

**VOLUNTARY REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

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

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Date of submission:	29.10.2003

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

The initial draft of this report has been prepared in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The report has been thoroughly revised and accepted by the Working Group on the International Biodiversity Matters (Chair Mr. Jaakkola, Ministry of the Environment). Different government sectors and relevant stakeholders are represented in the Working Group.

The report has been approved by the National Biodiversity Committee of Finland (Chair. Mr. Kangas, Ministry of the Environment) which is a implementation and monitoring body with representatives of the civil society of the Finnish National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (1997-2005, NBSAP). Different government sectors and relevant stakeholders are represented in the Committee.

The Finnish Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity LUMONET
<http://www.ymparisto.fi/lumonet/>

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FOREST BIODIVERSITY**

**Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity
Annex to Decision VI/22**

1. Has your country identified priority goals, objectives and activities included in the expanded programme of work for implementation at the national level?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes (please provide a list of priorities identified)	X
Further comments on identification of priority goals, objectives and activities	
A detailed assessment of the implementation and further actions needed of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity (EPWFBD) in Finland is underway. During the work the relevance of proposed activities to Finland has also been assessed. A preliminary impression is that most proposed activities are of high or medium relevance to Finland. After the assessment has been finalised, it will be sent to the CBD secretariat for information.	
2. From the list of priorities, did some or all of them produce the expected impacts after their implementation (i.e. a success)?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	NA
b) yes (please specify success stories)	NA
Further comments on impacts of implementation of priority activities	
Many of the proposed activities have been carried out already before the introduction of the EPWFBD. However, Finland strongly feels that the time is immature to assess the impacts of the activities because the EPWFBD was launched only 1.5 years ago.	
3. Were there any challenges/impediments to the implementation of priority activities that could have negatively affected their chance of success?	
a) yes (please specify the activities and the main challenges/impediments)	NA
b) no	NA
Further comments on challenges/impediments to implementation of priority activities	
See answer in 2.	
4. Is your country collaborating with other Governments and regional and international organizations and processes to implement regional or international activities in the expanded programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited collaboration (please provide details)	
c) yes, significant collaboration (please provide details)	X
Further comments on collaboration with other Governments and regional and international organizations and processes to implement regional or international activities in the expanded programme of work	

Finland is actively participating in the Pan-European process of the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). In the latest Ministerial Conference in Vienna in April 2003 the participating countries adopted a resolution on "Conserving and Enhancing Forest Biological Diversity in Europe", which directly contributes to the implementation of the regional and international activities of the EPWFBD.

Forest biodiversity is dealt with within the European Union.

Forest biodiversity is also included in the agenda of the Baltic 21 Action Programme for Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region. It is a joint programme promoting sustainable development, emphasising regional development and focusing on seven economic sectors, including forests, spatial planning and education. Finnish-Baltic co-operation projects have been implemented under the Baltic 21 Action Programme on Forests. (For more information, see www.baltic21.org).

Furthermore, forest biodiversity is among the topics in the Nordic cooperation and in bilateral collaboration with Russia, the Baltic countries, Mexico, Brazil, Indonesia and in many development cooperation projects (see the answer to question 31).

Programme Element 1: Conservation, Sustainable Use and Benefit-sharing

5. Has your country developed practical methods, guidelines and/or indicators to apply the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) relevant methods, guidelines and indicators under development	
c) some methods, guidelines and indicators developed (please provide details)	X
d) a comprehensive set of methods, guidelines and indicators developed (please provide details)	
Further comments on the practical methods, guidelines and indicators to apply the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management	
<p>Finland submitted to the CBD secretariat a case study concerning the application of ecosystem approach in Finland in 2001. This case study described the landscape ecological forest planning method of Metsähallitus, which is state enterprise responsible for managing most of the state-owned forests in Finland. However, this should not be interpreted that landscape ecological forest planning is the only method of applying ecosystem approach in Finland. Finland concurs with the document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/8 on the relationship with the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management, namely that sustainable forest management can be considered as a means of applying the ecosystem approach to forests. A comprehensive set of practical guidelines and indicators on sustainable forest management have been developed and are being implemented. A detailed description of these have been included in Finland's thematic report on forest ecosystems (in 2001) and in the response to the questionnaire on the sustainable use of forest biological diversity (in 2003).</p>	
6. Has your country taken any measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, and mitigate their negative impacts on forest biodiversity in accordance with international law?	
a) no	
b) relevant measures under development	
c) yes-some measures taken (please outline the measures)	X
d) yes-comprehensive measures taken (please outline the measures)	
Further comments on the measures taken	

The impact of alien species on the boreal forest ecosystems of Finland has been minor so far. Detailed information on the introduced species in Finland was compiled by the Ministry of Environment, and published as a printed report "Alien Species in Finland" in 2000 and also through Finnish CHM (<http://www.vyh.fi/luosuo/lumo/lumonet/aliens.htm>). The Nordic "Introduced Species" report identifies over 1350 species that have been introduced either intentionally or unintentionally to the Nordic countries. The total number of alien species that are known to become established in the terrestrial ecosystems of Finland is ca. 600. Most (ca. 500) of these are plant species associated with old agriculture or roadside areas. None of the alien species has become a significant forest pest in Finland, nor is known to be displacing native forest-dwelling species up to the present. Section 43 of the Finnish Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996) restricts the introduction of non-native species into Finland. Non-native plant species are not to be planted or sown outside gardens, fields or other sites designated for special purposes. In accordance with the Hunting Act (615/1993, 1268/1993), wild bird or mammal species of foreign origin can not be imported or released in the wild without a permission of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The revised Plant Protection Act was ratified in 2003 and comes into force in 2004. It lays down provisions to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases of plants into Finland. A comprehensive Finnish Plant Protection Strategy is currently being composed by a working group and will probably be finalised in 2003.

7. Has your country taken any measures to mitigate the impact of pollution on forest biodiversity ?

a) no

b) under consideration

c) relevant measures under development

d) yes-some measures taken (please provide details)

e) yes-comprehensive measures taken (please provide details)

X

Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate the impact of pollution on forest biodiversity

Acid emissions – notably of nitrogen and sulphur – have decreased in the past 20 years owing to anti-air pollution measures. Sulphur emissions in Finland had dropped by more than 80 % in 1995 from 1980; the corresponding figure for nitrogen was 10 %. The reduction of nitrogen emissions was achieved by structural changes in industrial production, reduction of emissions from energy production, cuts in the use of industrial fuel oil, the shift towards the use of nuclear power, and improved production methods in the pulp and paper, metal and chemical industries. The reduction targets for sulphur emissions were achieved effectively. The targeted 30 % reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions is likely to be reached in 2004. However, reduction of national emissions of sulphur and nitrogen oxide has a relatively slight mitigating effect on acid deposition on the national level, since, for example, only 12 % of sulphur and 20 % of nitrogen deposition originate from Finland.

In the 1980's Finland had a large research project on effects of acidification on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (HAPRO). Since 1985, Finland has been participating in the International Cooperative Programme on the Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests), which is based on the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP). The health and vitality of forests are assessed annually on 460 permanent sample plots. The relationships between the condition of forests and atmospheric pollutants as well as other stress factors is monitored on 31 forest stands in various parts of the country.

According to the results of the Health Condition of Forests Research Programme (1992-96), the health of Finnish forests is satisfactory and there is no foreseeable immediate danger of deterioration, at least not due to pollutants of domestic origin. To date, the harmful effects of air pollution on forests have been slight, except for some local forest damage in the vicinity of industrial plants.

As the effects of air pollution on forest ecosystems are estimated to be of minor importance (particularly after reductions of emissions in recent past), special forest management techniques that reduce the impacts of changing environmental conditions have not been developed so far.

8. Has your country taken any measures to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant research and monitoring programmes under development	
c) some research and monitoring activities being undertaken but no measures taken	X
d) yes-some measures taken (please outline the measures)	
e) yes-comprehensive measures taken (please outline the measures)	
Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity	
<p>A lot of research has been done on forest biodiversity and climate change (studies on carbon sinks etc) related issues in Finland. Recently effort has been put into combining these two matters. For further information, see http://fibre.utu.fi/ and http://figare.utu.fi/notice.html.</p> <p>The EU-funded SilviStrat project studies adaptive management strategies to enhance carbon sequestration in the European forests and to mitigate adverse impacts of the global climate change on them. In Finland, University of Joensuu plays an active part in the project. Related to this project new ways to combine forest biodiversity consideration and climate change mitigation are sought. For more information, see http://www.efi.fi/projects/silvistrat, as well as http://www.ymparisto.fi/eng/research/projects/finsken/linkit.htm</p>	
9. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression (where fire is a natural disturbance agent)?	
a) no	
b) relevant measures being considered	
c) relevant measures under development	
d) yes-some measures undertaken (please specify)	X
e) yes-many measures being undertaken (please specify)	
Further comments on the measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression	
<p>Forest fires have stayed under control in Finland during the recent decades, owing to efficient fire control by authorities, the humid climate, and the relatively small amounts of dead wood in forests. In addition, fire is not used in the preparation of agricultural land and the prescribed burning is regulated in Finland. The average total area burnt per year was only 600 hectares in 1991-2000, and the average area burnt per fire was only 0,5 ha. However, as forest fires are a natural phenomenon in the succession of boreal forests, they have a positive effect on forest biodiversity. To compensate the diminishing area of burnt forests, it has been necessary to promote prescribed burning in suitable areas.</p>	

10. Is your country mitigating effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur?	
a) no	
b) monitoring and assessment of effects ongoing	X
c) potential measures identified	
d) yes-some adopted and being implemented (please provide details)	X
e) yes-comprehensive measures adopted and being implemented (please provide further details)	
Further comments on measures adopted to mitigate effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur	
<p>This theme is actively studied in recent biodiversity research programmes and many field experiment sites have been established, particularly in protected areas. These activities include both use of prescribed burning and increase of decaying wood in forest ecosystems by various techniques. In protected areas active restoration methods are already in many cases included in management plans, including in some cases whole forest stands. Some of these areas are intensively monitored to increase the knowledge on the effects of fire and other restoration practices on forest biodiversity.</p> <p>There are intentions to increase in longer term amount of decaying wood in commercial forests by leaving some retention trees and windfalls in logging areas. Also limited use of prescribed burning is recommended in connection with forest regeneration to enhance forest biodiversity. This has been done only in relatively small areas; altogether 2286 hectares of forest land were prepared using prescribed burning in 2001.</p>	
11. Is your country preventing and mitigating losses of forest biodiversity due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses?	
a) no	
b) potential measures identified	
c) yes-some measures undertaken	X
b) yes-comprehensive measures undertaken	
12. Is your country restoring forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes?	
a) no	
b) potential measures identified	
c) yes-some measures implemented in some areas (please provide details)	X
d) yes-comprehensive measures implemented in major areas (please provide details)	
Further comments on the measures to restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes	
<p>As part of the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland (METSO), the ecosystems on 33,000 hectares of conservation areas will be restored to as close to natural state as possible. The restoration work began at the end of 2002 and will be finished by the end of 2007. On mineral soils the restoration consists mainly of prescribed burning and increasing the number of decayed trees and small blanks in the forests. On marshland ditches are blocked in order to restore the hydrological conditions. In some cases some of tree stand is removed.</p>	

13. Is your country promoting forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species?	
a) no	
b) relevant forest management practices under development	
c) yes-some practices adopted and promoted (please provide details)	
d) yes-some practices being implemented (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species	
<p>The Ministry of the Environment is required to compile a protection programme for species that require special protection. The law prohibits the destruction of habitats necessary for the survival of protected species, as well as any other actions that might impair their conditions of existence.</p> <p>In commercial forests, the habitats of special importance to biodiversity are protected. The management and utilisation measures applied should be carried out in a manner that preserves the special features of the habitats.</p>	
14. Is your country ensuring adequate and effective protected forest area networks?	
a) no	
b) networks of protected areas being planned	
c) some protected areas established but networks not in place	
d) networks of protected areas taking shape	
e) major networks of protected areas established	X
<p>The proposal for the Finnish Natura 2000 network include more than 3,5 million hectares of terrestrial ecosystems, close to half of this being forests. This network has been evaluated to be unrepresentative for some forest types, especially in southern part of the country. The assessment on further need for forest conservation as well as research to find ways and means to enhance forest conservation on privately-owned land is underway.</p>	
15. Is your country promoting sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant policy and programme under development	
c) yes-some policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
d) yes-comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the policies and programmes for promoting sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biodiversity	
<p>Thorough description of policies and programmes concerning sustainable forest management has been included in Finland's Thematic Report on Forest Ecosystems (in 2001) and the reply to the questionnaire on the sustainable use of forest biological diversity.</p>	

16. Is your country preventing losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources?	
a) no	
b) potential measures identified	
c) some measures undertaken (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the measures to prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timbering forest resources	
<p>The principle of sustainable management and use of timber resources is integrated into forest policy and legislation and it is implemented through all forestry related programmes and action plans at different levels (for details see Finland's thematic report and reply on sustainable use).</p> <p>Traditionally, hunting laws in Finland have regulated the taking of game species in accordance with principle of sustainable management and use of forest resources. Moreover, Finnish hunting regulations were entirely reformed in 1993 to correspond closely to the principles of international agreements. In 1998, the Finnish Hunting Act was amended to accord with the European Commission's Bird and Habitat Directives.</p> <p>Reindeer husbandry is regulated by reindeer husbandry legislation, which was passed for the first time in the 1930s. The current Reindeer Husbandry Act dates from 1990. The reindeer husbandry area is located in the northernmost areas of Finland and it covers around one-third of the entire area of the country. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry stipulates the maximum permitted number of reindeer based on what the feeding grounds can sustain.</p> <p>All people in Finland have right to use forests for recreational purposes. The traditional public right of access bestows on all people a free right to use land owned by others for such activities as hiking and picking wild berries and mushrooms. Only a small proportion of the production of wild berries and mushrooms are collected annually.</p>	
17. Is your country taking any measure to enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) not applicable	
c) relevant policy and programme under development	
d) yes-some policies and programmes in place (please specify)	X
Further comments on the policies and programmes to enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity	
<p>According to the Reindeer Husbandry Act (1990), Metsähallitus (which manages State lands) must negotiate with the Sami before any action that may affect reindeer husbandry. The Act on Metsähallitus (1993) also states that natural resource management in the Sami Homeland area (the areas of the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari, Utsjoki and a part of Sodankylä in northern Lapland) must be done in a way that does not cause harm to the traditional livelihood and culture of the Sami.</p> <p>The Action Plan for the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland (METSO) includes projects on local cooperation between forest owners so as to safeguard natural values in more extensive areas. Such networks could also include other local bodies.</p> <p>Several adult education and study centres as well as folk high schools offer courses, study programmes and other education related to forests. Forest information is also made available in books and other printed publications, on the Internet, and in magazines published by various forestry organisations, NGOs and interest groups. Efforts to increase forest-related knowledge and skills among children and young people have been increased in recent years.</p>	

18. Has your country developed effective and equitable information systems and strategies and promoted implementation of those strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant information system and strategy under development	
c) relevant information system in place	
d) relevant strategies in place (please provide details)	
e) relevant information system and strategies in place (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity	
<p>The National Plant Genetic Resources Programme for Agriculture and Forestry was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 2001. The Finnish Forest Research Institute has been appointed to the implementation of the programme regarding to forest trees. The genetic resources of main tree species are secured mainly in gene reserve forests (currently about 7 000 hectares) and <i>ex situ</i> collections. Nature conservation areas and breeding populations of forest tree species complement the network of gene reserve forests. The main task in the near future is to complete the network of gene reserve forests and to double <i>ex situ</i> collections of noble hardwoods.</p> <p>The Nordic countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland) have close co-operation in conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources. The official Nordic co-operation is co-ordinated by the Nordic Gene Resource Board (NGR) with mandate of the Nordic Council of Ministers. In the framework of the Nordic Council of Minister's "Strategy of Conservation of Genetic Resources in the Nordic Region 2001-2004", a Nordic Network for Forest Gene Conservation was launched in 2003 by the Nordic Council for Forest Reproductive materials (NSFP). The main objective of the network is to promote exchange of data and knowledge and to increase general awareness on the importance of management and sustainable use of genetic resources.</p> <p>As part of the Finnish Biodiversity Research Programme 1997-2002 (FIBRE), a research project "Maintenance of Genetic Diversity in Fragmented Boreal Forests" was carried out (see http://fibre.utu.fi/final/summary.pdf).</p> <p>Special conservation programmes to protect the most threatened ecosystems have been launched, namely the Mire Conservation Programme and the Herb-Rich Forest Conservation Programme, Programme for the Protection of Old-growth Forests, Waterfowl habitats Conservation Programme and Shore Conservation Programme.</p>	

19. Is your country promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge?	
a) no	
b) relevant policies and programmes under development	
c) some policies and programmes in place (please specify)	X
d) comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please specify)	
Further comments on the policies and programmes for promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge	
<p>At the moment, Finnish legislation does not contain any provisions on the ownership of natural genetic resources. The Penal Code lists those natural products which, under provisions on public right of access, may be freely gathered, even if these products are found on private land.</p> <p>An Advisory Board for Management and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources will be appointed by the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 2003. The Advisory Board will follow the implementation of international commitments and national strategies related to management and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.</p>	

If your country wishes to provide additional information on implementation of this programme element, please do this in the following space

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Programme Element 2: Institutional and Socio-economic Enabling Environment

20. Is your country improving the understanding of the various causes of forest biodiversity losses?	
a) no	
b) a limited analysis being undertaken	
c) a thorough analysis being undertaken	
d) yes-some analyses completed and results available (please outline some findings from these analyses)	
e) yes-comprehensive analysis completed and results available (please provide some findings from these analyses)	X
Further comments on the analysis of the various causes of forest biodiversity losses	
<p>Relevant scientific information is provided by research programmes (e.g. Finnish Biodiversity Research Programme FIBRE, 1997-2002; research programme for diversity of forest, agricultural and aquatic ecosystems MOSSE 2003-2006), universities and research institutes. The threats to Finnish animal and plant species, including the threatened species living in protected areas, have been thoroughly assessed in the three subsequent, comprehensive red data books. Nationwide analyses of the threats to different habitat types have been conducted as part of the habitat conservation programmes.</p> <p>Latest comprehensive analysis was done in connection with the National Forest Programme 2010, when the adequacy of protection measures in the forests of southern Finland and Ostrobothnia region was assessed in 2000 by a working group appointed by the Ministry of the Environment. The group confirmed that the most important causes of forest biodiversity losses have been the drastic decrease of forest fires, losses of the diversity of forest structures, large-scale drainage of wetlands, decrease and fragmentation of natural forests, and the drastic decrease of decayed wood in forests. Based on the findings and recommendations of the working group the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland (METSO) was launched.</p>	
21. Has your country integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) yes-integrated into policies and programmes in some sectors (please provide details)	
d) yes-integrated into policies and programmes in major sectors (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes	

The importance of the maintenance of biodiversity has been included in the Constitution of Finland, which states that responsibility for the environment and wildlife, for their diversity and for our cultural heritage is shared by all. Furthermore, forest biodiversity is one of the priority areas in the Finnish Government's Programme for Sustainable Development, in the National Action Plan for Biodiversity in Finland and in the Finland's National Forest Programme (NFP) 2010. The Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland METSO 2003-2007 addresses specifically forest biodiversity.

The implementation reports of the National Action Plan (1997-1999, 2000-2001) for Biodiversity in Finland stresses the importance of integration of biodiversity into all sectors in society. In order to monitor the implementation of both the National action plan and the CBD, the Ministry of the Environment has set up a broad based monitoring group, along with two expert groups covering the sustainable use, and research, monitoring and information systems.

Current legislation requirements for taking biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into consideration are important, as the renewal of the Water Act, the Penal Code, and the Genetic Technological Act. The Land Use and Building Act highlights the importance of integrating transport planning and land use planning (See more also answer 22).

22. Has your country developed good governance practices, reviewed and revised and implemented forest and forest-related laws, tenure and planning systems, to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity?

a) no	
b) review under way	
c) review and revision completed	
d) some good governance practices and related laws developed and implemented (please provide details)	
e) a comprehensive set of practices and laws developed and implemented (please provide details)	X

Further comments on the practices and laws developed and implemented to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity

The new Nature Conservation Act, which came into force in 1997, is the most important legislative measure related to the conservation of biological diversity.

Finland's central forestry legislation has been thoroughly reformed in the 1990s to implement the decisions of the UNCED: (i) Act on Forest and Park Service (1994), (ii) Act on Forest Centres and Forestry Development Centre (1996), (iii) Forest Act (1997), (vi) Act on the Financing Sustainable Forestry (1997), (v) Act on Forest Management Associations (1998), (vi) Act on Jointly Owned Forests (2003).

The principle of sustainable use in hunting is old and has been traditionally included in hunting laws. Moreover, Finnish hunting laws were entirely reformed in 1993 to correspond closely to the principles of international agreements. In 1998, Finnish hunting regulations were amended to accord with the European Union's Bird and Habitat Directives.

The Act on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Procedure came into force in 1994. The aim of the act is to promote the assessment of environmental impacts, develop consistency in planning and decision making, and enhance the accessibility of information and opportunities for public participation in decision making. The Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure obliges that EIA have to be performed for projects of large scale. In addition to that, according to the Land Use and Building Act, which came into force in 2000, environmental, social, communal, economic, cultural and other impacts of all new land use plans have to be assessed.

The participatory approach involving all relevant sectors and stakeholders is used at national and sub-national levels in the formulation of policies, programmes and action plans.

In Finland land tenure was defined in the general parcelling out of land done in the 18th and 19th century. At present, 61 % of forest land is owned by non-industrial private forest owners, 9 % by companies, 25 % by State (governed by Metsähallitus) and 5 % by others.

Many of the indigenous Sami people are private land owners. However, 90 % of the Sami Homeland area, which means the areas of the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari, Utsjoki and part of Sodankylä in northern Lapland, is owned by the State. There is a prolonged dispute related to the land rights in this area.

23. Is your country promoting forest law enforcement and addressing related trade?

a) no	
b) review under way	
c) potential measures identified	
d) yes-some measures in place to strengthen law enforcement and address related trade	
e) yes-comprehensive measures in place to strengthen law enforcement and address related trade	X

Illegal activities as well as the procedures for punishments have been clearly defined in the Penal Code, the Nature Conservation Act, the Forest Act and the Hunting Act. Regional Environment Centres have the responsibility to enforce the Nature Conservation Act, while Regional Forest Centres do the same concerning the Forest Act and Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry.

The police, border stations, customs authorities and game wardens of game management associations supervise the observance of the Hunting Act in their respective territories. In addition, the land owner, who is the hunting right holder has the right to monitor that the provisions of the Act are followed, In the case of state forests, the supervision is done by the officers of Metsähallitus.

Major Finnish forest industry companies which import timber from Russia and the Baltic region have voluntarily established chain of custody systems, which enable the tracking of the origin of timber.

24. Is your country mitigating the economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) potential measures identified	
d) yes-some measures taken (please provide details)	X
e) yes-comprehensive measures taken (please provide details)	
Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biodiversity	
The Government has not granted financial support for forest ditching since 1992, financial support is now only granted for renovation ditching. Financial support for general forest fertilisation has not been granted since 1992, support is granted only for remedial fertilisation. However, more research is needed on perverse incentives.	
25. Is your country increasing public support and understanding of the value of forest biodiversity and its goods and services at all levels?	
a) no	
b) relevant programme under development	
c) yes-some programmes in place	
d) yes-comprehensive programmes in place	X

If your country wishes to provide additional information on implementation of this programme element, please do this in the following space

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Programme Element 3: Knowledge, Assessment and Monitoring

26. Has your country reviewed and adopted a minimum forest classification system, based on harmonized and accepted forest definitions and addressing key forest biodiversity elements?	
Comment: The Objective 1 of Goal 1 under Programme Element 3 refers to review and adaptation of harmonized GLOBAL to REGIONAL forest classification system. Consequently all proposed activities should be implemented in international collaboration, not by individual countries.	
a) no	NA
b) review under way	NA
c) review completed	NA
d) a forest classification system adopted	NA
27. Has your country developed national forest ecosystem classification systems and maps that use agreed international standards and protocols?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes-classification systems in place	X
28. Has your country developed specific forest ecosystems surveys in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) relevant surveys being planned	
d) relevant surveys completed (please provide details)	
e) results of relevant surveys available (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the surveys of specific forest ecosystems in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity	
<p>The Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996) lists several important protected forest habitat types. It is prohibited to alter any of these natural habitat types in such a way as to jeopardize the preservation of the characteristic features of the area in question: Wild woods rich in broad-leafed deciduous species, hazel woods, common alder woods, wooded meadows, and prominent single trees or groups of trees in an open landscape. The more detailed provisions on natural habitat types and monitoring are enacted by decree.</p> <p>The Forest Act lists seven habitat groups where rare and endangered species may occur. Sites covered by the Act include, for example, small water bodies and the forest stands adjacent to them, small swamps, patches of herb-rich forest, small mineral land islets surrounded by mires in a natural state and is clearly distinguishable from their surroundings, the management and utilization measures applied shall be carried out in a manner that preserves the valuable habitats. A comprehensive survey of these potential important habitats has been carried out.</p>	

29. Is your country advancing the development and implementation of international, regional and national criteria and indicators based on key regional, subregional and national measures within the framework of sustainable forest management?	
a) no	
b) relevant programme under development	
c) some criteria and indicators developed (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive indicators developed (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the development and implementation of criteria and indicators	
<p>The Pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management developed within the follow-up of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe provided a framework for the development of national criteria and indicators. The six Pan-European criteria were taken as terms for sustainable forest management of Finland's forests. In the process the set of Pan-European indicators was complemented with, in particular, indicators concerning biological diversity and socio-economic functions of forests. The first report describing the Finnish forests and forestry by using criteria and indicators was completed and published in 1997.</p> <p>Revising and further development of the Finnish criteria and indicators was initiated in August 1998 as new scientific information and practical experience of their applicability were available and it was important to take into account the recent development of international forestry processes (e.g. IPF/IFF proposals, the Lisbon Resolution L2). Representatives from 13 different organisations such as ministries, research organisations, forest industries, forest owners, universities and non-governmental environmental organisations took part in this work. The work was finalised at the beginning of 2001, when the report "The State of Forests in Finland 2000 - Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Finland" was published (see www.mmm.fi/english/publications).</p>	
30. Has your country conducted key research programmes on the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?	
a) no	
b) research programs under development	
c) yes-some research programs conducted	
d) yes-comprehensive research programs conducted	X

31. Is your country enhancing and improving the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biodiversity, benefiting from the opportunities offered through the Clearing House Mechanism of CBD?	
a) no	
b) capacity building programme under development	
c) yes-some programmes in place (please provide details)	X
d) yes-comprehensive programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on the programmes to enhance and improve the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biodiversity	
<p>Activities related to forest biodiversity have been included in the following development cooperation projects and programmes funded by Finland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - East Usambara Conservation Area Management Programme, Tanzania (1990-2003) - Creation of national strategy for biodiversity in the Amazon region, including biodiversity database (SIAMAZONIA), Support to sustainable management of Allpahuayo-Mishana Reserve (2003). - Cooperation in forest conservation and sustainable development in Brazil, the creation, trial and dissemination of a replicable model of sustainable development for nature conservation (2003). - Forest corridors, an alternative approach for the Golden Lion Tamarin habitat restoration in Brazil (2002). - Project of participative management and conservation of biodiversity in Ecuador, Conservation of biodiversity at the Alto Choco Biological Reserve's mountain cloud forests area (2002-2003). - Development and support project for the Itatiaia National Park in Brazil, to improve and develop the Itatiaia national park to receive nature-tourism in ecologically sustainable way and to renovate the surrounding areas of the park and promote environmental protection (2002-2003). 	

If your country wishes to provide additional information on implementation of this programme element, please do this in the following space

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