</b> of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community contains binding measures against the introduction of alien plant pests into the EU and against their spread within the whole territory of the EU Member States. The Directive provides for border and internal inspection (Plant Health Certificates and Plant Passports).</p>	

<b>48. ?</b> In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed, or involved itself in, mechanisms for international cooperation, including the exchange of best practices? (decision V/8)	
a) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, multilateral cooperation	<b>X</b>

<b>49. ?</b> Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species? (decision V/8)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the use of the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches in work on alien invasive species.	
<p>The 1998 European Community biodiversity strategy (<b>COM(1998)42 final</b>) includes the following specific reference to IAS and the precautionary principle: 'The presence or introduction of alien species or sub-species can potentially cause imbalances and changes to ecosystems. It can have potentially irreversible impacts, by hybridisation or competition, on native components of biodiversity. Applying the precautionary principle, the Community should take measures pursuing to prevent that alien species cause detrimental effects on ecosystems, priority species or the habitats they depend on and establish measures to control, manage and, wherever possible remove the risks that they pose'.</p> <p>EC-funded projects from the Nature component of the LIFE programme are based on the ecosystem approach. This approach can help the application of a single strategy in managing IAS that occur within the same ecological unit. This is done for example, with four Spanish LIFE-Nature projects that aim to protect the native European mink (<i>Mustela lutreola</i>) from the spread of its competitive American relative (<i>Mustela vison</i>). These projects are coordinated to apply a common conservation strategy over the indigenous species natural range.</p>	

<b>50.</b> Has your country identified national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but needs and priorities are being identified	
c) Yes, national needs and priorities have been identified (please provide below a list of needs and priorities identified)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the identification of national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles.	
<p>Needs and priorities are identified in the 2003 European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species of the Bern Convention, website: <a href="http://www.coe.int/t/e/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/Nature_and_biological_diversity/Nature_protection/sc23_tpvs07erev.pdf?L=E">http://www.coe.int/t/e/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/Nature_and_biological_diversity/Nature_protection/sc23_tpvs07erev.pdf?L=E</a></p> <p>Although not an EU strategy as such, this document provides guidance to help Bern Convention Parties (including the EC) in their efforts to tackle the following strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ rapidly increase awareness and information on IAS issues and ways to tackle them</li> <li>▪ strengthen national and regional capacity and cooperation to deal with IAS issues</li> <li>▪ prevent the introduction of new invasive alien species into and within Europe and support rapid response to detected incursions</li> <li>▪ reduce the adverse impact of existing invasive alien species</li> <li>▪ recover species and restore natural habitats and ecosystems that have been adversely affected by biological invasions, where feasible and desirable</li> </ul>	

<b>51. Has your country created mechanisms to coordinate national programmes for applying the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)</b>	
a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanisms created to coordinate national programmes for implementing the Guiding Principles.	

<b>52. Has your country reviewed relevant policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles, and adjusted or developed policies, legislation and institutions? (decision VI/23)</b>	
a) No	
b) No, but review under way	
c) Yes, review completed and adjustment proposed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, adjustment and development ongoing	<b>X</b>
e) Yes, some adjustments and development completed (please provide details below)	
Further information on the review, adjustment or development of policies, legislation and institutions in light of the Guiding Principles.	
<p>The European Union has no specific legislation on invasive alien species, but a number of regulations and directives include provisions to deal directly or indirectly with IAS. The most relevant references are Article 11 of the Birds Directive (<b>79/409/EEC</b>), Article 22 of the Habitats Directive (<b>92/43/EEC</b>), and Articles 4(6)(d) and 9(6) of the wildlife trade regulation, <b>338/97/EC</b>.</p> <p>Four IAS species are subject to an import ban under Commission Regulation (EC) <b>N° 1497/2003</b> of 18 August 2003 amending Council Regulation 338/97/EC: Red-eared slider <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>; <i>Chrysemys picta</i>; American Bullfrog <i>Rana catesbeiana</i>; and the Ruddy duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>.</p> <p>The EU's four sectoral Biodiversity Action Plans (Conservation of Natural Resources; Agriculture; Fisheries; Economic and Development Cooperation) all contain references to IAS. These policy instruments were adopted under the Community Biodiversity Strategy (<b>COM(98)42 final</b>) and are complementary to Member States national strategies and measures.</p>	

<b>53. Is your country enhancing cooperation between various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species? (decision VI/23)</b>	
a) No	
b) No, but potential coordination mechanisms are under consideration	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on cooperation between various sectors.	
<p>The three Biodiversity Action Plans for the conservation of natural resources, agriculture and fisheries provide the framework for enhanced cooperation between sectors in the control of invasive alien species.</p>	

<b>54. Is your country collaborating with trading partners and neighbouring countries to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity in ecosystems that cross international boundaries? (decision VI/23)</b>	
a) No	
b) Yes, relevant collaborative programmes are under development	
c) Yes, relevant programmes are in place (please specify below the measures taken for this purpose)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighbouring countries.	
<p>The European Community collaborates with a variety of bodies with regard to reduction of risks associated with certain pathways as well as prevention and management directed at particular species. It is actively engaged at each of the following levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>globally, through e.g. participation in development of legal measures for ballast water management (IMO), and international phytosanitary standards (IPPC/EPPO)</li> <li>regionally, through e.g. the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) and engagement in invasive species work carried out by the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention)</li> <li>sub-regionally, through e.g. regional seas instruments for the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean, each of which mandates prevention and management measures for marine introductions.</li> </ul>	

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

<b>56. Has your country developed financial measures and other policies and tools to promote activities to reduce the threats of invasive species? (decision VI/23)</b>	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures and policies are under development	
c) Yes, some measures, policies and tools are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures and tools are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of financial measures and other policies and tools for the promotion of activities to reduce the threats of invasive species.	
<p>From 1992 to 2002, out of a total of 715 projects financed through the Nature component of the LIFE programme (the financial instrument aimed at the development of the Natura 2000 network) more</p>	



than 100 included actions dealing with the management of exotic species. The total budget spent for implementing these projects amounts to more than 27 million Euros. However, most of the interventions financed through LIFE aimed at exotics are still too small-scale and localized and only seldom adopt a standardized approach. This situation, due to the lack of a comprehensive, large-scale strategy, represents a major limit for the sound management of IAS.

**Box XLVI.**

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

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

The relative priority given to this Article is increasing from what was a low level. In 1998, the Community Biodiversity Strategy identified invasive alien species as an emerging issue of environmental importance. In March 2002, the European Council (Environment) recognised that the introduction of invasive alien species is one of the main recorded causes of biodiversity loss and the cause of serious damage to the economy and health. It supported the use, as appropriate, of national, transboundary and international action. These include, as a matter of priority, measures to prevent such introduction occurring, and measures to control or eradicate those species following an invasion. Some resources are available within sectoral programmes, but there is as yet no horizontal programme on alien species.

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

**GURTS**

**57.** Has your country created and developed capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to genetic use restriction technologies?

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

Further comments on capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to GURTs.

GURTs are not in use in the EC.

**Status and Trends**

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

a) No	<b>X</b>
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b) No, but support to relevant studies is being considered	
c) Yes (please provide information on the studies undertaken)	
Further information on the studies undertaken to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and priority actions identified.	

### Akwé:Kon Guidelines

<b>59.</b> Has your country initiated a legal and institutional review of matters related to cultural, environmental and social impact assessment, with a view to incorporating the Akwé:Kon Guidelines into national legislation, policies, and procedures?	
a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, a review undertaken (please provide details on the review)	
Further information on the review.	
A comparative analysis with existing EC EIA/SEA legislation is planned.	

<b>60.</b> Has your country used the Akwé:Kon Guidelines in any project proposed to take place on sacred sites and/or land and waters traditionally occupied by indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)	
a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but a review of the Akwé: Kon guidelines is under way	
c) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the projects where the Akwé:Kon Guidelines are applied.	

### Capacity Building and Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities

<b>61.</b> Has your country undertaken any measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities to be effectively involved in decision-making related to the use of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/16)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes being developed	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities.	
Implementation is currently limited to a few individual cases through development cooperation activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. However, an EC Call for Proposals was officially launched on 11 January 2005 to cover support for promoting the rights of indigenous peoples, under Budget line 19.04.03. The call seeks to provide support to build the capacity of indigenous peoples and their	

representatives to participate in, contribute to and follow up the work of, the existing UN and other international mechanisms and procedures (including the CBD) in the promotion and protection of their rights.

Guidelines and quality support measures for the programming and the project cycle management that focuses on supporting and safeguarding the rights of indigenous peoples are being developed

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

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

Further information on the mechanisms, guidelines and legislation developed.

In May 2001, the European Commission adopted a Communication (**COM (2001) 252 final**) on the European Union's (EU) role in promoting human rights and democratisation in third countries. The Communication directed the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) to take a more strategic approach to matching programmes and projects in the field with EU commitments on human rights and democracy. The Call for Proposals mentioned in the previous question follows on from this initiative.

Action 11 of the EC Biodiversity Action Plan for Economic and Development Cooperation states that the EC will support national capacity building on intellectual property rights in relation to biodiversity and develop supportive laws for equitable benefit sharing.

**63.** Has your country developed mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities with specific provisions for the full, active and effective participation of women in all elements of the programme of work? (decision V/16, annex)

a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are being developed	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all elements of the programme of work.

### Support to implementation

**64.** Has your country established national, subregional and/or regional indigenous and local community biodiversity advisory committees?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes	<b>X</b>

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

<b>66.</b> Has your country supported, financially and otherwise, indigenous and local communities in formulating their own community development and biodiversity conservation plans that will enable such communities to adopt a culturally appropriate strategic, integrated and phased approach to their development needs in line with community goals and objectives?	
a) No	
b) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the support provided.	
<p>Outside the EU the Community provides support to indigenous and local communities through development cooperation programmes. An overview is provided in a Report on Progress of Working with Indigenous Peoples (<b>COM(2002)291</b>).</p> <p>Various EC financial instruments provide financial resources e.g. the Human Rights, Tropical Forest and Environment in Developing Countries and NGO budget lines. For example, the EC provided funding for the conservation &amp; community management of tropical forests in Alto Mayo, Peru, in which income generation and employment was created for groups of indigenous people living in forest areas.</p>	

**Box XLVII.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>
<p>The number of indigenous people within the EU is small and limited to two or three Member States (e.g. Finland, Sweden, France (overseas departments and territories)). Relevant Community legislation is limited to a Protocol to the Instrument of Accession of Sweden and Finland to the EC, which allows for exclusive rights to be granted for the indigenous Sami people to reindeer husbandry within traditional areas, with the possibility for the extension of such rights linked to their traditional lifestyle.</p> <p>At the global level, the EU actively participates in the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and related provisions. The EU has also been one of the most active promoters of the development of the Draft Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilisation. The scope of these Guidelines includes all genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, innovations and practices covered by the CBD.</p>

Outside the EU, the Community provides support to indigenous and local communities through development cooperation programmes. An overview is provided in a Report on Progress of Working with Indigenous Peoples (**COM(2002)291**). Various EC financial instruments can provide financial resources e.g. the Human Rights, Tropical Forest and Environment in Developing Countries and NGO budget lines, though there is no specific funding for activities related to Article 8j. The recent call for proposals to provide support to build the capacity of indigenous peoples and their representatives to participate in existing UN processes such as the CBD provides € 5.8 million of new financial resources.

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

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

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

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

Financial assistance has been given to programmes for the *ex-situ* conservation of agricultural crops found within the EU. The EC-funded project, PGR Forum (website: <http://www.pgrforum.org/>) is building an online information system to provide access to crop wild relative data to a broad user community including plant breeders, protected area managers, policy-makers, conservationists, taxonomists and the wider public. A similar service for a wide range of forest tree species is provided by the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme, EUFORGEN, which has received financial support from the EC. (website: <http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/networks/euforgen/AboutUs.asp>).

The EU has been a major fonder of *ex-situ* conservation projects of farm animal genetic resources. The European Focal Point (hosted at the Bureau des Ressources Genetiques) of the Global Strategy for the management of farm animal genetic resources is the regional communication platform on issues of animal genetic resources.

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

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

Further comments on the measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions.

The Birds Directive (**79/409/EC**) and Habitats Directive (**92/43/EC**) allow exemptions to be made to the general prohibition of capture of threatened species for the purposes of reintroduction of such species into their natural habitats. Reintroduction of threatened species is proposed in some species-specific Action Plans, prepared as guidance for the implementation of these Directives. EC-funded projects have supported the reintroduction of threatened species into their native habitats, an example being the reintroduction of the Golden Eagle in Ireland, through the Nature component of the LIFE programme. Directive **1999/22**, relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos, states that zoos shall participate in research from which conservation benefits accrue to the species and, where appropriate, engage in captive breeding, repopulation or reintroduction of species into the wild.

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

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

Further information on the measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex-situ* conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and *in-situ* populations of species.

The Birds Directive and Habitats Directive prohibit the capture or uprooting of threatened species of Community interest. Some exemptions are permitted for reproduction or research, though there are no specific references to collection for *ex-situ* conservation purposes.

The European Community has implemented CITES through EC Regulation **Nº 338/97** on the Protection of Species of Wild Fauna and Flora by Regulating Trade Therein. This restricts or prohibits the importation of threatened species as defined by CITES Annexes.

#### Box XLVIII .

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

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

Most Community support to *ex-situ* conservation has been concerned with agricultural biological diversity, and financed first through Regulation Nº 1467/94 and then Regulation Council Regulation (EC) No 870/2004, on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture (including horticulture and forestry).

Support has also been provided by the Community for the development of research infrastructure in the EU, such as biological information resources, particularly through networking activities.

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

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

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

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

The 1999 Treaty of Amsterdam elevated sustainable development to one of the overall objectives of

the European Community. One means to bring this about has been the 'Cardiff process' of integrating the environment into key EC sectoral policies. The process now embraces nine sectors, all of which have adopted integration strategies. In 2001, EU Heads of State and Government made a commitment at the EU's Spring Summit in Gothenburg to 'halt the decline of biodiversity by 2010'. The same Gothenburg Council also adopted the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (which contains the headline objective 'to protect and restore habitats and natural systems and halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010') and the Sixth Environmental Action Programme (6<sup>th</sup> EAP), which indicates priorities for the environmental dimension of the SDS.

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

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

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

The EU Council Regulation **N° 1782/2003** introduces a single farm payment (SFP) decoupled from production from 2005 (and at the latest 2007). The SFP and other direct aids will be granted subject to compliance with environmental and other standards and good agricultural and environmental conditions ('cross-compliance' see also thematic areas: agricultural biological diversity).

The December 2003 Fisheries Council agreed recovery plans for a number of species, as well as, for the first time since the launch of the Common Fisheries Policy in 1983, multi-annual management plans.

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

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

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

Financial support to European farmers for costs associated with e.g. upkeep of the landscape, maintenance of indigenous breeds of farm animals, reduced intensity farming with environmental benefits is available under the agri-environment measures of Council Regulation **N° 1257/99**, as amended by Regulation **N° 1783/2003**, in support for Rural Development.

Certificates of Special Character issued under Regulation **N° 2082/92** permit the identification by consumers of food products with specific characters resulting from their use of traditional raw materials or processes. Though not a condition of the Regulation, sustainable use of agri-biodiversity is often a feature of the production of such traditional foods products.

In addition, the new Rural Development Regulation for the period 2007-13 includes, inter alia, an enhanced and more explicit support for the Natura 2000 network, both in agricultural and forestry areas. The agri-environmental measure is maintained, while widening the circle of potential beneficiaries. It also envisages support for non-productive on-farm investments to help achieve biodiversity objectives as to enhance the public amenity value of Natura 2000 and other high nature value farmland areas

<b>73. ?</b> On Article 10(d), has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biodiversity has been reduced.	
Agri-environment measures as indicated in the previous question and actions under the LIFE programme are relevant.	

<b>74. ?</b> Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessment of potential indicators and incentive measures is under way	
c) Yes, indicators and incentive measures identified (please describe below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the identification of indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
<p>The EC has adopted a wide range of incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, such as agriculture and rural development (including forestry), fisheries, research, development cooperation, etc. A description of these measures is included in part D of this questionnaire (Questions 147-202).</p> <p>As regards indicators, several indicators related to the integration of biodiversity in other sectors already exist. One example is IRENA, a project identifying agri-environmental indicators, which provide the means for assessing the evolving interaction between agriculture and the environment.</p> <p>In January 2000, the Commission adopted the Communication COM(2000)20 "Indicators for the Integration of Environmental Concerns into the Common Agricultural Policy" <a href="http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2000/com2000_0020en01.pdf">http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2000/com2000_0020en01.pdf</a>, which identified a set of agri-environmental indicators to serve the following multiple purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to provide information on the current state and changes in the conditions of the environment in agriculture;</li> <li>- to understand and monitor the linkages between agricultural practices and their beneficial and harmful effects on environment;</li> <li>- to identify the key agri-environmental issues that are of concern in Europe today;</li> <li>- to provide contextual information, particularly concerning the diversity of agri-ecosystems in the European Union;</li> <li>- to help targeting of agri-environmental measures, with the aim to achieve the most significant progress in reducing agriculture's impact on the environment where environmental pressures are greatest;</li> <li>- to assess the extent to which agricultural and rural development policies respond to the need to promote environmentally friendly farming activities and sustainable agriculture and to communicate this to policymakers and the wider public;</li> <li>- to feed the global assessment process of agricultural sustainability.</li> </ul>	



In March 2001, the Commission published the Communication and COM(2001)144 "Statistical Information needed for Indicators to monitor the Integration of Environmental concerns into the Common Agricultural Policy" [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2001/com2001\\_0144en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2001/com2001_0144en01.pdf) which focused on the data needed to compile that set of indicators and identified a number of requirements to be met for the definition or calculation of some indicators.

To improve, develop and compile the agri-environment indicators identified by these two Communications at the appropriate geographical level, the IRENA (Indicator Reporting on the integration of Environmental concerns into Agricultural policy, <http://webpubs.eea.eu.int/content/irena/index.htm>) project has been launched (September 2002). The project is a collaborative effort between the Directorates General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Environment, Eurostat, Joint Research Centre and the European Environment Agency which is responsible for the co-ordination.

The IRENA operation delivered 3 outputs in 2005:

- 35 agri-environmental indicator fact sheets supported by an on-line data service;
- an Indicator Report providing an environmental analysis of EU-15 agriculture based on those 35 agri-environmental indicators and the DPSIR (Driving forces - Pressures - State - Impact - Responses) framework to organise and explore the inter-linkages between them. Several agri-environmental "story lines" are used to explain the links between indicators and show the effect of farming on the environment. There are: water use and water resources; water quality and the agricultural fertiliser and pesticide use; land use and soil; climate change and air quality and, landscape and biodiversity;
- an Assessment report on the progress towards delivering integration of environmental concerns into the CAP, based on 35 IRENA indicators and their linkages..

The intended users of the outputs of the IRENA operation are the European Union Institutions, the Agriculture and Environment Ministries and policymakers in the Member States, as well as stakeholder groups. Some of these agri-environmental indicators, or similar ones, are also used in the sustainable development indicators set.

More generally, the EU Stakeholders conference at Malahide endorsed a first set of biodiversity headline indicators for testing, which was taken up in EU Council Decision of 28 June 2004 (10997/04). The EC has subsequently funded the European Environment Agency (EEA) to carry out a project 'streamlining European 2010 biodiversity indicators (SEBI2010)', to develop and implement appropriate indicators. This process is compatible with the CBD set of biodiversity indicators, as agreed at COP7.

**75. ?** Has your country implemented sustainable use practices, programmes and policies for the sustainable use of biological diversity, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation? (decision V/24)

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

Further information on sustainable use programmes and policies.

The EC finances a large number of development projects with government and non-governmental partners aimed at linking poverty reduction with the sustainable use of biological diversity, all of which have capacity-building components. In addition, the EC's research programme with developing countries funds research into the sustainable use of natural resources.

<b>76. ?</b> Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please describe below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the development of mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity.	
The EC LIFE-Environment programme funds demonstration projects on environmentally sustainable development and is open to private sector and civil society organisations, based on publication of a Call for Proposals. The Leader+ programme for integrated and sustainable rural development funds proposals from 'Local Action Groups', which must have a balanced and representative selection of partners drawn from the different socio-economic sectors in the area concerned. At least half the members of the Local Action Groups must be from the private or non-governmental sectors. The total EU contribution to Leader+ for 2000-2006 is over €2 billion, financed by the EU agriculture budget under the EAGGF-Guidance Section.	

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

<b>78.</b> Has your country taken any initiative or action to develop and transfer technologies and provide financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)	
a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some technologies developed and transferred and limited financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many technologies developed and transferred and significant financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development and transfer of technologies and provision of financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.	
Although such actions could be financed under EC development cooperation, it is dependent on the EC receiving requests for assistance from their partner countries.	

## Biodiversity and Tourism

**79. ?** Has your country established mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please specify below)	
d) Yes, existing mechanisms are under review	

Further comments on the establishment of mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity.

The EC Treaty does not allow the Community to pursue a specific policy for tourism. But Article 3(u) of the Treaty, which the Maastricht Treaty inserted, does authorise the Community to provide guidelines for the development of tourism as part of other policies.

On 21 November 2003 the Commission adopted its Communication 'Basic orientations for the sustainability of European tourism' (**COM (2003) 716 final**), in which it signalled its intention to launch a Tourism Sustainability Group composed of representatives of the various stakeholder categories. Specific initiatives will concern better monitoring and reporting of the sustainability of tourism.

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

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

Further comments on educational and training programmes provided to tourism operators.

Provision is made to support agri-tourism under the Rural Development Regulation **N° 1257/1999** and the Leader+ programme. A report on sustainable tourism in relation to the EU Natura 2000 network of special conservation areas was commissioned by the EC and published in 2000.

([http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/nature\\_conservation/useful\\_info/documents\\_publications/pdf/sust\\_tourism.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/nature_conservation/useful_info/documents_publications/pdf/sust_tourism.pdf)).

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

a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but relevant programmes are being considered	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments in the capacity-building and financial resources provided to indigenous and local communities to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management.

This is a Member State competence.

<b>82.</b> Has your country integrated the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development in the development or review of national strategies and plans for tourism development, national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, and other related sectoral strategies? (decision VII/14)	
a) No, but the guidelines are under review	<b>X</b>
b) No, but a plan is under consideration to integrate some principles of the guidelines into relevant strategies	
c) Yes, a few principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	
d) Yes, many principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	
Further information on the sectors where the principles of the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development are integrated.	
This is a Member State competence.	

**Box XLIX.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>
<p>The EC's commitment to sustainable development is illustrated by the adoption of sustainable development as one of its' overall objectives in the Amsterdam Treaty. Furthermore, the EC's Sixth Environment Action Plan has as one of its objectives: 'To ensure the consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources and the associated impacts do not exceed the carrying capacity of the environment and to achieve a decoupling of resource use from economic growth ...'</p>

**Article 11 - Incentive measures**

<b>83. ?</b> Has your country established programmes to identify and adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the programmes to identify and adopt incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
The EU and its Member States acknowledge the importance of adopting economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of	

biological diversity. These measures cover a large field of instruments including both monetary incentives (e.g. subsidies, tax exemptions, tax incentives) and non-monetary incentives (e.g. regulations, eco-labels, education, research, governance, liability, etc.).

A detailed description of the incentives provided by the EC is included in the Incentive measures in submission of the European Union and some of its member states (the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Spain) to the CBD Secretariat in preparation of SBSTTA 10 which can be downloaded at

<http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/socio-eco/incentives/case-study.aspx?id=8348>.

**84. ?** Has your country developed the mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas? (decisions III/18 and IV/10)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, review of impact of mechanisms available (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the mechanism or approaches to incorporate market and non-market values of biodiversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes.

Most of the non-monetary EU environment policy measures have a positive impact on biodiversity and many of them can be considered a non-monetary positive incentive measure for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. For example, measures to combat climate change, to fight long range transboundary atmospheric pollution, to reduce the use of chemicals and pesticides, all have positive impacts on biodiversity.

The development of an EU regime for environmental liability was laid out in Council Directive **2004/35/EC** and is based on the 'polluter pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. The basis of this approach is that liability for damage to biodiversity may act as an incentive for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by making non-conservation costly. To make the Directive effective and manageable, a limited definition of biodiversity is applied. Liability is limited to damages to all species and habitats identified by the 1992 Habitats Directive as well as most threatened species and migratory birds identified by the 1979 Birds Directive. This definition of biodiversity will however be reviewed and, if appropriate, changed, ten years after entry into force of the Directive.

Council Regulation **N° 880/92** established the Community eco-label award scheme. This was updated in Regulation **N° 1980/2000**, which extended the scheme to services. The product group with the strongest link with biodiversity issues is the new EU eco-label for tourist accommodation and the criteria for camp sites which are under development. More information can be obtained at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ecolabel/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm)

**85. ?** Has your country developed training and capacity-building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives? (decision III/18)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place	
d) Yes, many programmes are in place	<b>X</b>

<b>86.</b> Does your country take into consideration the proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures as contained in Annex I to decision VI/15 when designing and implementing incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision VI/15)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further information on the proposals considered when designing and implementing the incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
EC compensation payments to farmers for extensification and set-aside schemes and environmentally friendly agricultural practices take account of scale and geography (through agri-environmental measures).	

<b>87.</b> Has your country made any progress in removing or mitigating policies or practices that generate perverse incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (decision VII/18)	
a) No	
b) No, but identification of such policies and practices is under way	
c) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified but not entirely removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified and removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
Further information on perverse incentives identified and/or removed or mitigated.	
There has been progress at the EU level in terms of the recent substantial reforms of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and the Common Fishery Policy (CFP), which have shifted the support they give to their respective sectors towards more environmentally friendly (and therefore biodiversity-friendly) manner.	
With regards the CAP, the establishment of a <i>single farm payment</i> (from 2005, or, at the latest, 2007), no longer linked to production, reduces incentives for intensive production and can further increase coherence between agricultural and biodiversity objectives. The CFP reform has placed fleet management at the core of the conservation policy. It is aimed at turning fleet management into an instrument of resource management which also ensures coherence among the measures aimed at the recovery of fish stocks. Another significant element of the new conservation regime is the replacing of the cumbersome multi-annual fleet programmes by an entry-exit system which prevents any increase in fleet capacity.	
There has been less progress in other policy areas of relevance to biodiversity conservation, such as energy infrastructure and transport.	

**Box L.**

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

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

Very substantial funds have been provided from the Community budget to implement the Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies, generally through incentive measures targeted at relevant sectors. For example, support for agri-environmental measures (AEMs) represents by far the biggest share of rural development expenditure. These measures can have a direct or indirect impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The reconciliation of economic, social and ecological issues in the design and implementation of incentive measures for the implementation of Community policies is a high priority for the EC.

As regards the use of monetary incentives, the EC Environment and Taxation departments are preparing a Communication on the use of market-based instruments in the EU internal market. It will cover taxation, emission trading and subsidies but will look at economic instruments in general and not focus on biodiversity. It will analyse rules in the above areas, their consistency and mutual influence in policy mixes. Thus it will clarify their impact and the scope for Member State actions to use economic instruments in environmental policy. The EC will forward the Communication to the CBD Secretariat, once adopted. Two other relevant EC policy reviews are taking place:

- A report to the European Council and the Parliament on the implementation of the EC Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans is under preparation, which includes a number of objectives and activities related to incentives.
- The Commission is also undertaking a review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. As part of the new approach to policy making, the Commission will continue to promote the use of market-based instruments to reflect the true costs of resource use and its environmental impact to society. For example, Member States will be invited to look at how they could shift the burden of taxation onto the causes of environmental damage and away from labour.

### Article 12 - Research and training

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

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

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

'Education, training and awareness' is one of the four major themes of the 1998 European Community Biodiversity Strategy (ECBS). Training promoting farming methods that enhance biodiversity and sustainable forest management [Article 9 of Council Regulation **N° 1257/1999**] has been widely supported. At European level, 14% of the total number of training actions co-financed by the EU within the Rural Development Programmes in 2001 was aimed at preparing farmers for the application of production practices compatible with the protection of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of the biodiversity and landscape. Training has also been used to prepare farmers for conversion into organic farming or other 'low-input' systems of production as well as for taking up agri-environmental measures. In terms of international actions, the EC provides

bursaries for up to 6 months for young researchers from developing countries to visit and conduct research in EU research institutions in connection with EU-funded collaborative research projects. Conservation projects funded through EU development cooperation have also provided support for education and training in biodiversity, usually in the form of short courses.

In the EU's 5th and 6th Framework programmes for Research and Technological Development, many projects, including notably the Integrated Project ALARM (Assessing large scale environmental risks for biodiversity, website: <http://www.alarmproject.net>) and the Networks of Excellence: ALTER-Net (A long-term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network, website: <http://www.alter-net.info>); MARBEF (Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning, website: <http://www.marbef.org/index.php>); EUR-OCEANS (European Network of Excellence for Ocean Ecosystems Analysis, website: <http://www.eur-oceans.org>) and MARINE GENOMICS EUROPE (Implementation of high-throughput genomic approaches to investigate the functioning of marine ecosystems and the biology of marine organisms, website: <http://www.marine-genomics-europe.org>), all include substantial training components. Another notable project, BIOTER (Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity Conservation and Mammal Research) has focused strongly on training, having established, for example, an annual summer school. In 2005 this event attracted some 90 participants from around the world.

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

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

**X**

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

The European Community is a significant source of funds for research into biodiversity. The consecutive Framework Programmes on Research and Development are the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe. The 6<sup>th</sup> Framework programme (2002-2006) provides a budget of €700 million for research under the sub-priority 'global change and ecosystems'. Many pan-European projects have been funded in the last five years, 37 of which are listed on the BIOTA webpage (<http://www.edinburgh.ceh.ac.uk/biota/>). Several significant EC-supported developments include:

1. ALTER-Net [website: <http://www.alter-net.info/>] is an EC-supported Network of Excellence of 24 organisations from 17 European countries, which is developing durable integration of biodiversity research capacity at a European level. The core research programme of ALTER-Net covers six research activities:

- Socio-economic drivers of biodiversity change
- Biodiversity assessment and change
- Impacts of the main natural and anthropogenic drivers and pressures on biodiversity.
- Biodiversity conservation options.
- Public attitudes to biodiversity and its conservation.
- Forecasting change in biodiversity.

2. ALARM [website: <http://www.alarmproject.net/alarm/>] is an EC-supported Integrated Project that is developing an integrated large-scale risk assessment for biodiversity as well as terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems as a part of environmental risk assessment. It has the following objectives:

- To focus on risks consequent on climate change, environmental chemicals, rates and extent of loss of pollinators and biological invasions.
- To establish socio-economic risk indicators related to the drivers of biodiversity pressures as a tool to support long-term oriented mitigating policies and to monitor their implementation.
- To develop a research network that is consistently thinking, interacting, and investigating on a continental scale across different environmental problems (impacts) and across different spatial and temporal scales of ecosystem diversity changes.
- To provide a contribution to objective based politics, to policy integration and to derive



outcome-oriented policy measures in the field of biodiversity preservation by contributing to the integrated assessment of socio-economic drivers affecting biodiversity and integrated, long-term oriented means to mitigate them.

3. MarBEF (<http://www.marbef.org/>) is an EC-funded network of excellence consisting of 400 scientists in 56 European marine institutes. It aims to integrate and disseminate knowledge and expertise on marine biodiversity, with links to researchers, industry, stakeholders and the general public. It will:

- Create a virtual European institute with a long-term research marine biodiversity programme
- Integrate and co-ordinate research from wide variety of disciplines in marine science
- Provide training, exchange, outreach, links to industry and the public at large
- Support international legal biodiversity obligations of the EU and Member States.

4. MARINE GENOMICS EUROPE (<http://www.marine-genomics-europe.org/>) “Implementation of high-throughput genomic approaches to investigate the functioning of marine ecosystems and the biology of marine organisms”, is an EC-funded Network of Excellence bringing together 450 scientists from 44 institutions in 16 countries. By integrating expertise in genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics marine biology and marine biodiversity from several Centres of Excellence in Europe, MARINE GENOMICS EUROPE aims to promote, develop and communicate, throughout the European Union, a broader understanding of a range of questions related to the functioning and biology of marine ecosystems and marine organisms and includes the establishment of databases of marine resources through large scale biodiversity studies.”

5. EDIT, Toward the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (under negotiation at the time of the writing of this report) , aims to integrate European taxonomic effort within the European Research Area and to build a world leading capacity. EDIT will create a European virtual centre of excellence, which will increase both the scientific basis and capacity for biodiversity conservation.

6. EVOLTREE (under negotiation at the time of the writing of this report) will associate four major disciplines – genomics, genetics, ecology and evolution – for understanding, monitoring and predicting genetic diversity, ecosystems structures, dynamics and processes This strategy will be applied to three major interacting elements of terrestrial ecosystems: trees, phytophagous insects and mycorrhizal fungi. The functional role of trees as drivers of biodiversity will be deciphered by investigating their adaptive diversity, their structuring role on diversity of associated species and their own evolutionary rate in response to biotic and abiotic environmental changes. The network will capitalise on the substantial expertise in the four major disciplines and the availability of genomic resources accumulated during previous collaborative projects. It will integrate interdisciplinary research to dissect the structure, expression and polymorphism of genes of ecological significance, and contribute to the emergence of a new research area “ecosystem genomics”. The genomic activities will be conducted within a ‘Laboratory without walls’ where high throughput techniques will be integrated and then applied to a wide range of tree and associated species, starting with model species. Evoltree will install and enhance the necessary experimental infrastructures, information systems and bioinformatics resources for common use by the partners. Large data sets will be compiled and made accessible by developing data mining procedures for the analysis of geographic and temporal distribution of genetic diversity. Evoltree will spread its knowledge and expertise for the purpose of education, biodiversity monitoring, and conservation. The network will develop training capacities and facilitate mobility opportunities throughout Europe. A dynamic communication strategy will disseminate its results to the scientific community, end users and public. Evoltree is a consortium consisting of 25 partners from 15 different countries, which has adopted a strong management policy to organise its internal functioning and ensure the durability of the network.

7. Research carried out within BIOTA is the European scientific response to the CBD and the European Biodiversity Strategy. The 39 projects within the cluster aim to assess and predict the impact of drivers of biodiversity; develop tools to promote biodiversity conservation; identify and resolve conflicts between society and biodiversity; and create databases on Europe’s biodiversity. Projects in the marine field can be found under <http://www.cordis.lu/eesd/ka3/clusters.htm> and <http://www.eloisegroup.org/>

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

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

**X**

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

The EC supports the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS), [website: <http://www.epbrs.org/>], which aims to identify and promote strategically important biodiversity research that will contribute to policies and management to reduce biodiversity loss, and help to conserve, protect, restore and make the use of the components of biodiversity sustainable. The EPBRS is among the members of the Scientific Panel of the Habitats Committee, where it acts to ensure that the latest scientific knowledge on biodiversity and its conservation are made known to the EU's policy making body. The Habitats Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the EU's Habitats Directive, one of the two main legal instruments for biodiversity protection in Europe. The other instrument, the Birds Directive, is supported by the ORNIS committee, which has a similar arrangement.

The European Community Clearing-House Mechanism (EC-CHM) [website: <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/>] is a web portal designed and managed by the EEA, bringing together biodiversity information from across the EU. The EC-CHM has become the entry point to a huge network of institutions and organisations working on biodiversity. It links to other institutions and organisations (governmental, private and NGOs) that house useful information in Europe and elsewhere.

The Community Research and Development Information Service, CORDIS, [website: [http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?CALLER=WN\\_HOME\\_EN\\_TEST&ACTION=R](http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?CALLER=WN_HOME_EN_TEST&ACTION=R)] is an interactive information platform with the latest news, progress and initiatives in European innovation, research & development. Of relevance to the CBD are details on the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). FP6 runs from 2002 to 2006, has a total budget of €17 500 million and includes sustainable development, global change and ecosystems as one of its thematic priorities.

**Box LI.**

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

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

Considerable recent effort has gone into a sequence of consultative reviews of the progress made with the 1998 EC Biodiversity Strategy and the EC policy commitment of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) has led much of this review with regards biodiversity research. The platform adopted a review of 'Research, identification, monitoring and exchange of information in the European Biodiversity Strategy' at its 2004 meeting in Killarney, Ireland, which analysed progress in scientific knowledge over the past decade. Building on the Killarney Declaration and its recommendations on biodiversity research (which were subsequently endorsed at the stakeholder conference in Malahide) the December 2004 EPBRS meeting under the Netherlands Presidency of the EU began to elaborate a Biodiversity Research Action Plan to outline and prioritise the research needed to help stop biodiversity loss. A draft version of this Action Plan was adopted at the April 2005 EPBRS meeting in Hungary. This plan identifies the most urgent research needs and scientific challenges in the field of biodiversity within Europe. [It can be found under http://www.epbrs.org](http://www.epbrs.org).

### Article 13 - Public education and awareness

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

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

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

In 1998, 36 European Governments and the European Community signed the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the 'Aarhus Convention'). On 17 February 2005 the Council approved the Decision concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Aarhus Convention. Therefore, the European Community is now party to the Aarhus Convention'. The Convention provides for:

- the right of everyone to receive environmental information that is held by public authorities
- the right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision-making
- the right to challenge, in a court of law, public decisions that have been made without respecting the two aforementioned rights or environmental law in general.

Education, training and awareness is one of four major themes of the 1998 European Community Biodiversity Strategy. This strategy was subject to a major review in 2004, leading up to a major

stakeholder conference (the Malahide Conference). The conference proposed four specific targets to reinforce measures for public communication, awareness and participation.

**92.** Is your country undertaking any activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness as contained in the annex to decision VI/19? (decision VI/19)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on CEPA.

The Commission has undertaken a range of activities related to education, awareness and training. This includes support to relevant actions under the Nature component of the LIFE programme and support to non-governmental organisations engaged in biodiversity education, awareness and training at the European level. In addition, the Commission is running two specific programmes with a communications and awareness-raising focus, one on Natura 2000 [website: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/nature\\_conservation/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/nature_conservation/index_en.htm)] and one on sustainable hunting

[website [http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/nature\\_conservation/focus\\_wild\\_birds/sustainable\\_hunting/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/nature_conservation/focus_wild_birds/sustainable_hunting/index_en.htm)].

**93.** Is your country strongly and effectively promoting biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level? (decision VI/19)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

Further comments on the promotion of biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level.

A six-month biodiversity campaign by Commissioner Wallström was carried out between January and June 2004 covering the CBD COP7 and the EU biodiversity policy review process, leading up to the Irish presidency conference on 'Biodiversity and the EU' (the Malahide Conference).

Biodiversity issues are raised during Green Week, which takes place annually in Brussels in June. This awareness raising event is organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for the Environment. The EC also publishes a large number of brochures and leaflets on various biodiversity issues, particularly related to the Habitat and Birds Directives.

Since 2000, the unit 'Communication and Information' of DG FISH publishes about five issues per year of the magazine *Fishing in Europe*. Articles of environmental content appear regularly and issue No 8 (June 2001) was a monograph on biodiversity.

**94.** Does your country promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level? (decision VI/19)

a) No	
-------	--

b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further information on the efforts to promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level.	
The Natura Network Initiative aims to raise public and stakeholder awareness of Natura 2000 at the local level (involving local authorities). Natura Green Day events complement this initiative by promoting events throughout the European Union that facilitate understanding and acceptance of Natura 2000 at the local and regional level.	

<b>95.</b> Is your country supporting national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities supported (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, many activities supported (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the support of national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness.	
The EC's communication, education and public awareness activities are consistent with, and supportive of, the three main programme elements of the Global Initiative (namely networking, exchange of knowledge, and expertise and capacity building).	

<b>96.</b> Has your country developed adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness?	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness.	
EC action is necessarily limited when set against actions at Member State level and civil society actions for education, awareness and training. Resources for education, awareness and training related to biodiversity are limited and must necessarily be very targeted. Research projects funded under FP6 have specific dissemination plans, which often include important public awareness elements	

<b>97.</b> Does your country promote cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness at the national, regional and international levels? (decisions IV /10 and VI/19)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the promotion of cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness, at the national, regional and international levels.	
The EC provides support to education, awareness and training actions related to biodiversity within projects in many developing countries. For example, in 2005, DG Environment included in its general call for proposals in the field of environment protection € 750.000 worth of grants to 2-4 projects aimed at promoting awareness raising actions (European audiovisual actions, public events,	


information campaigns) directly or indirectly linked to the themes of climate change and biodiversity.

**98.** Is your country undertaking some CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention?

a) No (please specify reasons below)	
b) Yes, some activities undertaken for some issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, many activities undertaken for most issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for all issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention.

At European level, 14% of the total number of training actions co-financed by the EU within the Rural Development Programmes in 2001 was aimed at preparing farmers for the application of production practices compatible with the protection of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of the biodiversity and landscape.

**99.**  Does your country support initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes as well as into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision IV/10 and Goal 4.4 of the Strategic Plan)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

Further comments on the initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biodiversity conservation in their practice and education programmes as well as their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

Major groups are the main beneficiaries of direct EC support for environmental education and training.

**100.** Is your country communicating the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and establishing appropriate linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in the implementation of your national CEPA programmes and activities? (decision VII/24)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes developed and activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes developed and many activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the communication of the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and the establishment of linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

The Irish Presidency Stakeholders' Conference, hosted jointly with the European Commission, adopted a '*Message from Malahide*' which identifies 18 objectives and related targets which could

form the basis for future priority action in reaching the 2010 EU target of halting the loss of biodiversity by that date, as well as contributing to the global target of significantly reducing the current rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010.

The European Commission and many of its Member States are working with IUCN and other partners to promote the "Countdown 2010 Initiative" which is an alliance of States, public authorities, NGOs, international organisations and the private sector and has at its aim to assist governments in achieving their commitment of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. Thus far the alliance has focused on the development of communication tools and events to increase awareness and promote action towards meeting the EU's goal of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. An 2010 assessment methodology and a framework for national and local roadmaps are currently under development.

#### Box LII .

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

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

Competence for education policy lies primarily with Member States rather than with the European Community. The direct role of the EC is therefore relatively modest, emphasising the European dimension of environmental issues, promoting networking at the EU level, increasing awareness of EU legislation and providing materials of common interest to EU countries. Most EC-funded biodiversity conservation projects and programmes have an environmental education or awareness component, which cumulatively have a significant indirect impact.

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

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

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

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

The Council Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment of the effects of projects on the environment, which was introduced in 1985 (**85/337/EEC**) and amended in 1997 (**97/11/EC**), has contributed in a positive way to protecting nature and biodiversity. More recently, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (**2001/42/EC**), which became effective in Member States from 21 July 2004, further strengthens the regulatory regime by specifically mentioning biodiversity as one issue that has to be reported on. Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (**92/43/EEC**) requires Member States to assess the likely impact of any plan or project likely to affect sites designated or intended to be protected as special areas of conservation under the Directive or as special protection areas under the Birds Directive (**79/409/EEC**), so as to ensure that any development will not adversely affect the integrity of the site. Strict criteria apply for any exceptions to this requirement.

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

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

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

The Commission's Communication on a European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development (**COM(2001)264 final**) and the 6th Environment Action Plan both propose a strengthening of the assessment of the impact of new policy proposals on sustainable development and the environment (and by implication biodiversity). The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) [see previous question] will contribute to more transparent planning by involving the public and by integrating environmental considerations. A new system for performing these assessments within the Commission is set out in a Communication on Impact Assessment (**COM 2002 (276) final**).

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

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

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

Within the EU, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (**2001/42/EC**) specifically notes that where the implementation of a plan or programme prepared in one Member State is likely to have a significant effect on the environment of other Member States, provision should be made for the Member States concerned to enter into consultations and for the relevant authorities and the public to be informed and enabled to express their opinion.

Where there are impacts outside the EU, the Communication Towards a global partnership for sustainable development' (**COM(2002)82 final**) stresses that impact assessments should be carried out for all major EU policy proposals, analysing their economic, social and environmental consequences. Such assessments are to be based on the widespread participation of all stakeholders at all levels

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

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

**105. ?** On Article 14.1(e), has your country established national mechanisms for emergency



response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further information on national mechanisms for emergency response to the activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biodiversity.	
<p>A Community civil protection programme is in place (Council Decision <b>1999/847/EC</b>, as amended by Council Decision <b>2005/12/EC</b>), as is a Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance (Council Decision <b>2001/792/EC, Euratom</b>). The emphasis in these programmes is, however, primarily on the protection of persons. The Community funds the Natural and Environmental Disasters Information Exchange System (NEDIES), which collects and reports relevant data on natural disasters and accidents both in Europe and outside Europe.</p> <p>Hazardous activities are strictly regulated under the EC environmental liability Directive <b>2004/35/EC</b>. The list of such activities includes waste management operations; discharges into inland surface water and groundwater; water abstraction and impoundment of water; and the manufacture, use, storage, processing, filling, release into the environment and onsite transport of a range of dangerous substances.</p>	

<b>106.</b> Is your country applying the Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environment-Impact-Assessment Legislation or Processes and in Strategic Impact Assessment as contained in the annex to decision VI/7 in the context of the implementation of paragraph 1 of Article 14? (decision VI/7)	
a) No	
b) No, but application of the guidelines under consideration	
c) Yes, some aspects being applied (please specify below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, major aspects being applied (please specify below)	
Further comments on application of the guidelines.	
<p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (<b>2001/42/EC</b>), which became effective in Member States from 21 July 2004, specifically mentions biodiversity as one issue that has to be reported on. However, not all elements of the guidelines have been incorporated into the Directive.</p>	

<b>107.</b> On Article 14 (2), has your country put in place national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity? (decision VI/11)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please specify the measures)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity.	
<p>The Directive <b>2004/35/EC</b> introduces for the first time in Europe liability for biodiversity damage. To make the Directive effective and manageable, a limited definition of biodiversity is applied. Liability is limited to damages to all species and habitats identified by the 1992 Habitats Directive as well as most threatened species and migratory birds identified by the 1979 Birds Directive. This definition of biodiversity will however be reviewed and, if appropriate, changed, ten years after entry into force of the Directive. Implementation by Member States has to be ensured by May 2007.</p>	

108. Has your country put in place any measures to prevent damage to biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being developed	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further information on the measures in place to prevent damage to biological diversity.	
<p>Most measures contained in the 1998 EC Biodiversity Strategy, and its four thematic Action Plans, contribute to preventing damage to biological diversity. See all answers provided to part D and above questions on Art. 14.</p> <p>A major aim of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), of which the EC is a member, is to ensure that threats to Europe's biological and landscape diversity are reduced substantially, and, where possible, removed.</p>	

109. Is your country cooperating with other Parties to strengthen capacities at the national level for the prevention of damage to biodiversity, establishment and implementation of national legislative regimes, policy and administrative measures on liability and redress? (decision VI/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but cooperation is under consideration	
c) No, but cooperative programmes are under development	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
e) Yes, comprehensive cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on cooperation with other Parties to strengthen capacities for the prevention of damage to biodiversity.	
Resources for impact assessments of significant EC-funded activities taking place outside the EU are usually budgeted as part of project preparation.	

**Box LIII.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>
<p>Article 6 of the EC Treaty states that environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of Community policies. Article 174 states <i>inter alia</i> that 'Community policy on the environment shall aim at a high level of protection . . . on the principle that preventive action should be taken.' Impact assessments are thus within the legal competence of the Community and are a high priority as a key means by which these obligations are translated into action.</p> <p>The Community's role is mainly legislative, with Member States implementing agreed measures.</p>

Environmental impact legislation is in the form of Directives which are then transposed into national law and implemented by Member States. Resource availability is thus mainly determined at Member State level.

The application of the EC SEA Directive is at an early stage, and therefore it is too soon to estimate its effectiveness. However, there are several potential challenges. First, most Member States have relatively little experience of SEA and are likely to encounter problems of application. Some countries may lack the technical expertise to carry out satisfactory assessments. Second, these problems may be exacerbated by the greater priority given in many Member States to economic and social (especially job-related) issues and to infrastructure improvement than to the environment. Third, the SEA Directive is largely procedural: it should lead to better informed plans and programmes but cannot guarantee a high level of environmental protection in the face of competing higher priorities.

### Article 15 - Access to genetic resources

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

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

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

Most areas of this question have been achieved by the successful completion of negotiations, through strong EU support, of both the 2001 FAO International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), and the 2002 CBD Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilisation. As far as access to genetic resources in the Member States of the EU is concerned, this issue will be addressed in their own reports.

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

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

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

No specific measures have been taken, though EC-sponsored research involving a country outside the EU requires the participation of a research institution from that country. The EC has sponsored some initiatives to develop voluntary policies in this area e.g. the Micro-organisms Sustainable Use and Access Regulation International Code of Conduct (MOSAICC). The institutional policies and codes of conduct of some European research institutions include commitments to joint research, including training, technical and scientific cooperation, as well as information exchange. It is common practice in the projects under the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Research Programme of the EC for partners to sign up as a consortium, with an agreement that foresees equitable sharing of benefits derived from the project.

**112. ?** Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and of the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources, in accordance with Article 15(7)?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the type of measures taken.

The 1998 European Community Biodiversity Strategy notes the need for the Community to promote appropriate multilateral frameworks for ABS; to encourage the development of voluntary guidelines for ABS; and to support countries of origin of genetic resources in developing national strategies on bio-prospecting. The EC Biodiversity Action Plan for Agriculture highlights the need for compensation to local farmers, who are the ultimate providers of genetic material for research and breeding activities. Hence the need to provide them with access to the enhanced material and to share the benefits arising from the enhancement in a participatory manner.

In relation to legal provision, Recital 27 of Directive **98/44/EC** (6 July 1998) on the Legal Protection of Biotechnological Innovations encourages recognition of the geographical origin of biological material used in biotechnological inventions on patent applications, if such geographical origin is known. This helps to track compliance with prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms on which access to the resources was granted. Recital 27 is intended to aid interpretation of the Directive with respect to the implementation of the Directive's binding provisions.

The European Commission is also undertaking a number of measures aimed at raising users' awareness of their obligations under the CBD, including: the creation of a European network of ABS focal points; the establishment of a specific section on ABS on the EC Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism, and the setting up of a register of stakeholders' groups on this clearing house. These activities are being undertaken by the EU ABS network project, a joint initiative between DG Environment and IUCN [website: <http://ewpcn.eu.org/index.php>], and as a follow up to a 2003 EC Communication (**COM(2003) 821 final**) on implementation by the EC of the Bonn Guidelines. In December 2004, the EC and its Member States tabled a proposal in WIPO on the issue of 'disclosure of origin' of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge in patent applications. Should such a proposal be agreed in WIPO, it would contribute to ensuring that benefit-sharing takes place by increasing transparency in the patent system.

**113. ?** In developing national measures to address access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, has your country taken into account the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

Further information on national measures taken which consider the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing as set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Council Regulation (EC) No 870/2004, establishing a Community programme on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture, takes into account the obligations set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

**114.** Is your country using the Bonn Guidelines when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and/or when negotiating contracts and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for access and benefit-sharing? (decision VII/19A)

a) No	
b) No, but steps being taken to do so (please provide details below)	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

Please provide details and specify successes and constraints in the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines.

Directive **98/44/EC** on the legal protection of biotechnological innovations is the only EC legal instrument that specifically takes into consideration the CBD's provisions on access and benefit sharing. However, a 2003 EC Communication (**COM(2003) 821 final**) addresses the implementation by the EC of the Bonn Guidelines when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing. The EC is fostering a number of users' measures which are in harmony with the Bonn Guidelines such as Material Transfer Agreements and stakeholders' codes of conduct that are key instruments for stakeholders to live up to their responsibilities as identified by the Bonn Guidelines. See also answer to Q 112 above.

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

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

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

The EC has supported a debate within the EU on the issue of 'disclosure of origin' of genetic resources and traditional knowledge in patent applications. Several meetings have been convened gathering EU intellectual property and biodiversity experts. As a result of this process, the EC submitted the above mentioned 2004 paper to WIPO on the *disclosure of origin or source of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in patent applications*, which made a number of proposals, including:

- A mandatory requirement should be introduced to disclose the country of origin or source of genetic resources in patent applications; and
- There could be a requirement on the applicant to declare the specific source of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, if he is aware that the invention is directly based on such traditional knowledge; in this context, a further in-depth discussion of the concept of 'traditional knowledge' is necessary as to-date there is no universally recognized definitions for traditional knowledge as such.

In 2002, the EC submitted to the TRIPS Council a Communication or "Concept Paper" (WTO document No IP/C/W/383) on the review of Article 27.3(b) of the TRIPs Agreement (Trade Related Aspects of International Property Rights), and the relationship between the TRIPs Agreement and the CBD and the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore.

The EC has also promoted such policies by arguing in favour of the development of adequate systems for the protection of traditional knowledge in WIPO.

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

a) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
b) No	

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

The 2001 EC Biodiversity Action Plan for Economic and Development Cooperation refers, *inter alia*, to the need to support capacity-building in developing countries, so as to enable them to share the benefits from the utilisation of genetic resources. The need to support developing countries in this field is reiterated in the European Strategy on Life Sciences and Biotechnology (Action 26 of the Action Plan therein). Various financial instruments are available e.g. the 'Tropical Forests and Environment in Developing Countries' budget line, but there is no specific funding for Article 15-related activities.

**Box LIV.**

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

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

ABS is a complex and politically sensitive area of policy development. It is relevant to the EC's competencies on Agriculture, Trade and the Environment and with important implications for biotechnology development. The EC has engaged constructively in all international negotiations in this field to find solutions that would satisfy all Parties. Some successes have been achieved with the adoption of the FAO International Treaty and the Bonn Guidelines. The implementation of the latter instruments is key to achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan, the 2010 target and some of the MDGs. The EC is intensifying its efforts in this respect, especially through the on-going revision of the EC biodiversity strategy and related action plans.

The EC believes that work on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing has important implications for, and should contribute to, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. No specific ABS target has yet been set for 2010, but the Secretariat of the Working Group on the EC Biodiversity Strategy in their *Audit Report no.1 (ECBS/BAP-NR)* suggested 'the completion of an international regime on ABS' as a suitable overall target for 2010.

### Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology

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

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

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

There is no EC legislation that has been introduced specifically to facilitate technology transfer under the CBD. Some measures have been taken through scientific and technical cooperation programmes. For instance, the Global Vegetation Monitoring (GVM) Unit of the EC's Joint Research Council has been involved since the early 1980s in activities related to issues covered by the Convention on Biological Diversity. A persistent consideration in this work has been capacity building and the transfer of technology to the developing countries involved. Four main projects included an explicit training component:

1. Tropical forest monitoring (TREES II): The main objective of TREES II was to develop a reliable method for forest change assessment in the humid tropics exploiting the global imaging capabilities of Earth-observing satellites. Twenty-five local partners from Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia performed the interpretation of the high-resolution images after an important training and harmonisation phase.
2. Land-cover mapping: Through the GVM unit, the EC is coordinating and implementing the

**GLOBAL LAND COVER 2000 Project (GLC 2000)** in collaboration with a network of partners around the world. The general objective is to provide a harmonised land-cover database of the whole globe for 2000. Regional partners have been producing and validating the GLC 2000 regional and global maps and a series of four seminars were organised in order to harmonise the legend parameters, the classification methods, the validation scheme and the diffusion of the products.

3. Vegetation fire detection: The World Fire Web is a system for globally mapping fires in vegetation. It is being developed in response to a call from scientists and policy makers for globally consistent information on the distribution and behaviour of fire in the environment. A total of fifteen satellite data receiving stations have been equipped and trained by GVM for the implementation of specific software dedicated to the detection of active fires.

4. Protected area management: Collaboration between GVM and the ECOFAC programme (<http://www.ecofac.org/EN/General.htm>) has led to a better integration of the geographical dimension of the data collected in the field. GVM has developed the Geographical Information System of ECOFAC and supported its operator at the Coordination Centre in Libreville.

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

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

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

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

Further information on the measures taken.

PRO€INVEST is a new EU-ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) partnership programme developed and undertaken by the European Commission on behalf of the ACP countries. Its objective is to promote investment and technology flows to enterprises operating in key sectors in the ACP States, some of which may have an impact on biodiversity.



**Box LV.**

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

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

Intellectual property is a shared competence between the EC and the Member States, hence many relevant activities which can be reported on in this field relate to technology transfer and intellectual property rights in the context of cooperative research programmes co-funded by the European Community.

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

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

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

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

**121.** Is your country taking any measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation? (decision VII/29)

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

Further comments on the measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation.

The 2001 Communication on the International Dimension Of The European Research Area - COM(2001)346 - <http://europa.eu.int/cgi-bin/eur-lex/udl.pl?REQUEST=Service-Search&LANGUAGE=en&GUILANGUAGE=en&SERVICE=eurlex&COLLECTION=com&DOCID=501PC0346> proposes closer research relationships not only with candidate accession countries and the countries of the European Economic Area, but also with the partner countries of the Mediterranean, the Balkans, Russia and the New Independent States, developing countries, emerging economies and

industrialised countries. Thus the International scientific and technological co-operation budget has been increased by 25% for the 6<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme 2002-2006 (RTDFP6). The outlined strategy encourages the pooling of the scientific and technological resources of the EU and of third countries in initiatives that provide a response to significant world problems of concern to the Community. Among those listed is environmental safety – defined as greenhouse effects, desertification, biodiversity and natural resources. I.e. since 2002, all the RTDFP6 activities are open for third countries. Researchers from any country in the world can now participate fully in all the principle RTD activities supported by the EU. When these are not industrialised countries, the Commission can supporting this participation by intervening financially so that their scientists can join European consortia.

Perhaps the key priority thematic area in FP6 from the point of view of biodiversity is 'Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems'. Here, activities aim at:

- strengthening the scientific and technological capacities needed to implement sustainable development,
- mitigating or reversing current adverse trends
- controlling global change and preserving the equilibrium of ecosystems.

A sub-theme on 'Global change and ecosystems' proposes research 'in close liaison with the relevant international research programmes and in the context of relevant protocols such as Kyoto and Montreal'. The sub-theme also notes the need for research on the impact of greenhouse gas emissions on climate, ozone depletion and carbon sinks (oceans, forests and soil); on biodiversity and ecosystems; on strategies for sustainable land management, including coastal zones, agricultural land and forests.

Thus there are a wide variety of opportunities for international research which focuses both directly and indirectly on biodiversity.

Some examples of RTD projects with major involvements of third countries related to the implementation of the CBD are:

- Medcoastland is a thematic network project funded by the European Commission (EC), within the 5th RTD FP with Mediterranean countries (INCO-MED), aiming at the Mediterranean coordination and dissemination of land conservation management to combat land degradation for the sustainable use of natural resources in the Mediterranean coastal zones. The overall objective of MEDCOASTLAND is to contribute to sustainable development, planning and management of natural resources in Mediterranean coastal areas, with particular regard to Land and Soil Degradation and Conservation Management. Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Malta Turkey, Jordan, Palestinian Authority, Spain, France and Italy participate in this 1.31 million € project.
- The WEERD project (Water and ecosystem resources in regional development aimed a seeking the ecological balance of the Okavango River Basin, in order to secure socio-economic development in the region. Through an inter-disciplinary design and through contacts with policy makers and training facilities, the project has capacity to strengthen contacts between various stakeholders and policy makers. Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Sweden, Netherlands and UK are involved in this project to which the EC contributes with 800.000€.
- Launched in 2002 with EC funding of € 1.4 million, the project KNOWFISH (knowledge in fisheries management) involving 19 partners from Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia studying ways to improve our understanding of the information needs and appropriate institutional structures for fisheries management in developing countries by making a comparative analysis of three cases in South East Asia (one in Laos and two in Vietnam) and four cases in Southern Africa (Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and South Africa).

**122.** Has your country made any technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, basic assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, thorough assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building.

**123.** Has your country made any assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies.

New technologies are assessed on a case by case basis (e.g. GMOs).

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

a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place and being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation.

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

a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but a few measures being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please specify below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please specify below)	

Further comments on the measures taken as a preparatory phase to the development and implementation of national institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation as well as access to and adaptation of technologies of relevance to the Convention.

**Box LVI.**

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

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

The 2004 review of the EC Biodiversity Action Plan for Economic and Development Cooperation found that the implementation of this action plan has been generally poor. This is largely due to lack of understanding and awareness of the linkages between biodiversity and the key development objectives (poverty alleviation, food security etc), and lack of ownership of biodiversity issues in the EC as well as in partner countries, and the lack of awareness of the links between poverty and biodiversity. These constraints will be addressed in the forthcoming EC Communication on the implementation of the EC Biodiversity Strategy. There is no evidence, as yet, of a specific EU response to the implementation of actions associated with COP VII/29.

**Article 17 - Exchange of information**

**126. ?** On Article 17(1), has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources with a view to assist with the implementation of the Convention and promote technical and scientific cooperation?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	<b>X</b>

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

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

**Box LVII .**

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

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

The main EC information portal on the CBD is the EC Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (<http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/>). Within the research community, the EC's CORDIS website (<http://www.cordis.lu/en/home.html>) provides a vast amount of information on EC-funded research projects, including reports and pointers to sources of further information and funding opportunities through Calls for Proposals. The European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) (<http://www.eionet.eu.int/>) is a fast-developing gateway for environmental information from Community, Member State and NGO sources. Concerning legislation, including that relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, legislative proposals from the Commission and finally adopted Community legislation can be accessed by the public free of charge on the web (<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/>).

### Article 18 - Technical and scientific cooperation

**128. ?** On Article 18(1), has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

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

Further information on the measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation.

There are many examples of EC-funded development projects that have supported technical and scientific cooperation in biodiversity. Some of these are listed in the audit report of the EC Biodiversity Action Plan for Economic and Development Cooperation (website: [http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/document\\_file.asp?id=17044](http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/document_file.asp?id=17044)). [Also, see answer to question 117].

The EC Tacis Programme provides grant-financed technical assistance to 13 countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and includes the promotion of environmental protection and management of natural resources in its areas of cooperation (website:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/ceeca/tacis/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/ceeca/tacis/index.htm)).

International Co-operation is encouraged in the EU Research Framework Programme. Organisations of third countries are able to participate as partners in research projects

**129. ?** On Article 18(4), has your country encouraged and developed methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant methods are under development	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, methods are in place	

**130. ?** On Article 18(5), has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide some examples below)	<b>X</b>

Examples for the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention.

International cooperation represents an important dimension of the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP6), and requires joint participation from EU and developing country institutions. Collaboration with developing countries under FP6 includes interdisciplinary research on the sustainable use of natural resources and associated ecosystems.

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

a) No	
b) No, but coordination with relevant NGOs, private sector and other institutions under way	

c) Yes, links established with relevant NGOs, private sector and institutions	<b>X</b>
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**The following question (132) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

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

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

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

The European Clearing House Mechanism (EC CHM) <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.eu.int/> is an important tool for promoting and facilitating scientific and technological co-operation not only within Europe but also with countries around the world, in particular with developing countries.

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

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

Further comments on development of relevant initiatives.

The European Clearing House Mechanism is the main European portal on biodiversity initiatives, key documents and instruments relevant to both researchers and decision makers.

**134.** Has your country developed, provided and shared services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of the CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions? (decision V/14)

a) No	
b) Yes (please specify services and tools below)	<b>X</b>

Further comments on services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions.

The development of the EC Clearing House Mechanism between 1999 and 2003 was based on the global guidelines set by the CBD Secretariat, using the facilities of the EEA website and its standardised document handling. The additional information technology developed for the website and the technical solutions that were part of this development phase (a Portal Tool Kit) have subsequently been taken up by several countries.

**Box LVIII.**

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

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

The environment and/or natural resource management was a priority in the international component of the Community's 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and remains an important dimension of the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (FP6).

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

**135. ?** On Article 19(1), has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation are in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy and subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place	

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

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



**Box LIX.**

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

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

All relevant information on implementation of this Article has been included in the first report of the European Community on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety which will be submitted to the CBD Secretariat late 2005.

## Article 20 – Financial resources

### Box LX.

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

a) Budgetary allocations by national and local Governments as well as different sectoral ministries	<p>It is impossible to assess how much of the EU budget is available specifically to biodiversity and the implementation of the CBD.</p> <p>The EC has regional, agricultural and rural development funds that may be accessed for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. Relevant EU funding programmes include the European Regional Development and Cohesion Funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Fund for Fisheries, the European Development Cooperation funding instruments, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme on Research and Technological Development and the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE).</p> <p>Within the EU, specific and direct funding for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity has relied on the last of these, which is a relatively small financial instrument, so funding strategies depend on integrating environmental aspects into the other major funding areas.</p> <p>LIFE is the EU's financial instrument for the environment. In its third phase, LIFE III (2000-2004), it had a budget of €640 million. LIFE III was extended (2005-2006) by Regulation (EC) <b>N° 1682/2004</b> of 15 September 2004 with a budget of €317 million.</p>
b) Extra-budgetary resources (identified by donor agencies)	
c) Bilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	
d) Regional channels (identified by donor agencies)	<p>The EC is committed to providing further support within the framework of its national/regional co-operation strategies, in particular to strengthen linkages between biodiversity and poverty eradication. Estimates of aggregated spending on biodiversity in Economic and Development cooperation are extremely difficult to obtain through existing EC systems. Estimations show that the EC is currently spending about 3% of its development assistance on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing which amounts to about €190 million a year – with a strong emphasis on capacity building.</p>
e) Multilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	
f) Private sources (identified by donor agencies)	

g) Resources generated through financial instruments, such as charges for use of biodiversity

**Box LXI.**

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

LIFE, the Financial Instrument for the Environment, was introduced in 1992 and has been one of the spearheads of the European Union's environmental policy (LIFE website: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/home.htm>). It co-finances projects in three areas:

- **Life-Nature** works to conserve natural habitats and the wild fauna and flora of European Union interest, according to the Birds and Habitats directives, thus supporting implementation of the European Union's nature conservation policy and the Natura 2000 Network.
- **Life-Environment** aims to implement Community policy and legislation on the environment in the European Union and candidate countries. This approach enables demonstration and development of new methods for the protection and the enhancement of the environment.
- **Life-Third Countries** concerns technical assistance activities for promoting sustainable development in third countries. This component of the programme supports the development of environmental management capacities, both for our administrative partners outside the Union and for companies and NGOs in those countries.

Between 1992 and 2004, the LIFE programme spent €1.36 billion on 2,478 projects covering 40 countries and territories (876 LIFE-Nature projects, 1,404 LIFE-Environment projects, and 198 LIFE-Third Countries projects). The total estimated cost of projects supported by LIFE was €3.6 billion. LIFE therefore provided around 38 percent of the total investment, stimulating additional investment in excess of €2 billion up to the end of 2004.

A Community Action Programme promoting non-governmental organisations primarily active in the field of environmental protection was adopted in March 2002 under Council Decision no. **466/2002/EC**. A budget of €32 million was set for the period 2002 to 2006, which will provide financial resources for civil society organisations to contribute to the development and implementation of EC environmental policy and legislation.

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

a) No

b) Yes, incentives only (please provide a list of such incentives below)

c) Yes, financial support only

d) Yes, financial support and incentives (please provide details below)

**X**

Relevant EU funding programmes include the European Regional Development and Cohesion Funds, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Fund for Fisheries, and the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE).

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

**138. ?** On Article 20(2), has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention?

a) No

b) Yes (please indicate the amount, on an annual basis, of new and additional financial resources your country has provided)

**X**

Further comments on new and additional financial resources provided.

It is not possible to identify clearly the amount of EC Development Cooperation going to biodiversity-related projects. A very rough estimate concluded that the EC is currently spending about 3% of its development assistance on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing which amounts to about €190 million a year – with a strong emphasis on capacity building. The EC is committed to providing further support within the framework of its national/regional co-operation strategies, in particular to strengthen linkages between biodiversity and poverty eradication.

EC Development Cooperation is framed by Country and Regional Strategy Papers (CSPs and RSPs). Thus, funding for the environment is usually targeted at countries and regions that have prioritised and requested such assistance within their CSPs/RSPs. Funding for the environment can also be allocated under multi-regional instruments, for example for the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

One important new EU programme of external financial support is the €30 million grant to China to assist the implementation of China's biodiversity partnership framework (CBPF). This 5-year support to the CBPF aims at ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in China in ways that contribute to poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihood development and good governance. The Programme will also facilitate a biodiversity policy dialogue between international and Chinese policy-makers and practitioners.

In addition to these main channels of assistance, there are also the Environment and Forests budget line under Regulations (EC) No 2493/2000 and (EC) No 2494/2000 respectively. This is a thematic financial instrument designed to assist developing countries in their efforts to integrate environment into their development processes and promote the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests in developing countries. This enables the EC to support a diverse range of partners, including international organisations and local and international civil society groups. The financial framework foreseen in the above mentioned Regulations for interventions during the period 2000-06 is € 249 million for the *Tropical Forests* programme and € 93 million for the *Environment* programme. Strategic guidelines and priorities for interventions under the programmes are defined every two years, followed by *Annual Work Programmes* which further prioritise thematic areas to be supported on an annual basis, by means of actions mostly identified through a *call for proposals* procedure

In line with the EC Biodiversity Action Plan on Economic and Development Cooperation, and DAC Criteria for Projects/Programme Fulfilling Objectives of the CBD, projects related to biodiversity funded under the Environment and Tropical Forest budget line emphasise community-based management and sustainable use for poverty reduction as well as participatory planning and conflict resolution systems. They also emphasise approaches to ecosystem management, including at trans-boundary and regional levels.

The European Union has allocated over €38 million to LIFE-Third countries for the period 2000-2004. The rate of Community co-financing can be up to 70% of the maximum cost of technical assistance projects.

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

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

<b>140. ?</b> Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector? (decision V/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but procedures being established	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

Further comments on processes to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector.

Since 2001, the EC has maintained the database "*CRIS saisie*", which permits the use of OECD DAC policy markers as well as DAC sector codes. DAC sector codes are used to identify the principal sector for which the allocated fund is destined, using a five digit code (e.g. 41030 for biodiversity). DAC policy markers were introduced in 2003. There are currently four general policy markers, and three markers for Rio Convention commitments (which include the CBD). However, the very recent effective application of this indicator does not yet permit a more concrete estimate of biodiversity funding though EC Development and Economic Cooperation.

<b>141. ?</b> Has your country considered any measures like tax exemptions in national taxation systems to encourage financial support to biodiversity? (decision V/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but exemptions are under development (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, exemptions are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on tax exemptions for biodiversity-related donations.

Not applicable (Member State competence)

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

Further comments on review of national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance.

A major review of the EC Biodiversity Strategy and its thematic Action Plans (on natural resources, agriculture, fisheries and overseas development) started in 2003. The review took place with the involvement of various stakeholders, culminating in the conference '*Biodiversity and the EU - sustaining life, sustaining livelihoods*' during the Irish Presidency in Malahide, Ireland, in May 2004. The '*Malahide Message*', which was the outcome of this conference, contained a number of proposed

financial targets for the EC to meet by 2010. Though non-binding, these have been endorsed by the European Council and a new EC Communication is under preparation. This Communication will, as far as possible, take into account the objectives and targets recommended by the Malahide conference.

The review of the EU Common Agricultural Policy in 2003 led to the explicit inclusion of Natura 2000 sites as targets for preferential funding.

**143.** Is your country taking concrete actions to review and further integrate biodiversity considerations in the development and implementation of major international development initiatives, as well as in national sustainable development plans and relevant sectoral policies and plans? (decisions VI/16 and VII/21)

a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, in some initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	

Further comments on review and integration of biodiversity considerations in relevant initiatives, policies and plans.

The Kyiv resolution on biodiversity signed in 2003 by European Environment Ministers at the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Environment for Europe included the clause: 'By 2008, there should be substantially increased public and private financial investments in integrated biodiversity activities in Europe.'

The European Biodiversity Resourcing Initiative (EBRI) was initiated in 2000 within the framework of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), following the request at the Fourth Ministerial 'Environment for Europe' Conference in Aarhus for the financial sector to increase their involvement in sustainable development issues. EBRI is also a European response to the growing interest within the CBD framework for additional financial resources, which, inter alia, has been reflected in COP6 Decision VI/16 (2002). In addition, a European Task Force on Banking, Business and Biodiversity has been established, based on a decision of the Budapest 'Biodiversity in Europe' Conference. The work of the Task Force is to advise the PEBLDS process on the issue of banking, business and biodiversity in a European context, and in particular to advance the establishment of a Biodiversity Finance Facility for biodiversity-related investments and a European Biodiversity Investment Partnership for involving the private sector in supporting such investments.

**144.** Is your country enhancing the integration of biological diversity into the sectoral development and assistance programmes? (decision VII/21)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, into some sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, into major sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the integration of biodiversity into sectoral development and assistance programmes

This is being carried out mainly through the implementation of the 1998 EC Biodiversity Strategy and its sectoral Action Plans. An important recent initiative is the establishment of the Environmental Help-Desk and training programme, designed to assist EC staff (at Headquarters and Delegations) and partner countries to mainstream environment into the development process through the various aid delivery modalities. As part of this effort an environmental integration manual is expected to be finalized in 2005, to offer advice on planning tools and procedures throughout the different phases of the operations cycle, from programming to implementation and evaluation.

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

**145.** Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which area your country has provided financial support to developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.

Areas	Support provided
a) Undertaking national or regional assessments within the framework of MEA (decision VI/8)	X
b) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)	X
c) Enhance national capacity to establish and maintain the mechanisms to protect traditional knowledge (decision VI/10)	X
d) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation (decision V/26)	X
e) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)	
f) Implementation of the Bonn Guidelines (decision VI/24)	X
g) Implementation of programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (decision V/5)	X
h) Preparation of first report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources (decision VI/17)	
i) Support to work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and development of regional and sub regional networks or processes (decision VI/27)	X
j) Development of partnerships and other means to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the programme of work on dry and subhumid lands biological diversity (decision VII/2)	X
k) Financial support for the operations of the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VII/9)	X
l) Support to the implementation of the Action Plan on Capacity Building as contained in the annex to decision VII/19 (decision VII/19)	X
m) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity (decision VII/27)	X
n) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas (decision VII/28)	X
o) Support to the development of national indicators (decision VII/30)	
p) Others (please specify)	
Further information on financial support provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.	
See Q 138	

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

**146.** Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which areas your country has applied for funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), from developed countries and/or from other sources. The same area may have more than one source of financial support. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.

Areas	Applied for funds from		
	GEF	Bilatera l	Other
a) Preparation of national biodiversity strategies or action plans			
b) National capacity self-assessment for implementation of Convention (decision VI/27)			
c) Priority actions to implement the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision V/9)			
d) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)			
e) Development of national strategies or action plans to deal with alien species (decision VI/23)			
f) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation, establishment and maintenance of <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation facilities (decision V/26)			
g) Projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 (Education and Public Awareness) (decision VI/19)			
h) Preparation of national reports (decisions III/9, V/19 and VI/25)			
i) Projects for conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity (decision IV/4)			
j) Activities for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity (decision V/5)			
k) Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision VI/26)			
l) Implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative			
m) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity			
n) Others (please specify)			
Further information on application for financial support.			



**Box LXII .**

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

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

The pan-European policy context on financial resources for biodiversity was set by European Environment Ministers at the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Environment for Europe within the *Kyiv Resolution on Biodiversity* in the clause: 'By 2008, there should be substantially increased public and private financial investments in integrated biodiversity activities in Europe'.

The EC proposes replacing most existing environmental funding lines, including LIFE-Nature, LIFE-Environment, LIFE-Third Countries as well as e.g. the Forest Focus programme and support for the European Environmental Agency, with a single fund focused on supporting development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and communication of Community environmental policy and legislation, particularly the EU's 6<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme (LIFE+). As in previous periods this funding mechanism will need to be augmented by integrating environmental aspects into other major funding areas. One policy area where such integration will be important is in the future financing of the Natura 2000 network. The Communication from the Commission on Financing Natura 2000 (**COM(2004)431 final**) estimated that approximately €6.1 billion per annum will be needed to implement the Natura 2000 network across the enlarged EU.

For Development cooperation funding, see Q 138.

## D. THEMATIC AREAS

<b>147.</b> Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the thematic programmes of work of the Convention (marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands and mountain biodiversity).	
3 = High Challenge	1 = Low Challenge
2 = Medium Challenge	0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome
N/A = Not applicable	

Comment: it is not possible for the EC to fill in this table in a sound manner. The EU contributes substantially to the implementation of some aspects of the programmes of work, in particular in areas such as agriculture, marine and inland water ecosystems, but a large responsibility for this implementation lies within the EU Member States. I.e. some aspects of several PoW are not implemented at all by the EC – this is not due to any of the challenges outlined below, but simply to the fact that implementation is more effectively done at national level. The challenges vary widely as regards different elements of the programme of work themselves and it is not possible to give an overall answer to the whole PoW. For example, for some aspects of the PoW on marine and coastal biodiversity, such as the establishment of marine protected areas, the situation as regards political will, scientific knowledge and public participation is completely different to other aspects of the PoW such as IMCAM or mariculture/aquaculture.

Challenges	Programme of Work					
	Agricultural	Forest	Marine and coastal	Inland water ecosystem	Dry and subhumid lands	Mountain
(a) Lack of political will and support						
(b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement						
(c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors						
(d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures						
(e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness						
(f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise						
(g) Loss of traditional knowledge						

(h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives						
(i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information						
(j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels						
(k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized						
(l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented						
(m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources						
(n) Lack of economic incentive measures						
(o) Lack of benefit-sharing						
(p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels						
(q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders						
(r) Lack of effective partnerships						
(s) Lack of engagement of scientific community						
(t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws						
(u) Poverty						
(v) Population pressure						
(w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns						

(x) Lack of capacities for local communities						
(y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management						
(z) Weak law enforcement capacity						
(aa) Natural disasters and environmental change						
(bb) Others (please specify)						

### Inland water ecosystems

<b>148. Has your country incorporated the objectives and relevant activities of the programme of work into the following and implemented them? (decision VII/4)</b>				
<b>Strategies, policies, plans and activities</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes, partially, integrated but not implemented</b>	<b>Yes, fully integrated and implemented</b>	<b>N/A</b>
a) Your biodiversity strategies and action plans		X		
b) Wetland policies and strategies		X		
c) Integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans being developed in line with paragraph 25 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development		X		
d) Enhanced coordination and cooperation between national actors responsible for inland water ecosystems and biological diversity		X		
<b>Further comments on incorporation of the objectives and activities of the programme of work</b>				
<p>The implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive, <b>2000/60/EC</b>, addresses all significant pressures on the aquatic system and links them to their impacts. Whilst this Directive provides the overall framework for action, implementation of many parts of the programme of work is carried out by Member States [website: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html</a>].</p>				

<b>149. Has your country identified priorities for each activity in the programme of work, including timescales, in relation to outcome oriented targets? (decision VII/4 )</b>	
a) No	
b) Outcome oriented targets developed but priority activities not developed	
c) Priority activities developed but not outcome oriented targets	
d) Yes, comprehensive outcome oriented targets and priority activities developed	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the adoption of outcome oriented targets and priorities for activities, including providing a list of targets (if developed).	
The EC Water Framework Directive contains a number of general qualitative and quantitative targets such as the requirement that all surface water need to have good ecological and chemical status (high, good and moderate status are clearly defined in the Annexes of the directive). Priority activities include provisions on river basin management, monitoring and reporting.	

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

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

d) Species and all taxonomic levels?	<b>X</b>		
e) On threats to which inland water ecosystems are subjected?	<b>X</b>		
Further comments on the development of data sets, in particular a list of data sets developed in case you have replied "YES" above.			
<p>The EEA / European Topic Centre on Water (ETC/WTR) [website: <a href="http://water.eionet.eu.int/">http://water.eionet.eu.int/</a>] is a European consortium brought together to support the EEA in providing information to assist the European Commission and EEA member countries in their attempts to improve the environment. The Centre manages Waterbase [website: <a href="http://dataservice.eea.eu.int/dataservice/available2.asp?type=findkeyword&amp;theme=waterbase">http://dataservice.eea.eu.int/dataservice/available2.asp?type=findkeyword&amp;theme=waterbase</a>], which is the EEA's database on European water resources (including both quality and quantity). Waterbase contains timely, reliable and policy-relevant data collected from EEA member countries through the Eurowaternet (EWN) process. EWN selects validated monitoring data from national databases and adds information on the physical characteristics of the water bodies being monitored and on the pressures potentially affecting water quality. This information may relate to statements on general status (of rivers, lakes and ground waters) or specific issues (such as water stress, nutrient status, hazardous substances and sustainable fisheries) at a European level. Examples of data sets and applications can be found here: <a href="http://dataservice.eea.eu.int/dataservice/available2.asp?type=findkeyword&amp;theme=waterbase">http://dataservice.eea.eu.int/dataservice/available2.asp?type=findkeyword&amp;theme=waterbase</a></p>			

<b>152.</b> Has your country promoted the application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems? (decision VII/4 )	
a) No, the guidelines have not been reviewed	
b) No, the guidelines have been reviewed and found inappropriate	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, the guidelines have been reviewed and application/promotion is pending	
d) Yes, the guidelines promoted and applied	
Further comments on the promotion and application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.	
The assessment system developed for the Water Framework Directive (in Annex V of the Directive), provides a more comprehensive assessment than that proposed under the CBD rapid assessment guidelines.	

**Box LXIII.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>
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The Water Framework Directive, which came into force at the end of 2000, fundamentally changes how water is monitored, assessed and managed in many European countries. Control of point source emissions has led to noticeable improvements in the quality of many water bodies across Europe. Less success has been achieved in controlling diffuse sources of water pollution. This is shown in the relatively stable concentrations of nitrate in Europe's rivers and groundwater, reflecting the large nitrogen surplus in agricultural soils and high livestock densities in EU countries. In most parts of Europe, total water abstractions have decreased over the last decade, but water stress or severe water stress still affects 18 % of Europe's population, in particular in Mediterranean countries. In terms of habitats and biodiversity, the introduction of non-native animals and plants to rivers and lakes is a threat to natural ecosystems.

## Marine and coastal biological diversity

### General

<b>153.</b> Do your country's strategies and action plans include the following? Please use an "X" to indicate your response. (decisions II/10 and IV/15)	
a) Developing new marine and coastal protected areas	<b>X</b>
b) Improving the management of existing marine and coastal protected areas	<b>X</b>
c) Building capacity within the country for management of marine and coastal resources, including through educational programmes and targeted research initiatives (if yes, please elaborate on types of initiatives in the box below)	<b>X</b>
d) Instituting improved integrated marine and coastal area management (including catchments management) in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loads into the marine environment	<b>X</b>
e) Protection of areas important for reproduction, such as spawning and nursery areas	<b>X</b>
f) Improving sewage and other waste treatment	<b>X</b>
g) Controlling excessive fishing and destructive fishing practices	<b>X</b>
h) Developing a comprehensive oceans policy (if yes, please indicate current stage of development in the box below)	<b>X</b>
i) Incorporation of local and traditional knowledge into management of marine and coastal resources (if yes, please elaborate on types of management arrangements in the box below)	<b>X</b>
j) Others (please specify below)	
k) Not applicable	
Please elaborate on the above activities and list any other priority actions relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.	
<p>The process to integrate interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems into the workings of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) has evolved through a series of stages. Key EC Communications setting up the developing agenda include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament <i>Elements of a Strategy for the integration of Environmental Protection Requirements into the CFP, COM (2001) 143</i>.</li> <li>• Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament</li> </ul>	

*Biodiversity Action Plans in the areas of conservation of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Fisheries and Development and Economic Co-operation, COM (2001) 162.*

- Communication from the Commission Setting out a Community Action Plan to Integrate Environmental Protection Requirements into the CFP, **COM (2002) 186**.

Actions taken following the main priorities in the Action Plan include: legislation on the protection of cetaceans from by-catch, legislation on the protection of vulnerable deep-water habitats from the effects of trawling, and a proposal for a Mediterranean Regulation with measures to protect sensitive habitats and to ban fishing practices that may damage the environment.

Various aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity are addressed, either explicitly or implicitly in the 1998 EC Biodiversity Strategy and its associated Biodiversity Action Plans (notably, by the BAP-Fisheries which addresses the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within the sectoral scope of the Common Fisheries Policy; and by Natura 2000 actions in the BAP-Natural Resources), but they do not provide a clear and integrated approach to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. The EC therefore intends to address this gap through the preparation of a **Thematic Strategy for the Marine Environment**. The Communication of the Commission 'Towards a strategy to protect and conserve the marine environment', **COM(2002)539 final**, marks the first step in the elaboration of this strategy and contains a number of targets and actions regarding biodiversity protection.

Substantial amounts of scientific information on the understanding of coastal and marine ecosystems have been provided by EU-funded environment research programmes, in particular through the ELOISE projects cluster [website: <http://www.eloisegroup.org/>]. Operating since 1996, the number of ELOISE projects has reached 55, rendering it the world's largest coordinated coastal research initiative.

### Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

**154.** Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?

a) No	
b) Early stages of development	
c) Advanced stages of development	<b>X</b>
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Programme (6th EAP) stipulated the development of a Thematic Strategy for the protection and conservation of the marine environment (as noted in Question 153). In addition to putting considerable emphasis on the integrated implementation and enforcement of both existing and new legislation and policies, the proposal for the Marine Thematic Strategy will acknowledge the need to address the threats and pressures exerted on the marine environment by making use of integrated, multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approaches, such as the Ecosystem Approach.

As far as Integrated Coastal Zone Management is concerned, the European Council adopted a Recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe in 2002.

**155.** Has your country implemented ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal resources, for example through integration of coastal management and watershed management, or through integrated multidisciplinary coastal and ocean management?

a) No	
b) Early stages of development	



c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
e) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of application of the ecosystem to management of marine and coastal resources.	
<p>EU legislation (namely the Water Framework Directive <b>2000/60/EC</b>) requires the application of River Basins Management Plans, which incorporate the fluvial part and associated transitional and coastal waters. The implementation of this legislation is a model for co-ordinated implementation effort involving the relevant organizations and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The fisheries policy of the European Union was reformed in 2002 and now incorporates an objective to promote the progressive implementation of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (Council Regulation <b>N° 2371/2002</b>).</p>	

### Marine and Coastal Living Resources

<b>156.</b> Has your country identified components of your marine and coastal ecosystems, which are critical for their functioning, as well as key threats to those ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) Plans for a comprehensive assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
c) A comprehensive assessment is currently in progress	
d) Critical ecosystem components have been identified, and management plans for them are being developed (please provide details below)	
e) Management plans for important components of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
f) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of assessment, monitoring and research relating to marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as key threats to them	
<p>Marine biodiversity is under significant pressure. Overfishing is a common problem in all European seas, with several important commercial fish stocks having reached critically low levels, although management systems for the exploitation of these resources have been implemented (such as the Common Fisheries Policy, CFP).</p> <p>In the context of the reform of the CFP, Regulation <b>N° 2371/2002</b> includes a new set of instruments for stock management, including a commitment to multi-annual management of fish stocks, and in particular, the development of recovery plans, including where necessary, fishing effort limitations. Implementation of long-term management plans in accordance with the precautionary approach for commercially harvested stocks has started but is not yet completed. Recovery plans for two important fish species (cod and hake) have been adopted in December 2003, with proposals for five other stocks in the course of finalisation.</p> <p>Other threats to marine and coastal areas have been identified and include: habitat modification and disturbance through the increasing intensity of human activity in coastal areas, pollution (the release of hazardous substances and oil discharges), eutrophication, and the introduction of alien species.</p>	

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

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Not implemented nor a priority</b>	<b>Not implemented but a priority</b>	<b>Currently implemented</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
a) Ecological assessment and monitoring of reefs			X	
b) Socio-economic assessment and monitoring of communities and stakeholders				X
c) Management, particularly through application of integrated coastal management and marine and coastal protected areas in coral reef environments			X	
d) Identification and implementation of additional and alternative measures for securing livelihoods of people who directly depend on coral reef services				X
e) Stakeholder partnerships, community participation programmes and public education campaigns				X
f) Provision of training and career opportunities for marine taxonomists and ecologists				X
g) Development of early warning systems of coral bleaching				X
h) Development of a rapid response capability to document coral bleaching and mortality				X
i) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded coral reef habitats				
j) Others (please specify below)			X	

Please elaborate on ongoing activities.

The EU Council regulates fishing activities affecting deep sea habitats. For instance, the Council Regulation (EC) **N° 602/2004** of 22 March 2004, amending Regulation (EC) **N° 850/98**, concerns the protection of deepwater coral reefs from the effects of trawling in an area north-west of Scotland.

In February 2004, the European Commission adopted a proposal to protect vulnerable habitats such as coral reefs, thermal vents and carbonate mounds around the Macaronesian Isles, from the effects of trawling (**COM (2004) 58 final**). This proposal is about to be adopted by the EU Council. As an interim measure, an amendment to the TAC Regulation was approved to ensure temporary protection to these habitats (Council Regulation (EC) **N° 1811/2004** of 11 October 2004 amending

### Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

**158.** Which of the following statements can best describe the current status of marine and coastal protected areas in your country? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.

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

Further comments on the current status of marine and coastal protected areas.

The implementation of the Natura 2000 network, within the framework of the Habitats Directive, includes marine and coastal sites. An EC marine experts working group was set up in 2003 to address the difficulties in implementing the Habitats and Birds Directives in the marine environment and is currently working to ensure that the Natura 2000 network includes appropriate numbers of marine and coastal sites.

Outside the Community institutional framework, there are a number of other processes to be taken into account. The OSPAR, Helsinki and Barcelona Conventions all carry out activities regarding the protection of species and habitats in European waters. The European Coastal and Marine Ecological Network (ECMEN), which is at an early stage of implementation, will lead to the identification and safeguarding of areas of high biodiversity in the marine and coastal environment.

### Mariculture

159. Is your country applying the following techniques aimed at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity? Please check all that apply.	
a) Application of environmental impact assessments for mariculture developments	<b>X</b>
b) Development and application of effective site selection methods in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management	<b>X</b>
c) Development of effective methods for effluent and waste control	<b>X</b>
d) Development of appropriate genetic resource management plans at the hatchery level	
e) Development of controlled hatchery and genetically sound reproduction methods in order to avoid seed collection from nature.	
f) If seed collection from nature cannot be avoided, development of environmentally sound practices for spat collecting operations, including use of selective fishing gear to avoid by-catch	
g) Use of native species and subspecies in mariculture	
h) Implementation of effective measures to prevent the inadvertent release of mariculture species and fertile polypoids.	
i) Use of proper methods of breeding and proper places of releasing in order to protect genetic diversity	
j) Minimizing the use of antibiotics through better husbandry techniques	<b>X</b>
k) Use of selective methods in commercial fishing to avoid or minimize by-catch	
l) Considering traditional knowledge, where applicable, as a source to develop sustainable mariculture techniques	
m) Not applicable	
Further comments on techniques that aim at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.	
<p>EC Communication (<b>COM(2003)511 final</b>) sets out a strategy for the sustainable development of European aquaculture. The strategy aims to create the best possible conditions that will enable aquaculture producers to offer a healthy product in the quantities required by the market, while not degrading the environment.</p>	

### Alien Species and Genotypes

**160.** Has your country put in place mechanisms to control pathways of introduction of alien species in the marine and coastal environment? Please check all that apply and elaborate on types of measures in the space below.

a) No	<b>X</b>
b) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from ballast water have been put in place (please provide details below)	
c) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from hull fouling have been put in place (please provide details below)	
d) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from aquaculture have been put in place (please provide details below)	
e) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from accidental releases, such as aquarium releases, have been put in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of activities relating to prevention of introductions of alien species in the marine and coastal environment, as well as any eradication activities.

A threat to marine biodiversity is associated with the unintentional introduction of alien species. The main vector for these introductions is the discharge of ballast waters from ships and organisms carried on ships' hulls. Although the EU is not a party to IMO, EU Member States have started national procedures to ratify the IMO Convention on ballast waters.

The European Commission is currently developing a proposal for a Council Regulation governing the use of alien species in aquaculture.

#### Box LXIV.

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

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

The application of nature conservation directives in the marine environment is proving more challenging than expected, with a number of important technical and administrative issues still unresolved (e.g. identification of sites to be subject to protection; management of activities in the Natura 2000 sites). In general, a major difficulty is that the control measures of the regional marine conventions aimed at protecting the marine environment are difficult to enforce. The EC also recognises the need to improve the situation with regard to reporting, handling and management of data and information, including the production of indicators.

The preparation of the Marine Strategy will be a major milestone, which should lead to the adoption of the Strategy itself by Community Institutions before 2010. The European Council of Ministers has also laid two requests which have added further impetus to conservation planning of the marine and coastal environment. The first was a request for a perspective for European spatial development for the year 2020, including land use, pressures and development in the coastal zone. The second was a request for a Strategy on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

### Agricultural biological diversity

<b>161. ?</b> Has your country developed national strategies, programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components? (decisions III/11 and IV/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but strategies, programmes and plans are under development	
c) Yes, some strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on agrobiodiversity components in national strategies, programmes and plans.	
<p>The European Commission adopted the EC Biodiversity Strategy in 1998 in response to its obligations as a Party to the CBD. The Strategy included the requirement for the European Commission to work out <i>Biodiversity Action Plans</i> for a number of sectors, including agriculture. The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Agriculture (<b>COM (2001) 162 final, volume III</b>), which was launched in March 2001, set out a series of objectives, and actions for their implementation [website: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2001/act0162en02/3.pdf">http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2001/act0162en02/3.pdf</a>]. The Action Plan was subject to a major review in 2004 with the publication of an implementation report, prepared in consultation with a working group of the EC's Biodiversity Expert Group [website: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/biodiversity/develop_biodiversity_policy/malahide_conference/pdf/malahide_wgp_audit_2.pdf">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/biodiversity/develop_biodiversity_policy/malahide_conference/pdf/malahide_wgp_audit_2.pdf</a>]. The report gives a thorough overview of the implementation of the CAP instruments that address biodiversity concerns. This audit report, together with a forward-looking document aimed at contributing to delivering the EU commitment to halt biodiversity loss by 2010, was presented at a major stakeholder conference on Biodiversity and the EU, held at Malahide, Ireland, in May 2004.</p>	

<b>162. ?</b> Has your country identified ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>In-situ</i> and <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity? (decision V/5)	
a) No	<b>X</b>
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures identified (please provide details below)	
Further information on ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>In-situ</i> and <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.	
Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTS) are not in use in the EU.	

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

Programme element 1 – Assessment	
<b>163.</b> Has your country undertaken specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity such as on plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are in progress (please specify components below)	
c) Yes, assessments completed (please specify components and results of assessments below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity.	
<p>EU research projects funded before 1998 developed methods to assess the impacts on biodiversity of agricultural and other policies and land-use change across Europe's bio-geographic regions; demonstrated that for many species living in fragmented habitats a population whose numbers seem quite adequate to safeguard its survival may in fact be in imminent danger of extinction; found that gene flow between domestic and native strains of a species may have a profound effect on local adaptation of both populations; demonstrated that with the correct incentives, biodiversity can be conserved in areas of agricultural exploitation; and shown that conflicts between conservation and economic exploitation can, with careful handling, be overcome.</p> <p>Additional research projects relevant to agricultural biodiversity were financed in the 5<sup>th</sup> EU Framework Programme (1998-2002). The projects worked on reconciling biodiversity conservation with declining agricultural use, conservation of diversity of soil organisms under global change and on trophic links between above- and below-ground organisms; biodiversity and livestock systems, the assessment of the diversity of wild relatives of crops, and species of pernicious invasive plants (<i>key action 2: Global change, climate and biodiversity</i>).</p> <p>The 'Global change and ecosystems' thematic area of the current 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (2002-2006) finances research into 'biodiversity and ecosystems' whose objectives are to understand and minimise the negative impacts of human activities on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, as well as research into 'Strategies for sustainable land management, including agricultural land', which includes the objective of developing strategies for sustainable use of agricultural lands. The thematic priority 'Food Quality and Safety' is supporting projects on low input agriculture and on the introduction of innovations such as "beetle banks", mixed and companion cropping, and the sustainable management of field margins.</p> <p>Also, see answer to Q. 89 on the ALARM project.</p>	

<b>164.</b> Is your country undertaking assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity referred to in Annex I of the Convention (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance)?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments completed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments completed (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on assessment of biodiversity components (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance).	
<p>Assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and biodiversity conservation were reported on at the European Workshop: <i>'Analysing the interaction between agricultural practices and</i></p>	

*the sustainable use of biodiversity - the role of stakeholders'* which took place in Brussels in March 2003 (<http://www.ecnc.nl/doc/ecnc/publicat/agrifunc.html>).

The EC is currently preparing to launch a Wildlife and Sustainable Farming Initiative. This initiative is expected to contribute to the development of understanding about sustaining wildlife and habitats through farming and forestry practices, and the identification of good practices that are sustainable and contribute to compliance with the Birds and Habitats Directives and/or have proven positive impacts for wildlife.

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

a) No	<b>X</b>
b) Yes, assessment is under way	
c) Yes, assessment completed (please specify where information can be retrieved below)	
Further comments on assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities.	

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

a) No	
b) Yes, no change found (status quo)	
c) Yes, overall degradation found (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below)	
Further comments on observations.	
<p>There have been significant changes in land cover (at least in the two Member States analysed to date) and hence in the extent of various ecosystems during the 1990s which will have added to the pressures on these and surrounding ecosystems and on the species they contain. There have been major declines in farmland bird populations and in wetland and grassland butterfly populations over the past 20-30 years, as described in the 2004 EEA report <i>The state of biological diversity in the European Union</i>: (<a href="http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/document_file.asp?id=17102">http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/document_file.asp?id=17102</a>)</p> <p>The IRENA project (<a href="http://webpubs.eea.eu.int/content/irena/index.htm">http://webpubs.eea.eu.int/content/irena/index.htm</a>), a collaborative effort between the EC and the European Environmental Agency (EEA) has developed 35 agri-environmental indicators at the national/regional level to assess the effects of agriculture on the environment and biodiversity. An Indicator Report has been published at the end of 2005. Some of the key messages regarding biodiversity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The majority of farmland birds have suffered a strong decline from 1980 to 2002. This decline has levelled off in the 1990s but species diversity remains at a very low level in intensively farmed areas. Data for Important Bird Areas and Prime Butterfly Areas show that a significant share of these sites is negatively affected by agricultural intensification and/or abandonment. Although the main indicators in the agricultural sector show rather favourable changes from 2000 to 2003, with an increase in the share of agricultural area under agri-environmental support, and under organic farming, and a decrease in livestock density index, a favourable change in the farmland bird index has not been observed in recent years. The majority of farmland birds have declined</li> <li>▪ The estimated share of high nature value farmland, which contains the most biodiversity-rich areas within agricultural landscapes at EU-15 level is 15-25% of the total agricultural area.</li> </ul>	



However, there are few data about the actual conservation status or species diversity in these areas

- About 18% of the habitats in Natura 2000 areas are estimated to be dependent on a continuation of extensive agricultural practices.

### Programme element 2 - Adaptive management

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

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

Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has increasingly been adapted to better integrate the high and increasing environmental and biodiversity (nature conservation) concerns of European society, with measures that encompass, on the one hand, environmental requirements integrated into the market policy and, on the other hand, targeted environmental measures that form part of the rural development policy.

The 2003 CAP reform (Council Regulation **N° 1782/2003** and Commission Regulation **N° 796/2004**) introduced a number of measures that have a strong environmental connection and have the potential to address the target of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. These include decoupling of most direct payments from production (already in force). A single payment scheme will be established based on historical reference amounts. It is expected that decoupling will reduce many of the incentives for intensive production that have been associated with biodiversity decline.

The recently reformed CAP also puts greater emphasis on cross-compliance, which becomes compulsory from 2005. Farmers receiving direct payments must respect statutory standards in the fields of environment, food safety, and animal health and welfare at farm level, including standards stemming from the national implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. The beneficiaries of direct payments will also be obliged to maintain their agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental condition, in order to avoid land abandonment and deterioration of habitats. They will also have to maintain the share of land under permanent pasture. This may be expected to have a positive environmental and biodiversity impact.

In the framework of the rural development policy (Council Regulation (EC) **N° 1257/1999**, as last amended), the Community offers a menu of measures to promote the protection of the farmed environment and its biodiversity. There are, among others, possibilities of support for less favoured areas and agri-environmental measures, which entail, respectively, applying or going beyond the usual Good Farming Practices (GFP). The definition of GFP is the responsibility of Member States, but it entails at least compliance with existing statutory environmental requirements.

The new regulation for the period 2007-2013 offers further opportunities to strengthen the contribution of rural development to the achievement of the biodiversity target, in particular as regards the protection of Natura 2000 sites and other high nature value farmland. The protection of the biodiversity and the contribution to the management of Natura 2000 are acknowledged as key issues to be addressed in the future national and regional rural development programmes

The Less-Favoured Areas are zones of the EU where natural physical conditions cause lower agricultural productivity. Fifty six percent of the EU's agricultural land is defined as LFA. A major EU objective is to ensure the continuation of farming in the LFAs, in order to preserve landscapes as well as environmentally valuable habitats. Compensatory allowances are available to farmers in these areas, which must apply usual GFP compatible with the need to safeguard the environment and

biodiversity. In 2001, support for LFAs was a widespread measure, implemented in almost all Member States ([http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/document\\_file.asp?id=16998](http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/document_file.asp?id=16998)). The 'areas with environmental restrictions', where farmers are subject to restrictions on land use and practices due to implementation of environmental legislation, including Natura 2000 areas, may also benefit from support.

The 'meeting standards' measure is another new measure which aims to help farmers adapt to the higher operating costs resulting from newly introduced EU standards, including those related to biodiversity. The farm advisory service, which Member States have to offer to farmers from 2007, will be an important tool for improving the application of standards and promotion of good agricultural practices.

### Programme element 3 - Capacity-building

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

a) No

b) Yes (please specify area/component and target groups with increased capacity)

**X**

Further comments on increased capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders.

At European level, 14% of the total number of training actions co-financed by the EU within the Rural Development Programmes in 2001 was aimed at preparing farmers for the application of production practices compatible with the protection of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of the biodiversity and landscape.

**169.** Has your country put in place operational mechanisms for participation by a wide range of stakeholder groups to develop genuine partnerships contributing to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity?

a) No

b) No, but potential mechanisms being identified

c) No, but mechanisms are under development

d) Yes, mechanisms are in place

**X**

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

The new genetic resources Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) **N° 870/2004**) provides in its Article 9(3) that 'proposals for actions referred to in Articles 5, 6 and 7 may be submitted by a public sector body or any natural or legal person who is a national of a Member State and established in the Community, including gene banks, non-governmental organisations, breeders, technical institutes, experimental farms, gardeners and forest owners. Bodies or persons established in third countries may also submit proposals where this is provided for in Article 10' (see question 173 for further details on the Regulation).

**170.** Has your country improved the policy environment, including benefit-sharing arrangements and incentive measures, to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity?

a) No

b) No, but some measures and arrangements being identified

c) No, but measures and arrangements are under development

d) Yes, measures and arrangements are being implemented (please specify below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the measures taken to improve the policy environment.	
<p>The most targeted measure in the CAP to tackle biodiversity decline on farmland is the agri-environment measures. Agri-environment measures are specifically aimed at achieving positive environmental management. EU Member States can grant support to farmers for a range of environmentally favourable measures, including biodiversity related measures and the conservation of high nature value farmland. Examples of commitments covered by national/regional agri-environmental schemes are: environmentally-favourable extensification of farming; management of low-intensity pasture systems; integrated farm management and organic agriculture; preservation of landscape and historical features such as hedgerows, ditches and woods; and, the conservation of high-value habitats and their associated biodiversity. In 2002, the most important type of agri-environment schemes in terms of area covered were those aimed at the reduction of inputs (including integrated farming) and extensification of production which represent 40% (11.4 million ha) across the EU-15. Those specifically targeted at biodiversity and landscape enhancement represent 30% (8.1 million ha). The organic farming contracts accounted for 7% (2 million ha). However, one of the main messages which emerge from IRENA assessment is that agri-environmental measures do not appear specifically targeted at the areas of highest biodiversity concern in the EU-15 (Natura 2000, HNV farmland areas). The targeting of areas which could benefit most from continuing positive agricultural management would need to be improved in the future</p>	

<b>Programme element 4 – Mainstreaming</b>	
<b>171.</b> Is your country mainstreaming or integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes?	
a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) No, but potential frameworks and mechanisms are being identified	
d) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed and integrated into some sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed into major sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on mainstreaming and integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes.	
<p>European Community support to the agricultural sector is carried out through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The Biodiversity Action Plan for agriculture is based on the use of the following CAP instruments for the benefit of biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 3 of the 'horizontal' Regulation relating to the respect by farmers of "environmental protection requirements" (this is the predecessor measure to the compulsory cross-compliance, which entered into force in 2005)</li> <li>• The agri-environmental measures under the Rural Development Regulation</li> <li>• Other measures provided by the rural development policy, mainly the compensatory allowances for Less-Favoured Areas and areas with environmental restrictions</li> <li>• The environmental elements of common market organisations (e.g. set-aside obligation linked to previous direct payments to arable crops)</li> <li>• The regulation on genetic resources in agriculture.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the above-mentioned instruments within the agricultural policy, the BAP points out that there is a need to develop complementarity and synergy with the legislation on plant protection products, the seeds legislation and the legislation on genetically modified organisms.</p>	

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

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

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

See answer to previous question.

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

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

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

The second Community programme on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture (as established by Council Regulation No. (EC) **870/2004**, see [http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/envir/biodiv/genres/call\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/envir/biodiv/genres/call_en.htm) ) covers the period 2004-2006 and will promote genetic diversity and the exchange of information including close co-ordination between Member States and between the Member States and the EC for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in agriculture. It will also facilitate co-ordination in the field of international undertakings on genetic resources. The budget allocated to this programme amounts to €10 million.

The agri-environment measures provide also for programmes to encourage farmers to maintain threatened breeds and plants under genetic erosion. In 2001, 138,800 endangered livestock units were under protection schemes across the EU-15.

**Box LXV.**

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

No specific actions taken.

**Box LXVI.**

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

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

General progress in biodiversity integration into the EU agricultural policy

Agricultural specialisation and intensification, but also marginalisation, have been pointed out as the main processes behind the decline of farm-dependent biodiversity in the EU. The CAP has been one of the major driving forces - together with socio-economic factors - behind these two processes for the last 40 years. However, recent CAP developments have contributed to the mitigation of these effects and have favoured the integration of biodiversity concerns. Several CAP measures, particularly those of the rural development policy, have contributed to sustainable agriculture by encouraging land uses compatible with the need of preserving the natural space and the protection of environmental resources.

The majority of measures foreseen in the Biodiversity Action Plan for Agriculture have been implemented and the CAP reform of 2003 represents a significant step forward in the implementation of the Action Plan. The next step is to use the new and extended policy instruments now available to the Member States in the best possible way to contribute to the EU environmental objectives, in particular the target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010. Some implementation data have been provided in the previous questions.

The new rural development regulation (Council regulation (EC) No 1698/2005) adopted on 20 September 2005, covering the programming period 2007 - 2013 is an opportunity to further strengthen the contribution of rural development to the achievement of this target, in particular as regards the protection of Natura 2000 sites and other high nature value farmland.

Effectiveness of agri-environment measures in protecting agricultural biodiversity

The AEMs are the core instrument to deliver the integration approach. The assessment is a critical step in a learning process that can continuously improve the effectiveness and environment performance of AEMs. The mid-term evaluation (2000-2003) of the rural development programmes suggests that the three years of the programming period was a very short timeframe to quantify environmental outcomes. In addition, measuring biodiversity impacts can be particularly complex and costly. The evaluation of environmental benefits of agri-environment schemes on biodiversity are therefore mainly based on assumed environmental impacts and expert opinion in many cases. There are positive examples from northern and southern EU-regions that show, however, that innovation and integration success are feasible.

## Forest Biological Diversity

### General

<b>174.</b> Has your country incorporated relevant parts of the work programme into your national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes?	
a) No	
b) Yes, please describe the process used	
c) Yes, please describe constraints/obstacles encountered in the process	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, please describe lessons learned	
e) Yes, please describe targets for priority actions in the programme of work	
Further comments on the incorporation of relevant parts of the work programme into your NBSAP and forest programmes	
<p>Some of the objectives of EU policy, as included in the 1998 EU Forestry Strategy and the Sixth Environmental Action Plan (6EAP), are in line with the programme of work, but the priorities are still to be determined. There is considerable potential to further link the programme of work with EU level actions in the forthcoming EC Communication on Biodiversity (the 'Malahide follow-up communication', which is expected end of 2005 / beginning of 2006) and the Communication on the Forest Action Plan (expected mid 2006).</p> <p>Although forestry issues are mainly dealt with by the EU Member States, the Community's involvement in areas such as agriculture and rural development, the environment, trade, research, regional and industrial policy and development cooperation means that it nevertheless has an important role to play in, and an influence on, policy relating to forest biodiversity. However, there is no consensus among Member States to an overarching EC approach towards environmental issues in forestry, because forest policy is considered to be a national matter according to the principle of subsidiarity.</p> <p>In so far as European forest biodiversity is protected through the mechanisms of the Habitats Directive and the Natura 2000 Network, the delays which have occurred in establishing this network will defer protection. The original deadline for the completion of the Natura 2000 network was to have been June 2004, but by this date only the Netherlands had completed a national list of pSCIs (proposed Sites of Community Interest). In the EU15, a series of steps have since taken place at both Member State and Commission level for pSCIs to be finally adopted as SACs (Special Areas of Conservation), and thus measures taken by Member States for their protection. The date by which the Natura 2000 network will be finally established is therefore now likely to be closer to 2010.</p>	

**Box LXVII.**

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

The instruments at the European Community level that complement national level work by Member States are the Birds and Habitats Directives and Natura 2000. Above all, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) has the task of harmonising policies and actions, and developing Europe-wide ways forward which are more than the sum of the parts.

Forest Focus, adopted in 2003, is a Community scheme for harmonised, broad-based, comprehensive and long-term monitoring of European forest ecosystems. It concentrates in particular on protecting forests against air pollution and fire. To supplement the monitoring system, new instruments relating to soil monitoring, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, climate change and the protective functions of forests are to be developed.

A purpose-specific forest classification system exists for Natura 2000. Other systems such as the CORINE Information System's land cover project component and FAO classification are also in use. The European Community has a role in ensuring that information is harmonised. Through its research and information activities related to MCPFE, the Community supports improvements regionally within the wider European region, especially in respect of data capture, analysis and presentation.

Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management have been adopted and improved through the MCPFE. Chapter 14 of The European Environment Agency's report *Environmental signals 2002* presents an indicator-based assessment of certain aspects of forest biodiversity in the EU.

**Box LXVIII.**

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

This is mainly a Member State competence. Relevant actions include EC development co-operation activities, and potential support provided under the Leader+ initiative, which is part of the rural development programme, aimed at rural communities within Europe.

The main indigenous communities in Europe are the Sami of Finland, Norway and Sweden. Protocol No 3 of the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to the EU (1994) grants the Sami exclusive rights to reindeer husbandry, notwithstanding the provisions of the EC Treaty. Article 2 of the Protocol provides that it may be extended to any further development of exclusive Sami rights linked to their traditional means of livelihood. Reindeer are dependent upon Europe's boreal forests, and these forests are managed with their needs in mind.

MCPFE's Vienna 2003 Resolution 3 and its accompanying work programme explicitly address 'the social and cultural dimensions of sustainable forest management in Europe' making the point that 'sustainable' means socially as well as environmentally sustainable. The tenure and regulation frameworks regarding forests in EU15 territories are well-established and imperfections in these institutions do not represent the same threat to forest sustainability that they do in many tropical developing countries. For the eight continental new Member States the restitution and/or privatisation of forest land and other forest-related assets has had an effect on sustainable forest management. Most of these new Member States started far-reaching programmes to re-privatise forests that had been mostly managed by public forest services until 1989. In many cases, this has led to a large number of new small forest properties, individually rather than communally-owned.

**Box LXIX.**

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

Within Europe, this is largely a matter of Member State competence. The Forest Focus Regulation in 2003 aims to support the development of harmonised, broad-based, comprehensive and long-term monitoring of European forest ecosystems.

**Box LXX.**

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

Coordination between Member States is a major element of the EU Forestry Strategy. This collaboration is manifested at international forestry meetings, where the EC speaks for all Member States. The main forum for European coordination on forests is the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). This is an inter-governmental process which includes 44 European countries and the EC. Resolution 4 of the Fourth MCPFE Ministerial Conference held in Vienna in 2003, on conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity, builds on the commitments of the CBD's expanded programme of work

The EC is also an active participant in international fora relevant to the implementation of the expanded programme of work, including the United Nations Forum on Forests and the International Tropical Timber Organisation. Other relevant conventions include the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC) with its Kyoto Protocol, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Within the framework of the EU Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), the EU is also involved in regional Asian and African inter-governmental initiatives to combat illegal logging. The European Commission and the EU Member States have provided strong support to these processes, politically and financially.

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

<b>Programme element 1 – Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing</b>	
<b>175.</b> Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?	
a) No (please provide reasons below)	
b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impact on forest management, constraints, needs, tools, and targets).	
<p>Although the ecosystem approach did not figure in the 1998 EU Forestry Strategy, the integration of the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management has recently been the focus of considerable attention. MCPFE and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) held a meeting to develop further integration between sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach in April 2004 and MCPFE followed this with an Expert Meeting in October 2004, which updated the 2003 Vienna Resolutions and detailed practical progress and obstacles encountered. This meeting also drafted a statement on the integration of the ecosystems approach and sustainable forest management for submission to CBD and UNFF. Other relevant developments include the EC-supported research project <i>European Biodiversity Forum – Implementing the Ecosystem Approach</i> (BIOFORUM), which has a forest working group.</p>	



**176.** Has your country undertaken measures to reduce the threats to, and mitigate its impacts on forest biodiversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions See below.
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to reduce threats to, and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

**Objective 1:** Member State enforcement of the EU Plant Health Directive (2000/29/EC) ensures the prevention of invasive alien species into EC countries. This involves, among other measures, port inspections, plant passports to accompany the transport of forest trees and forest produce and monitoring of designated forest plots. The 2001 EC Biodiversity Action Plan for the conservation of natural resources also outlines actions and targets on invasive alien species (IAS). Finally, MCPFE has worked on IAS issues among others, and current activities are listed in the documents from the October 2004 expert meeting.

**Objective 2:** In 1986 the EC adopted Regulation 3528/86/EEC on the protection of forests against air pollution. This was superseded in 2003 by Council Regulation 2003/2152/EC, (Forest Focus), on the monitoring of forests and environmental interactions in the Community. 'Forest Focus' was created under the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP to expand and integrate existing forest monitoring schemes in a comprehensive system. It is a legally binding instrument, and aims at harmonised, broad-based, comprehensive and long-term monitoring of forests in Europe. It is expected that, alongside the monitoring of atmospheric pollution and forest fires, other aspects of forest monitoring such as biodiversity, carbon sequestration (carbon sinks), soil condition, and the effects of climate change will be assessed. The actions of the EAGGF on curbing agricultural pollution are also relevant. Although forestry is not the focal point of this mechanism, the increasing attention to environmental considerations in agricultural practices, the impact of agricultural techniques on all aspects of the environment including forests (chemical run-off, irrigation, deforestation, afforestation) and the considerable funds available through this mechanism all make it central to the forest strategy of the EC.

**Objective 4:** a common scheme to monitor forest fires and protect EU forests from fire was established by Council Regulation (EEC) No 2158/92. Making use of Community funding under this regulation required a classification by Member States of their territory according to high, medium and low forest fire risk areas, as well as the establishment of national and regional forest fire protection plans for the areas classified as being of medium and high risk. The entire territory of Spain, Portugal and Greece was classified as a high risk area, whereas France, Italy and Germany set up a classification of high and medium risk areas per region. In total, some 60 million ha of forests and other wooded land was classified as high or medium forest fire risk zones within the EU-15. Under this Regulation the Community supported forest fire prevention actions of the above six Member States with a yearly EU funding of about EUR 10 million. The scheme expired on 31 of December 2002. In addition, forest fire prevention actions were also supported within the Structural Funds (Objective-1 and 5b regions), the Cohesion Fund (1994–1999) and under the Rural Development Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 starting from the year 2000. Regulation 2158/92/EEC was superseded by Council Regulation 2003/2152/EC (Forest Focus) on the monitoring of forests and environmental interactions in the Community. This regulation makes extensive provisions to expand the level of fire protection and the collection and dissemination of relevant data. The Community Programme for monitoring and protection against forest fires has contributed to identifying the causes of forest fires, and has helped to reduce the average size of the fires and the average duration of individual fires in the Mediterranean region. It has been instrumental in the establishment of operational systems for

the EU-wide collection, processing and exchange of forest fire information, which have proven their utility for civil protection and fire prevention.

**Objective 6:** A number of EU actions are being undertaken to prevent and mitigate losses of forest biodiversity due to fragmentation. For example, there are provisions in the Rural Development Regulation to encourage linear features such as hedges or riverine corridors in order to increase connectivity of forest areas for wildlife. The LIFE Programme and the Leader+ Rural Development programmes also provide funding for activities to reduce the effects of fragmentation through ecological corridors or 'stepping stones'.

**177.** Is your country undertaking any measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities See below.
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

**Objective 1:** Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 (the Rural Development Regulation) has proved an important vehicle for restoring biological diversity within certain types of forest. In broad terms, this work has followed three pathways: i) strengthening the multifunctional role of forests (Article 30), including investments in forests aimed at improving their ecological value; ii) afforestation of agricultural land (Article 31) that contributes towards forms of countryside management more compatible with biodiversity conservation. This measure is being implemented in 13 of the EU-15 Member States; and iii) improvement of forest protection values (Article 32). The measures under Article 32 are aimed at maintaining and improving the ecological stability of forests where the protective and ecological role of the forests are of public interest and where the costs of maintenance and improvement measures for the forests exceed the income from forestry. Support is granted to the beneficiaries provided that the protective and ecological values of these forests are ensured in a sustainable manner. Additionally, the MCPFE conference of Vienna in 2003 (under Resolution 4, Conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity in Europe) adopted measures to promote the restoration of forest biological diversity in degraded forests.

**Objective 2:** The implications of forest management practices for the conservation of some of Europe's most threatened endemic mammal species are especially crucial. The Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe, LCIE, has made efforts to limit hunting, and to consult rural people in carnivore areas, and other stakeholders. In recent years the EC has taken legal proceedings for violations of EU environmental laws on nature protection under the Habitats Directive against Member States concerning the trapping of the Iberian Lynx in Spain and the hunting of the wolf, brown bear and lynx in Finland. More generally, the conservation of biodiversity (including the conservation of endemic and threatened species) through active management is the main objective for most of the protected forest areas in Europe. On 100 million ha, which is 79% of the protected forest area, specific interventions to achieve the conservation goal are taking place. Outside the designated areas, too, the work of the MCPFE to integrate the ecosystem approach into sustainable forest management incorporates conservation of endemic and endangered species.

**Objective 3:** The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) takes into account the conservation of forest biodiversity. To date, the number of sites proposed for one or more of the 59 specific forest habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitat Directive is around 7,800, of which around 5,300 include priority forest habitat types. Overall, about 12% of the forest area in Europe is designated as protected forests. Their management is mainly directed to soil, water or biodiversity conservation

and to protect infrastructure. The importance of forest cover in sites proposed under the Habitat Directive varies depending on the biogeographical context. For example, forests are a very important component of proposed sites in the Boreal region, but they are somewhat less important in the Alpine and the Mediterranean regions. Many sites to be designated as part of the Natura 2000 network already have protection status at the national level, with specific national designations types such as 'national parks', 'nature reserves' and 'strict forest reserves'. A joint programme between EEA, Council of Europe and UNEP-WCMC is currently producing an inventory of these designations types.

**178.** Is your country undertaking any measures to promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities See below.
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the promotion of the sustainable use of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

**Objective 1:** This is mainly a Member State (MS) competence, where the promotion of the sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity is well established. Resolution 4 of the MCPFE meeting in Vienna 2003 reaffirmed that the conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in all types of forests is an essential element for their sustainable management. At the same meeting, national forest programmes were identified as the principal national framework to ensure the maintenance, conservation, restoration and appropriate enhancement of forest biological diversity in MS territories. The EC is also involved in promoting the sustainable use of forest resources in third countries. The most recent regulation for this is 2494/2000 (conservation and sustainable management of forests in developing countries, which is an update of 3062/95). The Regulation runs until 2006, and provides for total funding of EUR 249 million for the forest sector in developing countries.

**Objective 2:** Within the EU, this is mainly a MS competence. However, unsustainable harvesting has not been a significant problem within the EU15 territories. The 2005 Commission Staff Working Document, produced as the annex to the EC Communication on the implementation of the EU Forestry Strategy, showed that throughout the EU the harvesting of timber is consistently below the annual net increment (ani), with an average estimated 63% of the ani being harvested in 2000. Regarding the EC's commitments to prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of forest resources in other (particularly tropical, developing) countries, the EU adopted the FLEGT Action Plan in 2002. This plan is an EU Priority in the follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). It emphasises governance reform and capacity building in producer countries as well as demand-side measures to reduce the consumption of illegal timber within the EU. The biggest user of forest resources in the EU is the woodworking and pulp and paper industry.

**Objective 3:** This is mainly a MS competence. Relevant EC actions include development co-operation activities, and potential support provided under the Leader+ initiative, which is part of the rural development programme, aimed at rural communities within Europe. Also, see answer to Box LXVIII

**Objective 4:** Yes, an information system and strategy are under development. At the general level, The Birds and Habitats Directives, and the Natura 2000 network are the main instruments for the implementation of strategies for the *in situ* conservation of forest genetic diversity. DG Environment has produced a guidance document "Forests and Natura 2000", in which the main challenges and opportunities for nature conservation in forests are laid out. More specific action is underway through the 2004 Community programme on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture (see Council Regulation (EC) No 870/2004).

<b>179.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures to promote access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 5 and describe measures undertaken See below.
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the promotion of access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources. (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets)		
<p><b>Objective 1:</b> some general policies are in place. With respect to policy, the 1998 EC Biodiversity Strategy notes the need for the Community to promote appropriate multilateral frameworks for access to genetic resources and benefit sharing (ABS), to encourage the development of voluntary guidelines for ABS and to support countries of origin of genetic resources in developing national strategies on bioprospecting. The EC has yet to introduce comprehensive legislation governing ABS and related traditional knowledge. However, Directive 98/44/EC (6 July 1998) on the legal protection of biotechnological innovations specifically takes into consideration ABS. Recital 27 to the Directive encourages patent applications to include information on the geographical origin of biological material. This provision seeks to support compliance with national legislation in the source country of biological material and with any contractual arrangements governing the acquisition and use of that material. A number of other EC legislative and policy measures contribute to the implementation of the CBD's provisions on benefit-sharing. These include regulations and directives on geographical indications and community plant variety rights, as well as programmes for the conservation and characterisation of plant genetic resources for food and agricultural (PGRFA). The EC also supports the implementation of institutional policies and codes of conduct on ABS by stakeholder groups, including for <i>ex situ</i> collections.</p>		

Programme element 2 – Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment		
<b>180.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures to enhance the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities See below.
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the enhancement of the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

**Objective 1:** Substantial research efforts under the Community RTD programmes have been devoted to support, further develop and implement the principles of sustainable forest management, addressing the conservation, protection and restoration of forests. These activities have also contributed to providing scientific evidence and justification to support informed policy decisions. Internationally, the EU is one of the largest supporters of forest sector development cooperation, funding a wide-range of biodiversity-relevant activities which include community-based forest management, protected area management, research and policy reform. Support to forests is increasingly being structured around national forest programmes which seek to involve all stakeholders, and to arrive at consensus about how best to sustain and manage forests.

**Objective 2:** To-date, this has been partly integrated in some sectors, with further developments expected in 2006. Article 11 of the 1998 EU Forestry Strategy assigns an essential role to forest biodiversity in SFM and considers that appropriate measures should be integrated in the national forest programmes or equivalent instruments of the Member States in line with the Pan-European 'Work Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997–2000'.

**Objective 3:** This is a matter of Member State competence.

**Objective 4:** Within Europe, this is a matter of Member State competence. Concerning external relations, the EU adopted the FLEGT Action Plan in 2002. This plan is an EU Priority in the follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). It emphasises governance reform and capacity building in producer countries as well as demand-side measures to reduce the consumption of illegal timber within the EU. The recognition that forest crime also needs to be addressed in parts of Europe and North Asia has led to the Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ENA-FLEG) initiative. The EC shall participate at the Ministerial Conference, scheduled to take place in November 2005.

**181.** Is your country undertaking any measures to address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities See below.
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on review of socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

**Objective 1:** One of the key opportunities for dealing with economic failures and distortions which have a potential negative impact on forest biodiversity has been through the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, (June 2003). The reform strengthens the role of the environment in agricultural best practice and makes keeping farmland in good environmental health compulsory. It is also now the case that farmers who plant trees are allowed to retain CAP payments. The Rural Development Regulation stresses the multifunctional role of forestry (article 30); afforestation of agricultural land (article 31) and improvement of forest protection values (article 32). The correction of distortions is implicit, but none the less there. One final area of potential imbalance remains, perhaps with implications for forest biodiversity. The Habitat Directive, Annex III, is explicit that Natura 2000 sites will be chosen by scientific criteria for their biodiversity value, with social values only mentioned as a very general requirement in Article 3 of the directive. In contrast, the Rural Development Regulation stresses bottom-up approaches with the active participation of local communities, as does the Ecosystem Approach. There are opportunities for greater harmonisation here.

182. Is your country undertaking any measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities See below.
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
<p><b>Objective 1:</b> Given the fact that forest policy <i>per se</i> is a competence of the Member States, while many horizontal and issue-driven policy initiatives that have an impact on the forest sector are developed at the European level, the role of co-ordination between the various policy formation and implementation areas, their institutions and instruments (including the dissemination of information), is particularly important for the forest sector in Europe. The EC plays an important role in increasing awareness of EU-wide and trans-frontier issues, such as the impact of atmospheric pollution on forest biodiversity and overall trends, which might be less apparent at national level. In order to give a better understanding of nature conservation in forests the EC has produced a guide "Forests and Natura 2000", in which the main challenges and opportunities for nature conservation in forests are described. Finally, the EC launched in 2004 action that will lead to an internet-based forest information and communication platform. However, work is still needed to tailor it to users, and to link it effectively with national data sources.</p>		

Programme element 3 – Knowledge, assessment and monitoring		
183. Is your country undertaking any measures to characterize forest ecosystems at various scales in order to improve the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please provide reasons below These are matters of Member States competence.
Further comments on characterization of forest ecosystems at various scales (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

184. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve knowledge on, and methods for, the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities See below.
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on improvement of knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
<b>Objective 1:</b> a relevant programme is under development. Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management have been adopted and improved through the Pan-European Ministerial Council for the Protection of Forest in Europe.		

185. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities See below.
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the improvement of the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
<b>Objective 1:</b> EC-funded research that is being conducted includes: i). ENFORS: the European network for a long-term forest ecosystem and landscape research programme (COST Action E25). The overall project objective is to develop the scientific base and initiate a European network of sites for forest ecosystem and landscape research of relevance to sustainable forest management; ii) ALTER-NET: a Long-term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network (2004-2009), funded by the EU's 6 <sup>th</sup> Framework Programme. This network of excellence aims to create a European long-term inter-disciplinary research facility for research on the complex relationship between ecosystems, biodiversity and society.		

**186.** Is your country undertaking any measures at national level to improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biodiversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities  See below .
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the improvement of the infrastructure for data and information management (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

**Objective 1:** the Forest Focus Framework Regulation, which was adopted in 2003, provides funds to monitor biodiversity (*inter alia*) until 2006, when it will be succeeded by a further instrument. In terms of research activities, the EUMON project aims to establish EU-wide monitoring methods and systems of surveillance for species and habitats of Community interest, under funding from the 6<sup>TH</sup> Framework Programme. This research project will provide a framework to standardise, focus and coordinate existing monitoring programmes by comparing existing methods and monitoring schemes.

#### Box LXXI.

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

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

There are a series of as yet unresolved policy issues affecting the management of European forests, which arise in part from outstanding divergences between EU and Member State policy. There is a latent tension between the desired environmental and social benefits of forests in the eyes of the general public, EC and national environmental commitments, and the need of forest owners (the majority owners in Europe) to realise revenue. More coordination between the Commission and Member States will be needed in future. Probably the weakest area of progress is in the Community's capacity to encourage the effective co-ordination between all policy sectors involved in forestry, including the private sector. The taking of a frame of reference wider than forestry alone, through linking it with Rural Development Policy, is a first step. In response to these problems, an EU Action Plan for Sustainable Forest Management has been suggested for presentation in 2006 which will cover both the diverse roles of forests (thus linking with the first programme element of the CBD expanded programme of work, namely, the conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing of forests and their goods and services), and the means by which diverse policies affecting forestry can be harmonised and decision-making streamlined.



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

<b>187.</b> Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work? (decisions V/23 and VII/2 )	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on scientific, technical and financial support, at the national and regional levels, to the activities identified in the programme of work.	
<p>Significant measures are in place to support such actions, both within Member States and, through the various EU Partnership Agreements, in developing countries. Within the EC, many targeted actions aimed at reducing soil loss and declining fertility are supported by the incentive systems of the Common Agricultural Policy. For example, financial support has been available to farmers through the agri-environment measures under the Rural Development Regulation <b>N° 1257/99</b>. In terms of scientific activities, both the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Research Frameworks of the EU have supported soil-related research, examining land/soil degradation and desertification in Europe and related prevention and mitigation strategies.</p>	

<b>188.</b> Has your country integrated actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands integrated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD.	
<p>The 6th Environment Action Programme, "Our Future, Our Choice" of January 2001, established, <i>inter alia</i>, the objective to protect soils against erosion. In May 2001 the European Community further acknowledged that soil loss and declining fertility are eroding the viability of agricultural land in the EC Sustainable Development Strategy (<b>COM (2001) 264 final</b>). The European Commission subsequently adopted a Communication 'Towards a thematic strategy for soil protection' (<b>COM (2002) 179 final</b>), including the description of the main threats to soil and possible Community regulatory and non-regulatory responses.</p> <p>The Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) [website: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/smap/home.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/smap/home.htm</a>] is a framework programme of action for the protection of the Mediterranean environment, within the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Combating desertification is one of the priority fields of actions for the SMAP.</p>	

<b>189.</b> Has your country undertaken measures to ensure synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD process and other processes under related environmental conventions? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)	
a) No	
b) Yes, some linkages established (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, extensive linkages established (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to ensure the synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD processes and other processes under related environmental conventions.	
<p>The Community places great emphasis on supporting developing countries efforts to respond to global environmental issues and to implement the major UN Environmental Conventions on climate, biodiversity and desertification. Encouraging developing country participation in such agreements,</p>	

processes and their implementation are issues currently addressed in the policy dialogue and programming with partner countries. At the regional level, the EC participates in the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), under the Mediterranean Action Plan, which contributes to regional collaboration in the implementation of actions addressing environmental problems. The requirements of these Conventions are also mainstreamed into EC economic and development policies, as well as in several other sectoral policies and programmes through the elaboration of implementation strategy papers.

#### Programme Part A: Assessment

**190.** Has your country assessed and analyzed information on the state of dryland biological diversity and the pressures on it, disseminated existing knowledge and best practices, and filled knowledge gaps in order to determine adequate activities? (Decision V/23, Part A: Assessment, Operational objective, activities 1 to 6)

a) No	
b) No, but assessment is ongoing	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive assessment undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the relevant information on assessments of the status and trends and dissemination of existing knowledge and best practices.

In southern Europe, especially in the Mediterranean basin, soil erosion by water and wind, salinisation and the degradation of soil fauna and flora through forest fires, has led to soil degradation. The 2003 EEA Report *Europe's environment: the third assessment* documents that salinisation affects 16 million hectares or 25 % of irrigated cropland in the Mediterranean. A second major pressure on regional biodiversity comes from the huge growth in tourism within the Mediterranean. This region is the world's leading tourist destination, accounting for 30% of international tourist arrivals. The number of tourists in the Mediterranean coastal region is set to rise from 135 million in 1990 to 235-353 million in 2025. Tourism development, particularly in coastal areas, can have a significant adverse impact on local biodiversity. Other serious pressures on biodiversity come from: the increasing concentrations of hydrocarbons, which contaminate water and beaches; eutrophication; and the disposal of untreated municipal sewage.

#### Programme Part B: Targeted Actions

**191.** Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences? (part B of annex I of decision V/23, activities 7 to 9)

a) No	
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences.

A large number of project activities aimed at addressing desertification in developing countries have been funded through the major partnership frameworks for each of the main geographical regions; through thematic funding sources (e.g. budget article 21 02 05, the Environment and Tropical Forests budget line); and through the EC research programmes. The following examples demonstrate the breadth of EC support to such activities:

- A 2001 demonstration project in Morocco and Tunisia on strategies to combat desertification in Arid Lands with direct involvement of local agropastoral communities in North Africa, at a total cost of €4.2 million (EC contribution of €3.4 million)
- Farm forestry and natural resources conservation project around the *Arabuko Sokoke – Goshi, Coast Province* of Kenya (EC contribution of €1.6 million)
- The EC's Joint Research Centre - Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES) jointly with IRD (France), has coordinated the INCO DC project CAMELEO (Changes in Arid Mediterranean Ecosystems on the Long term and Earth Observation), involving eight institutions from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. Advanced remote sensing tools have been delivered to North African partners and dedicated training workshops on remote sensing and GIS techniques were organised.

See question 187 for targeted actions within the EU.

**192.** Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work?

a) No	
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
c) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, all identified capacity needs met (please provide details below)	

Further comments on measures taken to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work.

The EEA-coordinated DISMED network project (Desertification Information System for the Mediterranean) [website: <http://dismed.eionet.eu.int/index.html>] aims to improve the capacity of national administrations of Mediterranean countries to programme measures and policies to combat desertification and the effects of drought. This aim is pursued by reinforcing communication amongst them, facilitating the exchange of information, and establishing a common information system to monitor the physical and socio-economic conditions of areas at risk, assessing the extent, severity and the trend of land degradation.

**Box LXXII.**

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

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

Within the EU dry land region of the Mediterranean, many plant species have disappeared while others are endangered and there is a constant decrease in the numbers of land and marine mammals, as well as the invasion of exogenous marine species, to the detriment of the regional biological diversity. The draft 2005 Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) will attempt to address these threats, and contains three relevant targets:

- to decrease by at least one-third by 2015 the current rates of the loss of high quality agricultural land through erosion, salinisation, desertification, urban and other forms of development and abandonment.
- to put an end by 2010 to the loss of continental biodiversity in the EU Member States and to reduce it substantially in other Mediterranean countries.
- to achieve by 2010 around 10% of all the Mediterranean land ecosystems to be under the status of a protected area.

### **Mountain Biodiversity**

<b>Programme Element 1. Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing</b>	
<b>193.</b> Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity	
<p>The EC has considered mountain ecosystems when producing many policies that have a cross cutting effect, including those that apply to sectors other than the environment. The EC also recognises that mountainous areas require differentiated planning that is adapted to local conditions. Mountain communities frequently receive a high rate of support for maintaining their traditional ways of life and for protecting their environment. More broadly within Europe, the first Action Plan of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) dedicated 'Action Theme 10' to mountain ecosystems.</p>	

<b>194.</b> Has your country taken any measures to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity	
Establishing protected areas is within the remit of Member States, not the EC. However protected areas are supported within the framework of EC regulations, particularly following the Natura 2000 initiative. By 2004, the Natura 2000 network contained almost 1,000 sites in mountain areas within the EU.	

<b>195.</b> Has your country taken any measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems	
The promotion of sustainable use of mountain biological resources is found in a number of EC policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support for Less Favoured Areas (LFA)</li> <li>• agri-environmental measures</li> <li>• forestry measures</li> <li>• Article 33 measures, which include diversification off-farm, protection of rural heritage, and protection of the environment.</li> <li>• The EC Initiative Leader+ programme.</li> </ul>	

<b>196.</b> Has your country taken any measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources, including preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources	
The Community initiative for rural development (Leader+) funds projects that help to protect local knowledge and support local development adapted to specific environmental conditions. Local traditions that use land in a sustainable manner also may be supported through providing increased subsidies to offset any additional effort involved. Such programmes are available for implementation by all EU member states.	

**Programme Element 2. Means of implementation for conservation,  
sustainable use and benefit sharing**

**197.** Has your country developed any legal, policy and institutional framework for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing this programme of work?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant frameworks are being developed	
c) Yes, some frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the legal, policy and institutional frameworks for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing the programme of work on mountain biodiversity.

The EC has prepared the EU Biodiversity Strategy and four thematic Biodiversity Action Plans. All identify the need to integrate biodiversity concerns into other EU policies and to develop actions and programs to enhance conservation. The BAP for the conservation of natural resources specifically mentions that mountain areas should be given special consideration, in particular adequate EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) must be carried out for any public or private projects that are likely to affect mountainous regions. The BAP for agriculture similarly mentions the effects, both positive and negative, that agriculture can have on mountain ecosystems and gives suggestions of how to ensure agriculture supports the aims of the CBD.

**198.** Has your country been involved in regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some cooperation frameworks are being considered	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

Further information on the regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

The EC is a signatory to the 1991 Alpine Convention. The Contracting Parties of the Convention have agreed to pursue a comprehensive policy for the preservation and protection of the Alps by applying the principles of prevention, payment by the polluter (the 'polluter pays' principle) and cooperation, after careful consideration of the interests of all the Alpine States, their Alpine regions and the European Community, and through the prudent and sustained use of resources.

The EC has also promoted the establishment of programmes and projects that promote cross-border co-operation between Member States. The Leader+ initiative may give funding to such cross-border co-operation within the EU. Programmes and projects that exceed the boundaries of the EU are also promoted. Special programmes financed by the INTERREG initiative provide for cross-border co-operation that extends beyond the EU borders.

<b>Programme Element 3. Supporting actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing</b>	
<b>199.</b> Has your country taken any measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biodiversity	
<p>A number of assessments on the biodiversity of mountain habitats has been undertaken by the European Environmental Agency (EEA). The 1999 EEA report <i>Environment in the European Union at the turn of the century</i> provided an analytical overview of mountain areas in Europe.</p> <p>The EC organised a major Conference on 'EU policies and mountain areas', (<a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/publi/rurdev/mountain_en.pdf">http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/publi/rurdev/mountain_en.pdf</a>) as a contribution towards the 2002 International Year of Mountains. The aim of the conference was to discuss how the EU, working with other stakeholders in mountain regions, could help to create opportunities for sustainable development.</p>	

<b>200.</b> Has your country taken any measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity	
<p>The EC has carried out extensive work on the taxonomy of biological diversity. In particular, it has worked to establish inventories of habitat-types and of species in a number of biological regions, including the Alpine Biogeographical Region. Research activities have further promoted taxonomic work on biodiversity in mountain ecosystems and some LIFE projects have been used to promote habitat-type and species inventories in EU countries (e.g. Greece).</p> <p>The EC specific support action GLOCHAMORE, Global Change in Mountain Regions, website: (<a href="http://mri.scnatweb.ch/content/category/3/10/31/">http://mri.scnatweb.ch/content/category/3/10/31/</a>) supported an Open Science Conference which was attended by ~ 250 researchers and mountain biosphere reserve managers from all over the world.</p>	

<b>201.</b> Has your country taken any measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems	
<p>The EC, through its provision of financial support, is directly involved with management practices, plans and programmes for conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems. In all cases, financial support requires that information about the implementation of management practices, plans or programmes, including information on lessons learned, is reported back to the EC. This reported information is then disseminated through the web-sites of the EC funding instruments and in many cases also through the web-sites of the beneficiaries. The main funding instrument for such projects is LIFE. The LIFE database contains information on over 1,000 LIFE-funded projects, of which over 110 concern mountainous areas.</p>	

**Box LXXIII .**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul>
<p>Mountains are widely recognized as important and sensitive ecosystems, but little progress has been made in developing comprehensive policies at EU level. Although European policies were first applied to mountains in the 1970s (under the Less Favoured Area, LFA, framework) and mountain areas are now subject to numerous EU, national and regional policies, there remains a lack of coordination between measures at different levels relating to various sectors.</p> <p>Comprehensive policy changes for mountains can be expected to come out of the following recent initiatives: from the appraisal of EU Regional development plans; the attention on rural development programmes as a new pillar in the Common Agricultural Policy; and, the promotion of direct environmental benefits.</p>

**E. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION**

<b>202.</b> Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention? (decision V/20)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
Further comments on the regional and subregional activities in which your country has been involved.	
<p>The European Commission actively participates in the EU Council Working Party on International Environmental Issues (WPIEI) biodiversity which is the body in which all 25 EU Member States and the European Commission prepare their coordinated position in advance of CBD meetings. All EU 25 and the EC speak with one voice at CBD COP meetings. The core objectives of the EU in preparation of CBD COP meetings and the main conclusions and follow-up actions are adopted through formal EU Council Conclusions or Decisions.</p> <p>As regards specific implementation of the Convention, since 2002, the EC has convened a Biodiversity Expert Group. The group meets at least twice per year to promote implementation of the EC Biodiversity Action Plans, monitor progress, promote complementarity with equivalent</p>	



Member State instruments and share relevant information. Membership is drawn from the relevant services of the Commission and one expert from each Member State of the EU.

In 2003, the EC undertook a major consultative process to assess the implementation, effectiveness and appropriateness of the European Community Biodiversity Strategy (ECBS) and its four Biodiversity Action Plans and to identify priorities towards meeting the 2010 commitments. This process culminated in the conference '*Biodiversity and the EU – Sustaining Life, Sustaining Livelihoods*' convened by the Irish Presidency on 25-27 May 2004 in Malahide, Ireland. 230 participants were drawn from 22 Member States and represented key stakeholders from the environmental, agriculture, fisheries, business and development communities.

**203.** Is your country strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, enhancing integration and promoting synergies with relevant regional and subregional processes? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>

Further comments on regional and subregional cooperation and processes.

The EU has been long been involved in strengthening regional processes through various legislative, policy and other actions. The Sixth Environmental Action Plan (EAP), '*Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice*', which sets out the EU's environmental policy agenda until 2012, highlights nature and biodiversity as a top priority, stating that responses must be found to the pressures from human activities on nature in Member States and the biodiversity it supports. Under the EU Sustainable Development Strategy launched by EU leaders in Gothenburg in 2001, halting the loss of biodiversity in the EU by 2010 is a priority.

See also next question

***The following question (204) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES***

**204.** Is your country supporting the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, included in existing cooperation frameworks (please provide details below)	<b>X</b>
d) Yes, some cooperative activities ongoing (please provide details below)	

Further comments on support for the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes.

The EC is a Party to all the major pan-European coordination mechanisms and networks associated with the conservation of biological diversity, e.g.:

- the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS)
- the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conferences
- the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)
- The Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

Outside the EU, the EC has considerable bilateral relations with regional and sub-regional processes and networks where the environment and biodiversity are on the agenda for discussion. These include ASEAN, Mercosur, and the African Union & NEPAD. The ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC) [website: [http://www.arcbc.org.ph/about\\_ARCBC.htm](http://www.arcbc.org.ph/about_ARCBC.htm)] is one major regional network promoting biodiversity conservation that has been supported by the EC.

<b>205.</b> Is your country working with other Parties to strengthen the existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) Yes	<b>X</b>

<b>206.</b> Has your country contributed to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	<b>X</b>
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on contribution to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms.	

**Box LXXIV.**

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of the above decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;</li> <li>b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;</li> <li>c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;</li> <li>d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;</li> <li>e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;</li> <li>f) constraints encountered in implementation.</li> </ul> <p>The EC, through its Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, is fully committed to the goals of the CBD and has targeted considerable financial resources to promote the operation of the Convention, both within the EU and globally, through its relations with other countries. The EC has set as its overarching target for the conservation of biological diversity to halt the decline of biodiversity by 2010. Considerable investment was made in 2003 to review progress in the implementation of the strategy and action plans, with the purpose of giving further impetus to achieving the 2010 targets. A new EC Communication on biodiversity will be published end 2005 – beginning of 2006, which is supposed to provide a road map for achieving the 2010 targets and indicate how actions can contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.</p>
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**F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT**

**Box LXXV.**

<p>Please provide below recommendations on how to improve this reporting format.</p> <p>The present reporting format places a disproportionate reporting burden on Parties. There remains considerable overlap and repetition between the different sections of the Report. The report would ideally focus much more on outcomes (achievements) using indicators and provide information that can be used in the development and review of CBD programmes. It should also provide better links between national, regional and global reporting on the status and trends of biodiversity.</p>
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