GEORGIA

Second National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural resources

NACRES - Species Conservation Centre

Contents

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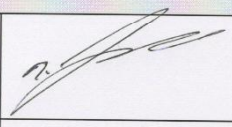
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
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Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation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

This report was elaborated with the support of Global Environment Facility (GEF) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through the project "Assistance in Biodiversity Capacity Building, Participation in the Mechanism of Biodiversity Resource Centre, Preparation of the Second and Third National Reports for the Convention on Biological Diversity". The project has been implemented by the Centre for the Conservation of Species NACRES in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia.

Georgia received financial assistance to prepare the second and third national reports for the Biodiversity Convention in 2008. However, it was unable to follow the terms of submission of those reports as defined by the resolutions of the conference of the Parties (Resolution V/19 and VII/25). Through the present project it was possible to implement the necessary consultations and research, so that the reports fully reflect the processes on the national level for the implementation of the resolutions and articles of the Convention.

The report describes the implementation of the Convention up to 2001; hence, it describes actions and their results until that year, the background situation at that period and the problems in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

The elaboration of the National Report was coordinated by NACRES. The following experts were involved:

- Anna Rukhadze, biodiversity expert (in charge of the elaboration of the document);
- Irakli Macharashvili, Association "Green Alternative" (forest biodiversity);
- Gia Sofadze, Professor of Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (scientific research and cooperation, staff training, education);

In the process of elaborating the document consultations and interviews were held with representatives of the following departments, scientific research institutions and NGOs:

State Agencies:

- The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources;
    - The Department of Integrated Management of the Environment;
    - Inspection of Environmental Protection;
    - Agency of Protected Areas;
    - Forest Department;
    - The Department of International Relations and Environmental Policy;
- The Ministry of Agriculture;
- The Ministry of Education and Science.

Scientific Research Institutes and Educational Institutions:

- Tbilisi Botanical Gardens and the Institute of Botany;
- Batumi Botanical Garden;

- The Institute of Zoology;
- Kanchaveli Institute of Plant Protection;
- Gulisashvili Forest Institute;
- The Institute of Agriculture;
- The Institute of Gardening, Vine-Growing and Wine-Production;
- Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University;
- Chavchavadze Tbilisi State University;
- Georgian Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Non-Governmental Organizations:

- WWF Caucasian Representation;
- IUCN South Caucasian Office;
- Georgian Centre for the Conservation of Wildlife (GCCW);
- The Association of Field Researchers CAMPESTER;
- Elkana: Association of Biological Farms;
- Centre for Sustainable Tourism;
- Caucasian Branch of the International Agricultural Research Consultation Group.

From data obtained through consultations and interviews, the first draft of the document was elaborated in Georgian, which was submitted for discussion to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. The final version of the document reflected their comments and recommendations.

The quality of the National Report was evaluated by a special group formed at the Centre for the Conservation of Species (NACRES). The following documents were used in the process of the elaboration of the report:

- The First National Program of Environmental Protection Action Plan of Georgia, 2000;
- Rio+10, National Assessment Report for Sustainable Development, 2002;
- Biodiversity of the Caucasus Ecoregion, An Analysis of Biodiversity and Current Threats and Initial Investments Portfolio, WWF, 2001;
- Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot, Ecosystem Profile, CEPF, 2003;
- Caucasus Environmental Outlook, CEO, GRID- Tbilisi 2002;
- Georgian Biodiversity Protection Strategy and Action plan, 2005;
- Capacity-Building Strategy and Action Plan in the field of Biodiversity Protection , Climatic Change and Combat Desertification , Self-Assessment of the Georgian capacity-Building Needs for Global Environmental Protection, GEF/UNDP, The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, 2005;
- An Ecoregion Conservation Plan for the Caucasus, 2006;
- Status Review of the Biodiversity Conservation in the Caucasus: Achieving C2010 Goals, Georgia; and Conference report "Message from Gudauri~, Launching the Countdown 2010 in the Caucasus, IUCN, GCCW, 2006;
- Biodiversity Conservation Priorities for 2007-2011, working materials for the Second National Program of Environmental Protection, UNDP, L. Butkhuzi, 2007;
- The Project of the Second National Program of Environmental Protection, Georgia (2008-2012), The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, UNDP;
- The Government of Georgia, Key Data and Directions (BDD);

- The Annual Reports of The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources (2001-2006).
- National Reports on the State of the Environment (2001-2005).
- Millennium Development Goals in Georgia, 2004;
- The Program of Povertry Reduction and Economic Development of Georgia, 2003;
- The Indicative Plan of Social and Economic Development of Georgia, 2001-2005;
- Georgia, Country Profile, UN, Johannesburg summit, 2002;
- Environmental Management in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. OECD, 2005;
- Environmental Performance Reviews, GEORGIA, UN Economic commission for Europe, Committee on Environmental Policy, 2003.

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

The biodiversity of Georgia is important from the national, regional and global points of view. Georgia, as part of the Caucasian ecoregion, is recognized as one of the "hot spots" of biodiversity (Conservation International). There is a long-standing experience of wildlife protection which includes formation of protected areas and management of natural resources. The first nature reserve was established in Georgia in 1912 in Lagodekhi. In the Soviet period (1925-1991) 14 reserves were established in Georgia, which makes up 2.4% of the country's territory.

After the declaration of political independence in 1991 Georgia became actively involved in international processes for environmental protection, global ecological safety and sustainable development. The country became a member of numerous international conventions and agreements concerning environmental protection and made its first steps towards the implementation of the commitments under the above-mentioned documents. The commitment to protect natural and cultural values was reflected in the Constitution of Georgia (1995), which states that "Every person has the right to live in a healthy environment and use the natural and cultural environment; every person is obliged to take care of the natural and cultural environment." To ensure an environment that is safe for human health, and which envisages the ecological and economic interests of society and the interests of present and future generations, the State ensures environmental protection and rational use of natural resources. Important legislative changes have been made to ensure the protection of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources. However, the downturn of the economy in the 1990s and increasing poverty have caused increased pressure on the environment. The system of State control was weak thus the illegal use of natural resources was frequent.

By 2001, against a background of acute problems like loss of territorial integrity, the energy crisis, poverty, increased social vulnerability and a lack of adequate law enforcement, the State and the society at large attached low priority to issues like biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Despite these challenges, The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and NGOs make efforts to implement significant activities to ensure environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources. These efforts aim to enhance international cooperation, elaborate appropriate legal bases and strategic documents, and to reform and develop the system of protected areas.

For the implementation of the above-mentioned activities, the participation of international organizations and donors is very important, as the country is unable to adequately finance biodiversity conservation activities.

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

Marine and coastal biological diversity

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

Agricultural biological diversity

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

Forest biological diversity

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

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

9. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	
b) Medium	X

c) Low	
d) Not relevant	
10. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

The discussion of the these work programs and the definition of their priorities on the national level have not taken place yet. The existing draft of the Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan distinguishes the conservation of agricultural biodiversity as a separate component, whereas the issues of conservation of humid, arid and semi-arid ecosystems and biodiversity conservation are reflected in various components like the development of protected areas., species and habitats, as well as hunting and fishing.

At the initiative of NGOs and with the support of The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and various donors, several projects have been implemented or are currently under way. They are carrying out activities on the national level that target internal waters, arid and semi-arid ecosystems and agricultural biodiversity protection.

In 1999 the Kolkheti protected areas were established in Georgia. These territories include coastal peat marshes, lowland forests and Black Sea aquatoria. The conservation of these ecosystems is supported by the project of Integrated Coastal Zone Management of Georgia, to introduce efficient integrated methods of management of marine and coastal resources.

In Georgia forests occupy 40% of the entire territory and are extremely important for the country's economy. They also represent significant habitats for biodiversity conservation. Projects to develop the forest sector and protected areas.are currently being elaborated. These will help implement the decisions of the Forest Biodiversity Work Program and Convention, although there are no clear conceptual links between the project of the development of forest sector and the national implementation of the commitments under Biodiversity Convention.

Article 5 Cooperation

11. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
12. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
11-12. Georgia's problems in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use require integrated and comprehensive attitude and significant funding, which are limited in Georgia, since this is a country with an economy in transition. In this context, international cooperation is very significant, as it ensures the availability of funding, experience and technologies. In this direction, Georgia closely cooperates with Global Environmental Foundation (GEF), United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), The World Bank, other international funding institutions, EU TACIS program, German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, US Agency for International Development (USAID). One of the important elements of international cooperation is Georgia's participation in multilateral, regional and bilateral environmental protection agreements. In the years 1994-2001 Georgia joined all global conventions in the biodiversity field, it also joined Bonn Convention regional agreements. All this has influenced Georgian policies of environmental protection and the elaboration of relative action plans. However, on the national level the introduction of the requirements of the above agreements occurs slowly, especially for those agreements that have no financial mechanisms.

13. Is your country actively cooperating with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
b) international programmes (please give details below)	X
c) international agreements (please give details below)	X

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

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

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

15. Has your country developed management practices for transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	X

b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

Decision V/21. Co-operation with other bodies

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

13. In 1994-2001 Georgia joined the following conventions in the field of biodiversity protection: The Convention on Biodiversity, ratified by Georgia in 1994; The Convention on international trade in endangered wild fauna and flora species (CITES, joined in 1996); The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR), joined in 1996); The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), joined in 2000). Since 2001 Georgia is also part of the following agreements under Bonn Convention: The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA); The Agreement on the Conservation of Cataceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS); Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (Eurobats). In 1994 Georgia signed a memorandum on the conservation of the slender-billed curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris)*.

Apart from the these, Georgia is signatory to the following environmental protection conventions: The Bucharest Convention on the protection of the Black Sea from Pollution (since 1992), The UN Convention on Climate Change (since 1994), The Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL, since 1994), the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer (since 1995), the

UN Convention to Combat Desertification (since 1999), Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention, since 1999), The Convention on the Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention, since 2001).

Georgia has signed bilateral cooperation agreements in environmental protection with the following countries: Turkey (1997), Kazakhstan (1996), Armenia (1997), Azerbaijan (1997), Turkmenistan (1997), Uzbekistan (1995), and Ukraine (1993). Most of all, these agreements envisage cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

In 1998 an Agreement was signed between the Governments of Georgia and Germany on financial cooperation for the project "Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources: the National Park of Borjomi and Kharagauli". Through this agreement, Georgia received financial assistance for the creation of the first National Park in Georgia that would correspond to international criteria.

In 1995 an agreement was signed between the Governments of Georgia and Ukraine for cooperation in the field of fish-farming, preservation of living resources of the Black Sea and the reproduction, optimal use and activity management. Within Agreement, joint research is implemented to assess the stock of fish resources in the Black Sea.

Being part of the Caucasian ecoregion, Georgia cooperates with its neighboring states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Russian Federation) in the field of biodiversity conservation. The ecoregion of the Caucasus is considered one of the 25 richest and most endangered ecosystems ("Hotspot" according to Conservation International). It is among the 200 most vulnerable ecoregions (WWF). Under WWF leadership and with the support of the MacArthur Foundation, Caucasian biodiversity conservation priorities were defined, an investment strategy elaborated, and a Caucasian ecoregion conservation plan is currently being elaborated.

In 1992 Georgia ratified the Bucharest Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea.Against Pollution. In 1993 Georgia signed the Odessa Declaration for Black Sea Protection; in 1996 Georgia signed the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of the Black Sea. Georgia was represented in the Istanbul Committee of the Convention of Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution and participates in the work teams of this Committee. Georgia took part in the implementation of the Black Sea Environmental Protection program of GEF (BSEP) and the Program of Technical Assistance in the Black Sea Environmental Protection TACIS Program. A regional center of Black Sea Biodiversity functions in Georgia, which is one of the thematic centers founded through BSEP in all the six Black Sea Basin Countries.

Georgia is involved in the initiative "Environment for Europe" through activities such as the elaboration of an agreement on the protection and sustainable use of Caucasian highlands; the preparation for the 5th Pan-European conference of the Ministers of Environmental Protection; and implementation of the Central and East European Action Plan.

Georgia supported the establishment of the Caucasian Regional Center for Environmental Protection. The agreement for its establishment was signed by Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in 1999 with the support of an EU TACIS program. Financial and technical assistance were obtained from the Governments of Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and the USA. The Caucasian Center for Environmental Protection, located in Tbilisi supports the development of regional cooperation between South Caucasian states in the fields of environmental protection, the support of sustainable development, public awareness and participation. The Center plays an important role in the solution of transboundary water problems.

14. Bilateral agreements with Armenia and Azerbaijan include provisions concerning the coordinated management of the basins of transboundary rivers. In response to the interest of the Governments of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan for sustainable regulation of transboundary rivers USAID started a programme entitled "Management of Water Resources in the South Caucasus" in 2000. This project aims at enhancing dialogue between the states of the South Caucasus for sustainable management of water resources. The project supports monitoring water resources, management planning for the Alazani and Khrami-Debeda River basins, and discussions on institutional and legal issues for water resource policy.

In 2001 a conference was organized by Caucasian Regional Center for Environmental Protection entitled "Sustainable Management of Water Resources in South Caucasus". At the conference Georgian Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources introduced an initiative to elaborate a regional project on the prevention of the degradation of the environment along the Mtkvari and Araksi River basins. This initiative was supported by the UNDP office in Georgia and the project "Reduction of the Degradation of the Basins of the Transboundary Rivers Mtkvari-Araksi" was implemented.

The NGO NACRES implemented a project entitled "Conservation of Vertebrate Biodiversity in the Transboundary Regions of South Caucasus" to enhance cooperation for the conservation of migratory species. Currently this organization is implementing the "Conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in South Caucasus" project (GEF/UNDP). This project aims to gain greater protection of arid ecosystems and their species in the Mtkvari and Iori transboundary zones through sustainable management of biodiversity resources.

15. For several years now, a Georgian representation of WWF International has been working towards establishing a transboundary protected area in the Eastern Caucasus. This will increase coordinated functioning of reserves on the border areas of Zakatala (Azerbaijan), Lagodekhi (Georgia) and managed reserve of Tliarati (Daghestan, Russian Federation). In 1999 Georgia and Azerbaijan signed "A Document on the Mutual Coordination of Functioning of the Protected Areas of East Caucasus". However, due to a lack of funding, concrete activities towards the establishment of transboundary protected area have not begun.

17. While preparing for the national assessment of sustainable development (elaborated with the financial support of UNDP, the government of the Netherlands and Capacity 21 in 2002), critical national sustainable development issues were discovered. These include planning of spatial development/cadastre, energy security and the impact of transit transportation on sustainable use. The report pays little attention to the role of biodiversity preservation and sustainable use in the sustainable development of the country. However, one of the chapters of the document is dedicated to the drawbacks that affect biodiversity conservation activities e.g. establishing protected areas. The report includes recommendations on the activities to be implemented. One recommendation refers to the adoption of legal acts that would ensure the inclusion of biodiversity conservation issues in the plan of territorial-spatial development of the country.

Article 6 General measures for conservation and sustainable use

18. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	

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

18-19. The development of a Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan began in 1998. Currently a draft of the document has been finalized. In May 2000, through a decree of the President of Georgia, the first National Environmental Protection Action Plan was approved (NEAP) for the years 2000-2004. This defines key problems and priorities in biodiversity. However, the topics are not laid out in detail in the NEAP since the Biodiversity Protection Strategy and Action Plan (BPSAP) is under preparation as a separate document.

These two documents were elaborated under the funding of international organizations (GEF, The World Bank). Besides, creating these documents implicates financial assistance from international organizations and donor countries, as, due to the financial hardships in the country, it is unlikely that the State will contribute to the implementation of the activities under the given documents.

20. What is the status of your national biodiversity strategy (6a)?	
a) none	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) completed1	
e) completed and adopted2	
f) reports on implementation available	
21. What is the status of your national biodiversity action plan (6a)?	
a) none	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) completed2	
e) completed and adopted2	
f) reports on implementation available	
22. Do your national strategies and action plans cover all articles of the Convention (6a)?	
a) some articles only	

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

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

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

24. Is action being taken to exchange information and share experience on the national action planning process with other Contracting Parties?	
a) little or no action	X
b) sharing of strategies, plans and/or case-studies	
c) regional meetings	
25. Do all of your country's strategies and action plans include an international cooperation component?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
26. Are your country's strategies and action plans coordinated with those of neighbouring countries?	
a) no	X
b) bilateral/multilateral discussions under way	
c) coordinated in some areas/themes	
d) fully coordinated	
e) not applicable	
27. Has your country set measurable targets within its strategies and action plans?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	

If a developing country Party or a Party with economy in transition -	
28. Has your country received support from the financial mechanism for the preparation of its national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, which was the Implementing Agency (UNDP/UNEP/World Bank)?	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

20-21, 28. The elaboration of a Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan started in 1998 with the support of Global Environmental Foundation (GEF). The first draft of the document has been elaborated. The work on these documents is coordinated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia. The following organizations are also involved: Center for the Conservation of Species (NACRES), Georgian Reserved Territories Program, Biological Farms Association Elkana, forestry specialists, experts from the Academy of Sciences and various Universities.

22. The draft of the Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) includes the majority of Articles of the Convention on Biodiversity. Taking into account the state of biodiversity in the country and threats to biodiversity, the following issues are covered by the document: financial-economic program, protected areas, species and habitats, monitoring, hunting and fishing, agriculture and conservation of agricultural biodiversity, biotechnology and biological safety, environmental education, public awareness and public involvement, legislative and institutional aspects.

23. Biodiversity issues are reflected poorly or are not covered at all in the plans of the country's social-economic development or sectoral programs. The integration of environmental protection policy in general is at an early stage and developing slowly. Cooperation between the sectoral agencies is weak. In the sectoral ministries there are units responsible for environmental protection, but they have no appropriate authorizations and responsibilities. However, environmental protection issues have started to appear in the development plans of various sectors, e.g. the program for economic development and poverty reduction, currently being elaborated. This addresses environmental problems like excessive consumption of biological resources.

According to the indicative plan for social-economic development of Georgia for 2001-2005 (the key policy document of the country's development), the main directions of protection of the environment

and biological resources are:

- integration of environmental protection issues in the process of the country's social-economic development,
- elaboration of relative legislation,
- protection and sustainable use of natural resources,
- improvement of the ecological examination,
- enhancement of international relations,
- improvement of the quality of fresh and surface waters,
- increase of the ecological awareness of the public.

The first environmental protection program of Georgia defined the priority actions in various fields (transportation, energy, forestry, agriculture). However, the environmental protection actions under these doceuments are not reflected in the development plans of the respective sectors. "The State Program of Development of Forestry in Georgia" (1997-2005) states that the key principle of development of the forest sector is the preservation of forest biodiversity and sustainable use of wood resources, but the document does not define adequate measures for implementation.

25. Implementation of activities under the First National Program of Environmental Protection (NEAP) is planned in cooperation with and based on the financial assistance of international organizations (GEF, UNDP, UNEP, TACIS, WWF) and donor countries (Germany, Holland). NEAP, however, does not cover the issues of cooperation for the protection of the Black Sea ecoregion and its biodiversity.

27. The draft of the Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan covers a range of activities for each strategic purpose, as well as indicators of their success, in case success is quantifiable.

29. The implementation of the obligations of all the conventions on the national level is coordinated by the Biodiversity Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, hence, the contact persons of the Conventions have the possibility to cooperate and exchange information.

Article 7 Identification and monitoring

30. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X

31. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

30-31. The identification of priority habitats and ecosystems for conservation was greatly assisted by the activities for the development of protected areas in Georgia. Currently, the most important areas in this regard are identified and they are being joined to the system of protected areas.

Taxonomic research has a long-standing tradition in Georgia, and species content of flora and fauna is well-studied. The key objective is to identify the current state of the majority of species, as recent events such as the economic crisis and low level of law enforcement have seriously affected biodiversity. "The Red Book" of Georgia needs to be updated, as the last version was published in 1982. There are no unified criteria and categories for the assessment of the state of plant species. "The Law on Wildlife" defines categories and criteria for attaching the status of protection to animal species. Through a study program of Georgian biodiversity, the lists of species and their conservation status were identified for the majority of vertebrate species.

Due to a lack of funding and human resources including field workers, monitoring specialists, database and management specialists, no activities have been launched to create a unified national system of biodiversity monitoring. Funding for scientific research institutes is very poor so biodiversity research is minimal. Such projects are chiefly implemented by NGOs with international financial support.

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

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

Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment

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

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

47. Is your country actively involved in co-operating with other countries in your region in the field of indicators, monitoring and assessment?	
a) no	
b) limited co-operation	X
c) extensive co-operation on some issues	
d) extensive co-operation on a wide range of issues	
48. Has your country made available case studies concerning the development and implementation of assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes?	
a) no	X
b) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
c) yes – through the national CHM	
d) yes – other means (please specify)	
49. Is your country assisting other Parties to increase their capacity to develop indicator and monitoring programmes?	
a) no	X
b) providing training	
c) providing direct support	
d) sharing experience	
e) other (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

32. Data concerning the flora and fauna species of Georgia have been collected since the 1930s by various institutes of the Academy of Sciences. The flora of vascular plants and the fauna of vertebrate animals have been studied thoroughly. Less thorough study has been made of sporiferous plants and invertebrate groups of inland waters and sea, crustaceans, insect groups night butterflies, *Diptera (*flies), *Coleoptera* (beetles), *Hymoneptera (wasps and bees) Hemiptera psylloidea* and zygoptera. The scientific research institutes of botany and zoology of Georgian Academy of Sciences continue research on groups, including the registration of invertebrate fauna in various protected areas and the study of sporiferous plants in several regions, although the funding is limited and enables only limited research.

The Center for the protection of Georgian Wildlife (GCCW), supported by the World Bank, conducted a fauna inventory in nine regions of Georgia in 1995-1998. The status of species was assessed and threats were identified.

In 1998-1999 NACRES carried out a study of South Caucasian Wildlife with the support of the MacArthur Foundation. As a result, the database of Caucasian Wildlife was created which includes amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals (http://nacres.org/bank_bot.html).

Projects for the inventory of medical and food plants, evaluation of their status and identification of species for conservation are implemented in several regions of Georgia by the NGOs Cuna Georgica and Elkana. With the support of GEF/UNDP, the Association of Biological farms Elkana started an

assessment of field cultures, fruit species and curative plants in three regions of Georgia (Samtskhe-Javakheti, Racha-Lechkhumi, Svaneti). Priority conservation species have been identified.

In 1996 a national program for the Study and Assessment of Biodiversity of Georgia was implemented (GEF/UNEP, NACRES, 1996). The program helped to collect and verify information concerning the diversity of flora and fauna species. Through the program, the "Materials of the Biodiversity Study Program in Georgia" were published. The lists of species of Georgian flora and fauna compiled included the status of populations of mammals.

In 1999, upon the initiative of Tbilisi State University, the Georgian Academy of Sciences and the Georgian Geographic Society, a first national conference was held dedicated to the problems of Georgian biological and landscape diversity. Papers were delivered at the Conference concerning Georgian fauna, flora, fungi, lichens and algae, key biomes, forest ecosystem diversity, landscape diversity, endemic and relict flora and fauna. In 2000 the materials of the conference were published in Georgian and English with the financial support of WWF and the World Bank Alliance.

33. The study of Georgian landscape diversity, geobotanical and zoogeographic research has a long history. Important research has been done concerning the plants of forests, highland ecosystems and marshes. Registration of Georgian landscape biological diversity and preparation of a landscape map has been carried out by the Tbilisi State University Scientific Research Laboratory for the Study of the State of Natural Environment. The map was based on the materials of cartography, fieldwork and aero visual research, satellite images, synthesis of the published landscape and natural thematic maps. However, the classification of ecosystems has not yet been implemented in Georgia.

34. See answer 218.

35-37. The monitoring of biodiversity and the State cadastre maintenance is the requirement of the following laws: "On Environmental protection " (1996), "On Wildlife " (1996), "On the System of Protected Areas" (1997) and "The Forest Code of Georgia" (1999). However, there is no national system for monitoring biodiversity in Georgia. Separate objects are studied and observed in protected areas, but there are no unified methods of monitoring and there are no available databases. Information is seldom exchanged between scientific research institutes and State agencies responsible for monitoring. There is little knowledge or experience about modern methods of monitoring.

38-39. In Georgia the key threats to biodiversity are illegal logging, intensive harvesting of wood resources due to the energy crisis, illegal export of timber, poaching, overgrazing, excessive and illegal fishing, development of infrastructures, and water pollution (Source of information: *Biodiversity of the Caucasus Ecoregion, Analysis of Biodiversity and its threats and Investment Strategy, WWF, 2001; Caucasian Environmental Protection Perspective, UNEP, GRID Tbilisi, 2002*). However, there are no data on the spatial distribution of threats. Quantitative parameters are not elaborated either, and there is no monitoring of threats.

42. Distance research methods are new in Georgia, and chiefly used in planning protected areas and forestry management. Such methods were used in the implementation of the projects of development of protected areas (GEF/World Bank) and Development of Forest Sector (the World Bank). The methods identified the potential territories in the so-called laboratory zone of the South Caucasus for conservation and sustainable use purposes. Activities are implemented to prepare an ecological-landscape assessment of forests in several administrative districts. This will inform plans of forest use. Distance research methods will also be used to monitor forests and for planning the National Parks of Kolkheti and Borjomi-Kharagauli.

46. Taxonomic collections are kept at the Institutes of Botany, Zoology, Plant Protection and Forestry Research, the National Museum and other institutions. The National Museum (former Caucasian Museum), established 150 years ago, has rich and unique collections. Its herbarium includes more than 500 specimens including those of primary registration and their copies (2200 in all). The museum has rich funds of butterflies and other insects, herpetological and ichthyological funds. The herbarium of the Institute of Botany contains about one million specimens of Caucasian species of flora.

The catalogues of taxonomic collections have not been published (with the exception of the collection of small mammals at the Institute of Zoology) and there are no electronic databases of the collections.

47. WWF actively supports the development of cooperation in the Caucasian ecoregion. During the development of the investment strategy and ecoregion conservation plan, permanent teams were formed made up of representatives from State institutions and NGOs of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. These teams jointly elaborated national reports on the assessment of the state of protection of biodiversity and relative urgent actions. At the joint working meetings priority conservation species and ecosystems of the ecoregion and their main threats were identified.

Decisions on Taxonomy

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

50. Has your country carried out a national taxonomic needs assessment, and/or held workshops to determine national taxonomic priorities?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of assessment	
c) advanced stages of assessment	
d) assessment completed	
51. Has your country developed a national taxonomic action plan?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) action plan in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
52. Is your country making available appropriate resources to enhance the availability of taxonomic information?	
a) no	
b) yes, but this does not cover all known needs adequately	X
c) yes, covering all known needs	

53. Is your country encouraging bilateral and multilateral training and employment opportunities for taxonomists, particularly those dealing with poorly known organisms?	
a) no	X
b) some opportunities	
c) significant opportunities	
54. Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections?	
a) no	X
b) some investment	
c) significant investment	
55. Is your country encouraging partnerships between taxonomic institutions in developed and developing countries?	
a) no	X
b) yes – stated policy	
c) yes – systematic national programme	
56. Has your country adopted any international agreed levels of collection housing?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) being implemented by some collections	
d) being implemented by all major collections	
57. Has your country provided training programmes in taxonomy?	
a) no	
b) some	X
c) many	
58. Has your country reported on measures adopted to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy, to designate national reference centres, and to make information housed in collections available to countries of origin?	
a) no	X
b) yes – in the previous national report	
c) yes – via the clearing-house mechanism	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

59. Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes for some institutions	
d) yes for all major institutions	
60. Has your country assisted taxonomic institutions to establish consortia to conduct regional projects?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes – limited extent	
d) yes – significant extent	
61. Has your country given special attention to international funding of fellowships for specialist training abroad or for attracting international experts to national or regional courses?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
62. Has your country provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	

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

63. Has your country identified its information requirements in the area of taxonomy, and assessed its national capacity to meet these requirements?	
a) no	X
b) basic assessment	
c) thorough assessment	
64. Has your country established or consolidated taxonomic reference centres?	
a) no	X

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

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

52. Lists with annotations are compiled for various taxonomic groups, which will be published in the scientific papers of the Institute of Botany and the Institute of Zoology. Beginning from 1972 the Institute of Botany and Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University have been cooperating on the publication of "Georgian Flora", the second edition of which covers updated data on the taxonomy of species of flora, endemism, rarity and distribution. Earlier published works include: "Georgian Wildllife" (1973), "Materials for Georgian Fauna " (1975), "The Atlas of Georgian Amphibians and Reptiles (1994), "The Ichthyological Fauna of Georgian Rivers and Lakes" (1983), "The Reptiles of Eastern Georgia" (1970).

Existing taxonomic information is not available on the internet. The lists of species need to be updated envisaging the latest taxonomic information.

54. Due to the lack of funding, conditions for the maintenance of collections in the Georgian National Museum and the scientific research institutes are deplorable. As a result of this, the majority of collection materials are in jeopardy: parts are non-systematic and others are not available for scientific research.

57-69. Institutions of higher learning include lecture courses in taxonomy. For example, the taxonomy of lower and higher plants, vertebrate and invertebrate animals are obligatory subjects for the students of biology at Tbilisi State University and other institutions of higher learning.

Through individual cooperation and exchange programs of various educational institutions, Georgian specialists participate in seminars and courses within institutions in other countries. Some examples include Idaho (USA), Haifa (Israel), Leipzig and Bonn (Germany), Vrotzlav (Poland) Universities, The Smithsonian Institute (USA) the Institute of Zoology of Saint-Petersburg (Russia), The Mycological Association of Europe, European Council for the Conservation of Mushrooms, Great Britain Museum of History, Missouri Botanical Gardens.

The capacities of the scientific research Institutes of Botany and Zoology of Georgian Academy of Sciences are limited. Due to a lack of funding there is a brain drain to private and NGO sectors, and also abroad. Young staff members find it difficult to be involved in the activities of these institutions. There are no specialists for several taxonomic groups, or the number of specialists is very limited.

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

70. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	

71. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

70-71. In Georgia special attention is being paid to the development of the system of protected areas, which is a significant tool for the conservation of biodiversity. Since the 1990s significant reforms have been implemented. Georgia is strongly supported by international organizations and there is a legislative basis for the implementation of these reforms. The primary scheme of spatial development of protected areas has been developed, which resulted in the improvement of existing protected areas and the creation of new ones.

Projects for preserving and protecting various species are implemented chiefly by NGOs with funding from international organizations. Outside protected areas, the mechanisms for *in-situ* conservation are environmental impact, ecological examination, licensing of the use of biological resources on the basis of defined quotas, responsibility and repairing damage.

Due to the social-economic situation, funding from the State budget is very poor, even though the Government of Georgia recognizes the significance of protected areas for preservation of biodiversity and sustainable use. The Government tries to attract financial and technical assistance for this purpose. The support of the Government of Germany should be underlined. It supported the formation of the first National Park in Georgia - the National Park of Borjomi-Kharagauli. Mention should also be made of the grant allocated by Global Environmental Fund for the development of the protected areas of Kolkheti. In 2001 GEF allocated significant financial assistance for the development of the system of protected areas in Georgia (about 9 million USD).

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

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

a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	
81. Has your country developed and maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations (8k)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	
82. Does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity (8l)?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes, to a limited extent	X
d) yes, to a significant extent	
If a developed country Party - 83. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for *in-situ* conservation particularly to developing countries (8m)? ***If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -*** 84. Does your country receive financial and other support for *in situ* conservation (8m)?	
a) no	
b) yes (if so, please give details below)	X

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

72. The first protected area in Georgia – Lagodekhi Reserve-- was founded almost a century ago in 1912 in the Eastern Caucasus. A total of 14 reserves and 5 hunting-farms were founded during the Soviet period. Strictly protected areas comprised 2.4 % of the entire Georgian territory, whereas hunting-farms comprised 0.8 %.

In 1990, with the assistance of international donor organizations, the modern system of protected areas was planned and established in Georgia. In the years 1990-1991 the first scheme of the spatial strcuture development of protected areas was developed and formed the basis of further planning. New attitudes developed towards management, capacity-building, funding, public relations and physical protection of protected areas. The legal basis for the current reforms was established in 1996 by the adoption of the law "On the System of Protected Areas ".

By 2001, 21 protected areas were established in Georgia (IUCN category I), as well as two National Parks (IUCN category II, of Borjomi-Kharagauli (57 964 hectares) and Kolkheti (44 313 hectares) and six managed reserves (IUCN category III). Their territory comprises approximately 4% of Georgian territory. There are plans to enlarge the existing protected areas and to create new ones.

The following key problems hinder the development of the system of protected areas:

- there are no protected areas in some regions that are important enough from the point of view of biodiversity conservation;
- Protection of endangered species and vulnerable ecosystems is difficult (Central Caucasus, Javakheti Plateau, Erusheti, Iori Plateau);
- There are no ecological corridors between the protected areas. Existing reserves are too small to ensure efficient protection of biodiversity, and protection is not always adequate, there are frequent cases of poaching and illegal logging.
- The planning and management of protected areas have to be improved significantly. The same refers to the skills and qualification of the administrative staff;
- There is no unified action plan for protected areas, and no unified national plan for the development of the overall system. The work of administrations of the protected areas is not coordinated; information and experience are not shared.
- Lack of financial sustainability of the protected areas.

73. The Georgian law "On the System of the Protected Areas" defines only general principles for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas of various categories. The relative instructions have not been developed.

74. Permissions to harvest resources and regulating this process varies between different categories of protected areas of Georgia. Harvesting natural resources is strictly prohibited in reserves. Limited acquisition is legal for the needs of local populations (mowing, grazing, wood-cutting, fishing) in zones of traditional use of the National Parks. Some renewable resources may be harvested in managed reserves. (According to new categorization in georgian legislation by IUCN guidlines the term preserve is now renamed as managed reserve)

Outside the protected areas some biological resources may be harvested under special permits issued on the basis of quotas for use of biological resources. Harvesting biological resources (fishing, hunting, logging) is regulated by the Georgian law "On Wildlife", The Forest Code of Georgia and relative regulatory acts which define the rules of obtaining and procedures of licensing. These laws also include provisions on the protection of wildlife and forest ecosystems.

75. According to the laws "On Environmental Protection", "On Water", "On the Measures of Sanitary Protection of Resorts and Resort Zones", "The Forest Code of Georgia", protected areas in Georgia include: the coastline, marshes, springs, water reservoirs, river sources, mountain peaks, caves, sub-

alpine and grove forests, forests on the steep slopes of hills, forests of the green zone, zones of protection of inland waters, forests of spa well-being zones.

Apart from the development of a system of protected areas and elaboration of the relative legislation, several projects have been launched in Georgia to define the activities for the conservation of key species. These include:

- Conservation Plan for Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems (GEF/UNDP, NACRES, 1999-2002);
- Conservation Plan for Wetland ecosystems of the Javakheti Plateau.Territories have been identified to be included in the list of The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR Convention Small Grants Program, implemented by NACRES, 1999-2001); A study for the introduction of GCCW (Georgian Conservarion Centre of Wildlife) integrated management has been made of the biodiversity of Javakheti Plateau wetlands and its social-economic environment.
- Birdlife International program of sites important for birds. Through this program important sites for birds are identified and their borders are defined (initiated by GSSW in 2001);
- Research is being carried out to develop conservation measures for large ungulates, brown bear, striped hyena, predatory birds and lynx in the Caucasus. The research is implemented by WWF, NACRES and GCCW.

76. According to the law "On the System of Protected Areas", it is possible to create additional (buffer) zones within the category of "Multiple Use". According to the same law, areas outside the protected areas control should be established for those development programs and agricultural and construction projects that are in touch with the buffer zones (an environmental impact assessment should be done). Preventive measures should be taken for activities that affect the protected areas (fines should be established). A system of compensation for the negative impact on the environment should be elaborated. However, there are no definite mechanisms to implement these legal requirements.

In 1998, with the support of the Government of Germany and the German Bank for Reconstruction (KfW) the system of drinking water was reconstructed in the zone adjacent to the National Park of Borjomi-Kharagauli. Since 1999 community infrastructures have been rehabilitated, including repair of roads and schools, improvement of water supply.

77. Georgia intends to obtain a credit from the World Bank to implement forest sector development. One of the important components of this project is forest protection and restoration on selected priority territories (in nine districts adjacent to the capital of Georgia).

78. To research the problems of rehabilitation of the rare and endangered sturgeon in the South-East part of the Black Sea, funding was granted from the State budget. Between 1998 and1999 more than 100, 000 sturgeon hatchlings were released into the Rioni River. Also a program for the rehabilitation of salmon was developed with the assistance of EU TACIS program for the protection of the Black Sea environment. The rivers of salmon habitat were registered, management plans were developed with the participation of scientists from all six countries of the Black Sea. A workshop was held dedicated to the protection and rehabilitation of salmon in the Black Sea.

NACRES, with the support of Fauna&Flora International, studied the possibilities for the rehabilitation of striped hyena.

79. In Georgia there is no law concerning the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO). In 1996 potatoes with modified genes were planted in South Georgia. No quarantine measures were taken and no three-year tests for the new species were implemented. This species of potato was not adapted to local conditions, and further permits were not forthcoming from the State. Uncontrolled introduction of this GMO caused a strong public outcry, which included NGOs. As a result, funding ceased for this project.

According to information from local NGOs, other GMOs have been introduced in Georgia although there are no official data to confirm this. Georgia plans to take part in the global program of GEF and Environmental Protection Program of the UN on the development of national systems of biosafety; a relative proposal is being elaborated.

80. Harvesting natural resources in Georgia is subject to licensing. Permits are issued by an Inter-Agency Expert-Licensing Council which bases its work on the established quotas.

According to "The Law On Wildlife" (1996), hunting is permitted in Georgia only within hunting-farms. A long-term license (20-25 years) for the creation of a hunting-farm is issued on the basis of a competition or auction. Hunting-farms are established after a preliminary ecological, biological and economic study, implemented by the interested party. The study aims at ensuring sustainable use of the hunting species and the biodiversity of the hunting-farm's territory. Outside the hunting-farms only hunting on migratory birds is allowed, within a defined daily limit.

Commercial fishing in the Black Sea and inland waters is also regulated by licenses which are issued annually. Fishing for private purposes of the population (recreational and sports) is permitted for all inland waters and coastline waters of the Black Sea, with the exception of the protected areas and National parks. Fishing for sturgeon and salmon species is prohibited in Georgia. Capturing sea mammals is also prohibited.

The Expert-Licensing Council is based within the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. This Council analyzes the documents and takes decisions concerning the feasibility of establishing hunting-farms, defining annual quotas for fishing, opening of the hunting season and other issues for fauna and products thereof.

"The Forest Code" regulates the legal issues in connection with forest fund and its resources, forest rehabilitation and use. In Georgia forests are State property. According to "The Forest Code", based on the materials of the registration of the forest fund, the optimal volume of timber production is defined every year.

Trade in species of wild flora and fauna is regulated in accordance with CITES, joined by Georgia in 1997. Out of the species included in the appendices of CITES, in Georgia the objects of commercial trade are: bulbs of cyclamen and Galanthus. Their export is limited, and allowed only for bulbs planted in rural gardens by local inhabitants.

Despite these legal restrictions, due to the economic crisis in Georgia and poor control of law enforcement, illegal logging and poaching have increased significantly. This creates a threat to the preservation of biodiversity. Collection of medical and food plants, hunting and trade in species of wild flora and fauna are widespread economic activities. Certain curative plants from the list of "The Red Book of Georgia" are even used for commercial purposes.

81. According to the law "On Environmental Protection", endangered species of flora and fauna are included in "The Red List" and "The Red Book" of Georgia. Any activity that may cause the decrease in the number of these species, deterioration of their habitats and conditions of existence, is prohibited. So far there is no law "On the Red List and "The Red Book" of Georgia. The law "On Wildlife " defines the general principles of assessment of the state of animal species and how the status of protection is assigned. Georgian administrative and criminal codes define the responsibilities for illegal harvesting of species on the "Red List" and "Red Book" and for destruction of their habitats. "The Red Book of Georgia" was last published in 1982. It contains 65 species of fauna and 152 species of flora. Thus, "The Red Book of Georgia" should be updated.

82. To implement various activities in Georgia, a permit to impact the environment must be obtained. An ecological examination (environmental impact assessment, or EIA) is necessary to obtain a permit. The list of activities is given in "The Law on Environmental Permissions" (1997). To obtain a permit for activity of first category, environmental impact should be implemented (for more details, see answers 194-206).

84. Georgia receives significant financial assistance for *in situ* conservation of biodiversity. The Government of Germany allocated 2.5 million Euros for the creation of the National Park of Borjomi-Kharagauli and 15.1 million Euros for the development of its adjacent zone. GEF allocated assistance for the conservation of arid and semi-arid ecosystems (0.750 thousand USD grant) The project of development of Georgian protected areas has begun (9.050 thousand USD grant). The following international organizations largely contribute to environmental protection projects in Georgia: WWF International, MacArthur Foundation, Birdlife International.

Article 8h Alien species

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

a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X

87. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

86-87. Different scientific research institutes possess data on the alien species introduced in Georgia at different times. There is insufficient data concerning the influence of alien species on local ecosystems, flora and fauna. Chiefly all the activities were for the prevention of interference of alien species that are dangerous for agricultural species and forest species.

Since 1996, according to the law "On Wildlife", the introduction of alien species of fauna has been prohibited in Georgia.

According to Georgian law "On Agricultural Quarantine" (1997), the spreading of parasites, agents that cause plant diseases and weeds is controlled.

However, there are insufficient human and funding resources to implement any activities under the above-mentioned law. There is no efficient system for the prevention of introduction of alien species in Georgia. The threats from the introduction of alien species are not identified; hence, there are no strategies for their management.

88. Has your country identified alien species introduced?

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

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

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

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

a) no	X
b) yes	
100. Has your country developed effective education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species?	
a) no	X
b) some initiatives	
c) many initiatives	
101. Is your country making available the information which it holds on alien species through the CHM?	
a) no	X
b) some information	
c) all available information	
d) information available through other channels (please specify)	
102. Is your country providing support to enable the Global Invasive Species Programme to fulfil the tasks outlined in the decision and its annexes?	
a) no	X
b) limited support	
c) substantial support	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

88-89. Currently there is no reliable scientific information on the quantitative analysis of populations of alien species of flora and no list of the habitats and ecosystems that are especially vulnerable to invasive species or endangered or altered by invasive species. Hundreds of invasive plant species exist in Georgia. However, only two papers have been published on the subject, dedicated to invasive species growing on the territories of Achara and Abkhazia. The systems of classification of alien species in these papers are outdated, however, and do not meet modern requirements.

Beginning in the 1930s farming species of fish, fur-bearing species of animals and hunting mammals have been deliberately introduced into Georgia. Some attempts at introduction have failed while others have turned out to be extremely invasive. Currently five species of mammals are introduced in Georgia: *Nyctereutes procyonoid, Procyon lotor*, *Myocastor coypus*, *Ondatra zibeticus*, *Sciurus vulgari. Procyon lotor* and *Ondatra zibeticus* are found in large numbers and significantly damage local species. Since 1958 various sub-species of wild boar have been introduced in Georgia. Currently the hybrid form of wild boar *(Sus scrofa)* exceeds the population of the local species. A hybrid form of fox *(Vulpes vulpes)* is also found. This fox is a hybridization of the wild fox and the black-silver fox that formerly escaped from fur-farm enclosures.

Thirty years ago the following birds were introduced in Georgia: the Eurasian collared dove *(Streptopelia decaocto)* and the laughing dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis)*. Their influence on other species has not been studied.

To fight malaria, in 1925 gambusia, or the "mosquito fish" was introduced in Georgia. For commercial purposes the following species were introduced in various water reservoirs: rainbow trout, whitefish-ludoga, mirror carp, silver carp, white amour and others. These species are widespread and are widely fished. In the 1970s other fish species were introduced from Russia which affected the fish fauna of inland waters.

Only one study has been carried out recently for the influence of alien species on the local ecosystems. It is dedicated to invasive species of arid and semi-arid ecosystems and their relation to the local species. Secondary data on the issue is poor. Invasive species in the Black Sea and their impact on the Black Sea ecosystem, especially the warty comb jellyfish (*Mnemiopsis leidy)* introduced at the end of the 1980s through ship ballast, have been studied thoroughly through The Black Sea Environmental Program (BSEP).

The Kanchaveli Institute for the Protection of Plants and the Gulisashvili Forestry Institute possess data concerning parasites of agricultural and forest plants. These parasites have penetrated Georgian territory at various times and in different ways and are now quite widespread. They include various species of bugs that affect fir and other trees, e.g. American white butterfly damages about 300 tree species and decreases crops significantly, Colorado potato beetle decreases potato crops by 25-30%. To fight these parasites, their bio-agents have been introduced.

90. The law "On Wildlife" prohibits the introduction of alien species in Georgia. According to the law on agricultural quarantines (1997), certain products and materials are subject to phyto sanitary and veterinary control, as they may spread parasites and agents that cause plant diseases. This control is implemented by the State Inspection of Phytosanitary Quarantine of the Plant Protection Service of Georgian Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

According to the Decree of the President of Georgia "On the Control of the Management of Ship Ballast Waters" #227 (09.06.01), release of ship ballast waters in the territorial waters of Georgia is controlled. Tankers arriving in Georgian territorial waters should change their ballast waters in the second sanitary region (50-mile zone), at least 25 sea miles from the shore and at 100 meters' depth to minimize the penetration of dangerous and pathogenic organisms. According to the joint decree of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and the Minister of Transport and Communications of Georgia (#83-#53, 01.07. 2001), the management of isolated ballast waters from ships in the territorial waters of Georgia should be regulated. These requirements are controlled by the Office of Convention Inspection for the Protection of the Black Sea and by the Black Sea Marine Administration.

Since the 1990s, due to a lack of funding measures for fighting alien invasive species that affect forest wood species, these efforts have stopped. The only activities being implemented are in Borjomi area forestry.

91. The Institute for the Protection of Plants, in cooperation with the scientific research institutes of the USA, Israel and Ukraine, is elaborating measures for the prevention of spreading of parasites of agricultural plants. The Gulisashvili Forestry Institute has studied invasion by parasites in Georgian forests; an integrated management plan to control dangerous insects has been worked out.

The Ketskhoveli Institute of Botany, in cooperation with the University of Montana, USA, has studied the impact of the weed *Centaurea diffusa* on corn plants (CRDF grant, 2000-2002).

93. Temporary guidelines are envisaged for legal acts to control the introduction and spread of alien species (see answer 90).

Article 8j Traditional knowledge and related provisions

103. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
104. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					

103-104. In Georgia there are long-standing traditions by local populations living in harmony with nature and their attitudes towards sustainable use of natural resources. These traditions have been thoroughly studied and documented. However, many of the above traditions have been forgotten and altered in the Soviet period, due to the excessive use of natural resources. The concept of a system of protected areas in Georgia envisages the preservation and rehabilitation of the traditional agriculture and customs to retain unique historical and cultural environments. These issues are covered in the law "On the System of Protected Areas". With the support of donor organizations, projects are implemented to document the traditional knowledge of the local population, to restore and preserve local traditions in given fields.

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

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

107. Has your country developed national legislation and corresponding strategies for the implementation of Article 8(j)?	
a) no	X

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

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

112. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in the annex to the decision, and identified how to implement those tasks appropriate to national circumstances?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes (please provide details)	
113. Is your country integrating such tasks into its ongoing programmes, taking into account the identified collaboration opportunities?	
a) no	X
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	

c) yes – to a limited extent	
d) yes – to a significant extent	
114. Is your country taking full account of existing instruments, guidelines, codes and other relevant activities in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	X
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes – to a limited extent	
d) yes – to a significant extent	
115. Has your country provided appropriate financial support for the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	X
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes – to a limited extent	
d) yes – to a significant extent	
116. Has your country fully incorporated women and women's organizations in the activities undertaken to implement the programme of work contained in the annex to the decision and other relevant activities under the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
117. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes – to a limited extent	X
d) yes – to a significant extent	
118. Has your country provided case studies on methods and approaches concerning the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge, and the control of that information by indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	X
b) not relevant	
c) yes – sent to the Secretariat	
d) yes – through the national CHM	
e) yes – available through other means (please specify)	

119. Does your country exchange information and share experiences regarding national legislation and other measures for the protection of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) yes – through the CHM	
d) yes – with specific countries	
e) yes – available through other means (please specify)	
120. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and maintenance of knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) some measures	X
d) extensive measures	
121. Has your country supported the development of registers of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, in collaboration with these communities?	
a) no	X
b) not relevant	
c) development in progress	
d) register fully developed	
122. Have representatives of indigenous and local community organizations participated in your official delegation to meetings held under the Convention on Biological Diversity?	
a) not relevant	X
b) not appropriate	
c) yes	
123. Is your country assisting the Secretariat to fully utilize the clearing-house mechanism to co-operate closely with indigenous and local communities to explore ways that enable them to make informed decisions concerning release of their traditional knowledge?	
a) no	X
b) awaiting information on how to proceed	
c) yes	
124. Has your country identified resources for funding the activities identified in the decision?	

a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) partly	
d) fully	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

105, 107. According to the law "On the System of Protected Areas", one of the goals of establishing and managing such areas is to preserve, restore and develop traditional agriculture to retain unique historical and cultural environments. According to the same law, in the National Parks (IUCN category II) zones of traditional use can be distinguished for agricultural and farming activities for traditional use of natural resources. To support the traditional activities and to protect the natural and cultural landscapes created as a result of the long traditional interaction between humans and natural environment, protected landscapes are being established (IUCN category V).

The Development of Georgian Protected Areas project, recently approved by GEF, will support the formation of protected areas in the Tusheti and Svaneti highland regions of Georgia. These regions are especially important in view of traditional agriculture and customs. A Small Grants Program under the given project is for the restoration and preservation of traditional farming and agriculture in the villages of Georgian highlands. The project will also help preservation and restoration of the traditional forms of sheep-farming.

Traditional systems of grazing were studied by NACRES through the project "Conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in the Caucasus" (GEF/UNDP, NACRES), and as a result of the project recommendations were made for the sustainable management of pasture-lands.

To preserve the traditional forms of hunting in Georgian highlands, the "Law on Fauna" defined the priority use of objects of fauna for those citizens and unions in Georgia the traditional lifestyle of which is connected with animals. This implies selection of hunting territories and the advantage of creating hunting-farms in traditional hunting areas. However, so far no concrete actions have been taken in this direction due to lack of funding and experience. For the same reasons no action has been taken to preserve the ancient tradition of taming predator birds in the regions of Western Georgia.

The popularization of traditional agricultural methods is one of the priorities of the Associations of Biological Farms Elkana.

With the goal of restoring the traditional uses of medicinal plants and to improve the plant harvests, projects have been implemented for several years by the NGO Cuna Georgica, and financially supported by Misereor, GTZ, WWF International and the WWF Office in Georgia. These organizations have compiled a database of medical plants and other economically profitable wild plants. The database contains information on the distribution of these plants and the state of their populations.

121. The Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology has carried out research on Georgian traditions and customs related to environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources. Many papers have been published on issues of traditional hunting and fishing, the institution of cult forests and the use of medical plants in popular medicine. In 2000, with the support of MacArthur Foundation a paper was published on "Traditional Culture and Ecosystems". The paper describes the traditional culture of interaction with nature in the highlands of Eastern Georgia, namely, the Aragvi Gorge. However, information on the traditional knowledge of local populations has not been systematically studied and is not available in electronic form.

Article 9 Ex situ conservation

125. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X

126. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

125-126. Ex-situ conservation measures are chiefly oriented towards the flora. In Georgia there are several Botanical Gardens: The Tbilisi Botanical gardens and its branches in Kutaisi, and Bakuriani. Gardens are also found in Sokhumi, Batumi and Zugdidi. Collections of wild and cultivated plants are kept at the Institute of Botany, Batumi Botanical Gardens, the Forestry Institute and the Institute of Agriculture. Collections of vine and fruit are kept at the Institute of Vine-growing, Wine-production and Horticulture.

Due to a lack of material resources, the botanical gardens of Georgia cannot implement large-scale conservation activities and are mostly restricted to exhibition and educational functions. This also means seed collections are in precarious conditions. Some of them have disappeared due to poor maintenance conditions.

No ex-situ conservation of fauna is being carried out at this time in Georgia.

127. Has your country adopted measures for the *ex situ* conservation of components of biological diversity *native* to your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

128. Has your country adopted measures for the *ex situ* conservation of components of biological diversity *originating outside* your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

129. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	
130. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the *ex situ* conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources *native* to your country (9b)?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
131. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the *ex situ* conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources *originating elsewhere* (9b)?	
a) no	X
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
132. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	
133. Has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions (9c)?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
134. 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 (9d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

If a developed country Party -

135. Has your country cooperated in providing financial and other support for ex situ conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of ex situ conservation facilities in developing countries (9e)?

If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -

136. Has your country received financial and other support for ex situ conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of ex situ conservation facilities (9e)?

a) no	
b) yes	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

127-132. The Botanical Gardens were established in Georgia in the 19th century, in Tbilisi (1845) and Sokhumi. In 1912 the Batumi Botanical gardens were established. Currently in Georgia there are Botanical Gardens in Tbilisi and its branches in Kutaisi and Bakuriani, as well as the Botanical Gardens of Batumi, Sokhumi and Zugdidi.

Tbilisi Botanical Gardens specialize in the conservation of Georgian flora with approximately 4000 taxons. The collection of rare and medicinal plants of the Caucasus includes about 600 species of high conservation value, associated with vulnerable habitats. Out of these, 48 species are endemic Georgian and 124 are in The Red Book of Georgia. The Collection of The Plants Conservation Department of Tbilisi Botanical Gardens includes 150 tree and bush species and more than 500 species of herbaceous plants. Out of these, more than 100 are endemic species. About 25 herbaceous plants have recovered.

The Alpine gardens of Bakuriani (chiefly specializing in highland flora) contain about 500 species of Caucasian flora, out of which approximately 40 are endemic Caucasian or Georgian species.

The Batumi Botanical Gardens include 2200 tree species and about 350 herbaceous species. The Department of the South Caucasian humid Sub-tropical Phytogeography of Batumi Botanical gardens includes a collection site of local flora with approximately 400 species of local flora. Of these, there are 115 trees and 300 herbaceous species. The gardens contain 24 endemic species and 19 species from The Red List of Georgia.

The Botanical gardens also contain Departments of Foreign Flora. Tbilisi Botanical Gardens contain the departments of Mediterranean, North American, Chinese and Japanese, Himalayan, Russian, East Caucasian departments. There are nine phytogeographic departments in Batumi botanical gardens (East Asian (China and Japan), Australian, New Zealand, Himalayan, Mexican, North American, Mediterranean), but these departments do not have conservation functions. They were created to diversify the collections of plants and improve the aesthetic environment of the gardens, as well as for educational purposes.

Since 1945 collections of seeds from wild plants were created at the Institute of Botany. By 1990 these collections included 2700 samples (about 1300 species). The seed collections were annually renewed with new samples from the natural environment. The samples (of 500-600 species annually) were also sent to the botanical gardens of the former countries of the Soviet Union, including Moscow, Saint-Petersburg and Kiev Botanical Gardens. The Institute exchanged seed collections with other countries. This activity was stopped at the beginning of the 1990s and was not resumed until 2001 when the

Institute started to create a seed bank of modern standards in cooperation with CRDF.

The Department of Cultural Flora of the Institute of Botany contains granular and leguminous seed collections.

Live collections of seeds are kept at Batumi Botanical Gardens, at the Institute of Forestry (99 samples of 90 species) and the Institute of Agriculture (field plant seeds, granular and leguminous plant seeds). Live collections of vine and fruit are kept at the Institute of Vine-Growing, Horticulture and Wine-Production.

After economic de-centralization in the 1990s the cultural plant collections became vulnerable as the Institutes were unable to retain them. A major part of the collections was destroyed. Today the Institutes do not possess special equipment for long-term maintenance of seed samples, somost Georgian plant genetic resources are maintained abroad.

Since 2001, with international financial assistance, projects were launched in Georgia for the creation of a unified national genetic bank of cultural flora, the restoration and renewal of existing collections and creation of favorable conditions for their maintenance, as well as creation of backup collections.

Ex-situ conservation of animals is not implemented in Georgia. The Tbilisi Zoo, founded in 1927, functions mainly as an entertainment area, no conservation activities or scientific research is carried out there. The Zoo contains the departments of ungulates, birds, predators, primates and exotic species.

134. According to the Georgian law "On Wildlife", the creation and enrichment of zoological collections by physical persons or legal entities is possible only with a special license. Harvesting endangered species is permitted under special license only with the aim of reproduction in special conditions and their letting in the natural environment afterwards.

Harvesting plants from their natural environment to enrich botanical collections was not regulated. According to The Forest Code of Georgia, forest use for scientific purposes should be based on a special agreement with the Forest Department of Georgia.

Article 10 Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

137. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	

138. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

137-138. In 1996-2001 Georgia adopted legislation which formed a legal basis for the sustainable use of biological resources. According to Georgian law "On Environmental Protection", the use of plant and animal resources with the aim to preserve biodiversity is strictly limited and subject to licensing. The volume of use is pre-defined on the national and regional levels. Georgian law "On Wildlife" and its normative acts define the general principles and detailed procedures of sustainable use of wildlife resources (including hunting and fishing). The rules of forest use are defined by The Forest Code of Georgia and its acts.

The difficult social and economic situation and institutional complexities restrict the implementation of the requirements of these laws and acts. Weak law enforcement, non-existence of monitoring systems, poor coordination between various agencies, as well as a lack of financial and human resources, all create strong impediments to sustainable use of biodiversity.

139. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making (10a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
e) review of implementation available	
140. Has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity (10b)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
141. Has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements (10c)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
142. Has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced (10d)?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	

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

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

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

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

146. Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	
a) no	X
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	

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

Decision V/25. Biological diversity and tourism

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

139. The general principles of allowing the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in the decision-making process are defined by the Georgian law "On Environmental Protection" (1996). Specific requirements are defined by subsequent laws: "On Wildlife" (1996), "On the Development of the System of Protected Areas" (1996), "On Water" (1997), "On Soil Protection" (1994), The Forest Code of Georgia (1999), "On Environmental Permit" (1997), and "On Ecological Examination" (1997).

According to Georgian law "On Wildlife", animal protection measures must be integrated into the management plan of protected areas and organization of forestry, schemes of land-management of administrative-territorial units, settlement and development plans and projects, infrastructure projects, sectoral development plans, plans for the protection and use of Georgian waters, forests, lands, mineral deposits and other natural resources, other programs and projects. According to the law, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources is authorized to stop all activities that may affect objects of wildlife and their habitats. However, there is no special mechanism to permit enforcement of this law.

According to the law "On the System of Protected Areas" planning protected areas is part of the country's development strategy and should be linked to territorial and sectoral planning. Additionally, environmental impact assessments should be made for development programs and construction projects implemented in the buffer zones of the protected areas, which should be strictly controlled.

The law "On Environmental Permit" defines the activities subject to the environmental impact, which includes definition of activities in connection with the impact on the state of biodiversity, prevention of risks and mitigation measures. However, there is no system of environmental impact, and no relative practical experience to carry out such evaluations. Due to this, the environmental protection component is either not reflected at all in many political documents and programs, or is covered inadequately.

Despite the existence of legislative requirements, the issues of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources are weakly integrated in the decision-making process. This is likely due to structural and economic problems. Environmental protection is thus viewed as an issue of minor importance. In addition to this, cooperation and coordination of activities between conservation agencies is poor,

including between the Parliamentary Committee for the Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, The Department of Protected Areas, Reserves and Hunting-farms, and the Forestry department.

140. Hunting and fishing licenses are issued on the basis of "The Law on Wildlife". With this purpose the Expert Council of Use of wildlife products is formed at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. The Council defines quotas for obtaining each hunting species. Apart from the hunting of migratory birds, hunting is permitted only in hunting-farms, for the creation of which the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources issues long-term licenses through competition or auction. In case of migratory birds, the Council defines daily limits. Apart from limitations concerning the use of biological resources, Georgia has adopted the rules of hunting and fishing, which define the species permitted for hunting and fishing, dates of hunting and fishing, places, permitted weapons and equipment. The administrative penalties are defined for the violations of these rules. However, due to poor law enforcement, poaching and illegal fishing is frequent. The lack of a monitoring system makes it impossible to evaluate the efficiency of the above-mentioned measures.

In 2000 a presidential Decree was issued concerning the measures of forest protection, introduction of wood-cutting rules, forest restoration etc. The aim of this decree was to ensure the preservation of soil-protection and water-regulating function of the forests and to protect the objects of wildlife (these rules include the envisaging of reproduction period while planning logging). The rules also define places where the cuts of general use cannot be implemented (e.g. groves, the line adjacent to sub-alpine forests, forest sites with relict and endemic species, slopes steeper than 35 degrees, forests that protect the banks of rivers and water reservoirs). They stipulate species which can be cut. The Order of the Chairman of the Forest Department defines the rules for maintenance cutting. Despite the above-mentioned, and due to large-scale illegal felling in recent times, forest stands have been seriously affected. As a result of severe exploitation in the past decade, forests are damaged and it is necessary to survey the state of forests in general. This activity is also envisaged by "The Project of Development of Georgian Forest Sector". The technology of timber processing and the relative equipment are outdated, which contribute to damaging the forests.

141. In the process of planning protected areas, the methods of traditional use of natural products are studied and reflected in management plans. Programs are developed in consideration of these traditional methods.

143. One of the examples of cooperation between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and the private sector is the development of hunting-farms. Another includes encouragement for small farmers to plant cyclamen and Galanthus bulbs (under CITES appendices) in their private plots. These bulbs are exported from Georgia for commercial purposes.

144-145. The issues of the development of tourism in Georgia were covered in the national report elaborated for the World Summit of Sustainable Use in Johannesburg (Georgia, Country Profile, Johannesburg 2002), (http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/countr/georgia/index.htm).

146. See **section 160**.

147. According to the law "On Wildlife", the citizens of Georgia and whose traditional lifestyle is connected with hunting have the priority to use the products of wildlife. This refers especially to residents in areas where people carry out traditional agriculture and can create hunting farms. However, no practical implementation of this preferential encouragement has occurred so far.

150-155. In 1997 the law on "Tourism and Resorts" was adopted within which tourism is defined as one of the priorities for the development of national economy. With the support of donor organizations projects were launched to encourage the sustainable development of tourism. In 2000, with the support of TACIS, a working document was created on the "Strategic Advice on the Development of Tourism in Georgia". In 2001,the "Strategy for the Development of Tourism" was created, defining the role of the

State in creating a favorable legal and regulatory environment for the development of tourism. This document focused on new directions for the development of tourism like natural and cultural tourism. This differs from the focus of previous years on the restoration of sites for mass recreational tourism, which was the main type of tourism in the Soviet period. Yet, there is still no cooperation between the agencies dealing with tourism and biodiversity conservation. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources takes only limited measures to support the activities of tourism development.

Parallel to the establishment of the National Parks in Georgia, possibilities for the development of tourism in these sites were studied. WWF and The Center for Sustainable Tourism cooperated to prepare a manual for the development of ecotourism in the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park. This covers the conservation objectives of the park and its tourist potential. With financial support from WWF International and WWF Germany, the study, entitled "New Initiatives for Georgia", supported the creation of future necessary infrastructure for the development of ecotourism in three highland regions of Georgia.

The development and promotion of ecotourism is also supported by travel agencies. The NGO "Center for Sustainable Tourism" is actively involved in the initiatives of development of mountainous regions and sustainable tourism, participating in activities dedicated to the International Year of Mountains. In Gudauri the Center organized the Caucasian Summit in 2001, attended by representatives of State and NGO sectors of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. This event greatly contributed to public awareness of priority issues for mountainous regions of the Caucasus. The Association of Agricultural Tourism, in cooperation with the Department of Tourism, forms regional organizations and assists them to establish links with international organizations and attract tourists. The Network of Caucasian Environmental NGOs (CENN) organized a workshop dedicated to the development of ecotourism and the enhancement of cooperation between the decision-makers in the field of tourism and biodiversity conservation. The Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife (GCCW) has begun to promote bird watching tours. In cooperation with tourism organizations of Switzerland and Germany, Cuna Georgica made a study of the opportunities for developing tourism in the highlands of Georgia. Tours were elaborated and infrastructures were improved. With the participation of the local population, workshops were organized on the opportunities and objectives of the development of tourism in Svaneti.

Article 11 Incentive measures

156. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X
157. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					

156-157. The Georgian law on "Environmental Protection" (1996) defines the key principles for economic stimulation towards environmental protection. However appropriate implementation tools have not yet been defined. These issues require further reflection and development within those sectors that impact biodiversity. Opportunities are limited due to a lack of political interest and economic constraints that limit competent human resources. In fact, there are no specialists in Georgia who can develop efficient tools to stimulate the economic incentives for protection and sustainable use of biodiversity.

158. Are programmes in place to identify and ensure the adoption of economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	
e) review of implementation available	
159. Do these incentives, and the programmes to identify them and ensure their adoption, cover the full range of sectoral activities?	
a) no	X
b) some sectors	
c) all major sectors	
d) all sectors	

Decision III/18. Incentive measures

160. Has your country reviewed legislation and economic policies to identify and promote incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) reviews in progress	
c) some reviews complete	
d) as far as practically possible	X
161. Has your country ensured the development of mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas, *inter alia*, national accounting systems and investment strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of identifying mechanisms	X
c) advanced stages of identifying mechanisms	

d) mechanisms in place	
e) review of impact of mechanisms available	
162. Has your country developed training and capacity building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives?	
a) no	X
b) planned	
c) some	
d) many	
163. Has your country incorporated biological diversity considerations into impact assessments as a step in the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
164. Has your country shared experience on incentive measures with other Contracting Parties, including making relevant case-studies available to the Secretariat?	
a) no	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes – case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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

165. Is your country actively designing and implementing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) measures in place	
e) review of implementation available	
166. Has your country identified threats to biological diversity and underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including the relevant actors, as a stage in designing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) partially reviewed	X
c) thoroughly reviewed	

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

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

171. Has your country reviewed the incentive measures promoted through the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

172. Has your country explored possible ways and means by which these incentive measures can support the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in your country?	
a) no	X
b) under consideration	
c) early stages of development	
d) advanced stages of development	
e) further information available	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

160-168. The Georgian law "On Environmental Protection" (1996) defines the economic mechanisms in the field of environmental protection, including taxes, ecological insurance, economic incentives, eco-marketing, and the environmental protection audit. The aim of the economic stimulation of environmental protection is to introduce the ecologically pure technologies and techniques acceptable from the environmental protection viewpoint. This includes introducing the use of secondary raw materials and supporting efficient environmental protection projects. These can be achieved through promotion of environmental issues, tax advantages and advantages on State credits.

Tax advantages are envisaged for the creation of hunting-farms, namely, according to the Tax Code of Georgia, the territories of hunting farms are exempt of property taxes. This advantage was introduced with the aim to support hunting farms, as since 1996 hunting is permitted in Georgia only on certain territories (with the exception of hunting migratory birds).

According to this law and the Tax Code of Georgia, in 1997 Georgia introduced taxes on the use of natural resources, including forest use, hunting and fishing, obtaining of certain non-wood species. The fees for use are defined for separate plant and animal species. However, despite the fact that initially the aim of this initiative was to generate income for the State funding of environmental protection activities (Decree of the Government of Georgia #1010-1992), so far this benefit has not been realized. Instead, the income is accumulated in the regional budget and spent for social and economic purposes.

According to the Tax Code, taxes are decreased by 70% for the procurement of natural resources used in scientific research activities or in case the users of natural resources take the responsibility to restore and reproduce the resources at their own expense, to the extent that the resource can be restored..

The Georgian law "On Advertising" (1998) states that social advertising (including environmental advertising) is free, even though the duration of an advertisement (not less than 5% of the TV or radio advertising time) is limited. This requirement also applies to organizations whose activities are fully or partially financed from the State budget. There are no advantageous State credits for the stimulation of biodiversity conservation/sustainable use.

One of the mechanisms defined by the Georgian law "On Environmental Protection" is ecological branding of Georgian products that are ecologically safe. The aim of this mechanism is to stimulate ecologically safe production and improve customer awareness of these products. The rules for granting the "ecological mark" are defined by the order of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources (1999). However the requirements for ecological branding are not satisfactory.

According to the Georgian law "On the Social and Economic Development of Highland Regions", Georgian authorities elaborate the State program of beneficial credit-investment activities to support the development of protected areas in the highlands of Georgia. This includes development of traditional

agriculture of the highlands, tourism, resort and recreational business. However, since the above-mentioned law is incompatible with the tax system, meeting the requirements for traditional development is complicated. In its turn, the Tax Code also envisages benefits to support employment in the highland regions of Georgia, but it does not give any advantages to the activities for nature protection or the sustainable use of its products. I In 2001 the Government of Georgia received a loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the development of agriculture in highland regions of Georgia, for the support of small farms, technical assistance, financial assistance, social services, training, development of production lines and market access. It was envisaged that all activities under this project would support the protection and restoration of natural resources in these regions.

161. In Georgia the economic evaluation of biodiversity and its value has not impacted decision-making processes. Through the development of Georgian forest sector, full-scale economic evaluation of Georgian forests was implemented (Total Economic Valuation of Georgian Forest, Tijen Arin, Jacek Siry, August, 2000). Both economic and non-economic values of Georgian forests were evaluated. This project supports the elaboration of a methodology for the full-scale economic evaluation of Georgian forests and of mechanisms for the definition of prices on forest resources.

162. The problems concerning the elaboration of efficient economic tools and evaluation of the economic value of biodiversity are caused by a lack of qualified staff in this field. The theories of environmental protection economy are taught poorly or not taught at all at Georgian institutions of higher learning.

171. The first national report presented through the Convention on Climatic Change focused on activities for the reduction of the emission of heating gas, including the energy and industrial sectors. The vulnerability of natural ecosystems climate change was evaluated and adaptation measures and strategies were defined. However, the report does not cover incentive measures. In 2001 an authorized national body was established to discuss Georgia's participation in the development mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol, including the forestry sector.

Article 12 Research and training

173. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X

174. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

173-174. The institutes of the Georgian Academy of Sciences have been implementing research in the field of biodiversity for decades. The issues of biodiversity are included in the curricula of several universities, even though the teaching falls behind modern levels of biological sciences. The equipment in Georgian institutions of higher education is limited and interest of students in these specialties is weak. Over the last decade, State funding for scientific research institutions, on which they completely depend, has been reduced to a minimum. As a result, activities and their capacities have decreased. There is a brain drain of scientific staff to other, more lucrative, fields of employment. Despite this problem, the existing scientific potential is quite high, which indicates that with better management scientific research will be activated and the level of staff training will increase.

175. Has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	
176. Has your country provided support to other Parties for education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
177. Does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (12b)?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
178. Does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources (12c)?	
a) no	X
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
If a developed country Party -	
179. Does your country's implementation of the above activities take into account the special needs of developing countries?	
a) no	
b) yes, where relevant	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

175. The Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and its affiliates in various regions of Georgia offer their students basic theoretical and practical courses in the following fields: botany, zoology, biogeography, ecology and hydrobiology, cartography, as well as GIS computer programs and technologies. Graduates of these institutions are trained for scientific research in the fields of botany and zoology, environmental monitoring and control, evaluation of the anthropogenic impact on the environment, and use of biotechnological methods.

Post-graduate courses are also offered. There is an educational qualification council functioning at the University, which grants scientific degrees in biological and geographical sciences.

The BA and MA programs in biology and geography are also offered by the Universities of Kutaisi, Batumi and Telavi where students are able to qualify in ecology and biodiversity conservation. Forestry specialists are prepared at the Forestry Department of Tbilisi Agricultural University, which offers disciplines of forest taxation, forest management, forest farming and planning, and forest exploitation (timber processing).

Higher education in the field of ichthyology and fish resource reproduction is offered by the Tbilisi Zoological-Veterinary Academy**.**

Environmental management courses are offered by several universities in Georgia, however the level of instruction is still low in comparison to international standards. Most problematic are subjects like modern environmental policy, economy, legislation, environmental journalism and environmental law. None of the State or private universities offers the disciplines of environmental (ecological) law. There is a universal lack of literature (manuals) in Georgian institutions of higher education.

177. State funding for research in the field of biodiversity is extremely poor. With the exception of rare cases, every scientific research institute faces the following problems: low salaries for scientific personnel, a brain drain and a lack of young personnel. This produces an "Aging process" in the majority of scientific research institutions.

Due to a lack of appropriate equipment, access to the internet is severely limited which means scientists are often unable to obtain the latest information in their respective fields. Fieldwork opportunities and research projects are minimal (separate research projects are currently financed by international donors, and this type of funding is also limited). This means that information on biodiversity is not regularly updated. The data of institutes are outdated and do not reflect the current state of biodiversity even in Georgia, and modern approaches to the conservation of biodiversity are rarely found in academic institutions.

The following is a list of scientific research institutes working in the field of biodiversity and their key directions:

- Ketskhoveli Institute of Botany specializes in the study of Georgian diversity of plants, highland ecology, the scientific basis and practical recommendations for the protection and use of plant resources of Georgia. Special mention should be made of the publication *Georgian Flora*. It was first published in 1971 and the last volume was published 2007. The Institute has prepared a list of Georgian vascular plants (2005), analyzed endemism of Georgian flora, and elaborated the Georgian geobotanical descriptive method. Employees of the Institute take part in the compilation of the plant maps of Europe, coordinated by the Federal Agency of Natural Conservation of Germany. Currently the Institute is funded by foreign donors for research on long-term monitoring of the biodiversity of Georgian highlands in the context of global climate change and the *ex-situ* conservation of

endangered plants.

- The key research directions of the Institute of Zoology are the study of Georgian fauna from the viewpoint of systematics, ecology, biology, ethology and zoogeography, elaboration of integrated measures to prevent alien species, pest control and supporting the rational use of resources, forecasting anthropogenic impact on the environment and elaborating the basics of ecological monitoring. Since 2000 the publication of scientific papers at the Institute of Zoology has resumed. Recent research includes invertebrate fauna and ecology of different regions and protected areas of Georgia, the creation of biological methods against pests, the study of the biological productivity of Georgian inland waters (Kartsakhi, Jandara, Saghamo, Lisi lakes), research on the current status and reproduction of certain species of mammals and reptiles. Despite research, there is still little information on the areas of habitation of certain species, the state of populations and current tendencies. There is no complex research based on ecological attitudes, which is one of the key requirements of the Convention. There is little research on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, management and planning.

- The Gulisashvili Institute of Forestry studies the scientific basis for forest use and restoration, the study of social and ecological functions of forests, and forest protection from diseases and parasites. The Institute studies the genesis of wood, relict and endemic plants of highland forests, bioecology, geography, the role of forests in hydrology, prevention of soil erosion and avalanches. Activities are elaborated with the aim of protection and restoration of forests.

- Several institutes of Georgian Academy of Agriculture carry out research in the field of biodiversity conservation (Lomouri Institute of Agriculture, The Institute of Vine-growing, Horticulture and Wine-Production, The Institute of Apiculture and the Institute of Sericulture).

- The Institute of Black Sea Ecology and Fish-farming of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources carries out research on Black Sea biodiversity, evaluation of fish resources, the study of chemical and biological features of the Black Sea and inland waters. Through the Bucharest Convention of the Protection of the Black Sea from pollution, the institute holds the function of regional center of Black Sea biodiversity. The institute has participated in the compilation of The Red Book of the Black Sea. Being a regional center of Black Sea biodiversity, the Institute gets financial assistance from the Regional Environmental Program of TACIS where study groups have formed on marine biodiversirty, the biodiversity of wetlands, geographical information systems and ecological education. The study has included both theoretical and practical (fieldwork) activities. The Center of ecological education was established, equipped and activities were implemented for the capacity-building of this center. Through the project, a draft protocol on the protection of Black Sea biodiversity and landscapes was elaborated.

- International organizations (WWF Caucasian Representation, NACRES, GCCW, Field Research Association CAMPESTER) implement important projects in the fields of biodiversity research, monitoring and protection of endangered species. These NGOs have accessed funding for research due to the fact they have highly qualified staff, and because donors are interested in the development of civil society in Georgia. Donor organizations have less confidence in State research institutions since their links with foreign academic and scientific circles is weak and there is a complicated system of financial administration at the State level.

Article 13 Public education and awareness

180. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	

181. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

180-181. In Georgia attention has been paid to the integration of environmental and biodiversity conservation issues in the curricula of secondary schools and institutes of higher education. Some private schools were established with environmental curricula. A State program of environmental education is also being elaborated.

Environmental awareness is very poor in general in Georgia and most activities in the environmental field are implemented based on external financing. With the support of international organizations, Georgian NGOs have implemented and are still working on numerous and significant projects for increasing public awareness on environmental issues; these projects are focused on various target groups. A greater attention and increase of environmental awareness began with the preparatory stage for the ratification of the Aarhus Convention in 2001. In this period the Regional Environmental Center of the Caucasus, as well as other NGOs, implemented public awareness projects with the assistance of international donors.

An increase of public awareness is one of the key requirements of the conventions ratified in Georgia recently. Hence, the NGO sector of Georgia attracted significant grants to carry out public awareness projects. The State budget could not finance such activities.

182. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through media?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	

183. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through the inclusion of this topic in education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	

184. Does your country cooperate with other States and international organizations in developing relevant educational and public awareness programmes (13b)?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	x
c) yes – significant extent	

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

185. Are public education and awareness needs covered in the national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	X
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
186. Has your country allocated appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?	
a) limited resources	X
b) significant but not adequate resources	
c) adequate resources	
187. Does your country support initiatives by major groups that foster stakeholder participation and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
188. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes	
189. Has your country made available any case-studies on public education and awareness and public participation, or otherwise sought to share experiences?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
190. Has your country illustrated and translated the provisions of the Convention into any local languages to promote public education and awareness	

raising of relevant sectors?	
a) not relevant	
b) still to be done	
c) under development	
d) yes	X
191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition –	
192. When requesting assistance through the GEF, has your country proposed projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

Decision V/17. Education and public awareness

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

182. According to the Georgian law "On Advertising" (1998), social advertising (including environmental) is free, even though the duration of such advertisements at no more than 5 % of the advertising time of a given media is limited. Besides, this requirement of the law refers only to those organizations that are fully or partially financed from the State budget.

Disseminating environmental information, including on biodiversity conservation, by television and the press is rare and fragmentary. State structures have no resources for advertising activities. The only exceptions are projects with international and bilateral support, which have appropriate budgets for public relations and advertising.

Journalists are not generally interested in environmental issues; their environmental knowledge and awareness is low. The faculties of journalism (both in State and private institutes) do not engage teachers in the field of ecological journalism. Environmental NGOs have had few relationships with media.

Occasionally NGOs such as the WWF Georgian Representation, the Green Movement of Georgia, the

Georgian Geographic Society and Elkana publish popular editions for public information. With the assistance of donor organizations (The World Bank, TACIS) since 1996 the radio station "Green Wave" has been functioning. It has regular programs dedicated to environmental protection.

183. The role, importance and status of environmental education are defined by the law "On Environmental Protection" (1996). According to this law a unified system of environmental education should be created which will include educational establishments, staff preparation and qualification networks, as well as junior, basic, secondary, professional and university education. This would mean there is continuity in the teaching process. Even though certain steps have been made in this direction, environmental issues and biodiversity conservation are still weakly integrated into the curricula of secondary schools and higher education institutions. Appropriate teaching materials and manuals haven't been created and there is lack of qualified teachers in given fields. In 1998, based on a Presidential Decree, a Committee was formed to create a State program of ecological education. This Committee was chaired by the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia and a final draft was made. Soon this draft will be presented for the President's approval. It focuses on the biodiversity of Georgia and issues of biodiversity conservation.

Through the education system reforms funded by the World Bank, the Ministry of Education and Science elaborated a program of environmental education which would include environmental issues in all disciplines of the curriculum of secondary schools. The Ministry has begun revising primary school manuals and teaching methodologies for environmental directions.

In the public schools of Georgia the basics of natural science are taught from the third year, and in their 5th year children study biology and geography. Botany, zoology and general biology are obligatory disciplines in secondary schools. The curricula of these disciplines include the taxonomy of plants and animals, their geographical spreading and the ecological and social-economic importance of environmental protection. Biodiversity issues are included in the teaching programs of specialized schools as well.

Environmental and biodiversity issues are sometimes the theme of school competitions and other events. There are children's scientific circles, or clubs, at the Children's Palace of Tbilisi and other regional centres. Some institutes of higher education include courses on environmental protection (including biodiversity conservation issues) in their obligatory curriculum. Environmental protection issues are also integrated in the courses on Georgian geography, which is also an obligatory subject. However, there is no unified conceptual framework so environmental education is fragmentary and detached from general University education.

Public awareness and environmental education are priority directions of the Regional Environmental Centre of the Caucasus (REC Caucasus). In 2001, through the center's Grants Program, several projects were implemented locally and regionally to increase public awareness of environmental issues. An example was the creation of local information centers and organizing ecological workshops for children. This Grants Program was supported by US Environmental Protection Agency.

Several NGOs work in the field of environmental education and are involved in creating educational programs and manuals and publishing additional literature in the field.

184. The elaboration of a State program for public environmental education was supported through a project of the Georgian Representation of WWF entitled "Development of Environmental Education in Georgia" (1997-2000). It was implemented through financial support from The Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany. All projects financed by international donor organizations include the components of environmental awareness and public relations.

The large educational system reform project supported by the World Bank also supports the integration of environmental issues in the general educational programs.

185. One of the strategic objectives of the draft Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is to inform the public on environmental issues and to increase their awareness.. This will lead to a more active involvement of the public in the decision-making processes. The document describes the situation regarding environmental education and awareness, identifies problems and envisages relative activities.

186. Even though certain resources were envisaged for educational and public awareness activities in the environmental and biodiversity conservation projects, these resources were not used strategically due to a lack of coordination between them.

187. Environmental NGOs play a key role in the field of environmental education and public awareness. Several strong NGOs work in Georgia to implement important projects through external funding. Their activities are aimed to increase biodiversity conservation and public awareness in this field. Such organizations include: Georgian Representation of WWF, Centre for the Conservation of Species (NACRES), Georgian Centre for the Conservation of Wildlife (GCCW), Association of Biological Farms Elkana, The Green Movement of Georgia and the Georgian Geographical Society. The WWF Representation in Georgia participated in the creation of the State program of Environmental education, in which ecological education centres were founded in various regions. WWF often organizes workshops and training for target audiences, including teachers and journalists. Through small grants, this organization assists local NGOs in educational and public awareness activities.

Through support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Network of Caucasian NGOs (CENN) developed a regional electronic network enabling NGOs and State agencies, representatives of the private sector and scientific circles, as well as all other interested groups, to disseminate information about their activities and initiatives, including environmental issues.

Biodiversity conservation and public awareness in this field are poorly reflected in the activities of women's and youth organizations, however.

190. The text of the Convention was translated into Georgian according to the procedures of its ratification. With the support of the Regional Environmental Center, the NGO "Center for Environmental Policy in Georgia" implemented a project to protect the environmental Conventions ratified by Georgia. The texts of these conventions were published in Georgian language, then the Georgian Representation of WWF published the definitions of the ratified biodiversity conventions.

191. Educational and public awareness programs are implemented on the national, regional and local levels by environmental NGOs (see answer 187) in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources.

192. A project proposal that would envisage only Article 13 has not been created, although all projects supported by GEF include the components of education and public awareness of environmental issues.

Article 14 Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

194. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	

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

194-195. In Georgia there is a relative legislative basis which defines concrete action to assess environmental impact and ecological examination. However, the practical opportunities to adequately implement these legal requirements are limited. There is still insufficient expert experience to adequately evaluate the impact of certain activities on the environment. The same is true for prevention/mitigation of possible threats, monitoring and evaluation of the efficiency of action. The existing legislative basis should be developed and refined. It is the responsibility of the investor to implement an environmental impact assessment and to cover the expenses of the State ecological examination.

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

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

c) no need identified	

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

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

Decision V/18. Impact assessment, liability and redress

207. Has your country integrated environmental impact assessment into programmes on thematic areas and on alien species and tourism?	
a) no	X
b) partly integrated	
c) fully integrated	
208. When carrying out environmental impact assessments does your country address loss of biological diversity and the interrelated socio-economic, cultural and human-health aspects relevant to biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) partly	X
c) fully	
209. When developing new legislative and regulatory frameworks, does your country have in place mechanisms to ensure the consideration of biological diversity concerns from the early stages of the drafting process?	
a) no	
b) in some circumstances	X
c) in all circumstances	
210. Does your country ensure the involvement of all interested and affected stakeholders in a participatory approach to all stages of the assessment	

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

196. The issues of environmental impact are regulated in Georgia since 1996, in accordance with the laws "On Environmental Permit" and "On State Ecological Examination", as well as the accompanying normative acts ("The Provision on Environmental impact", 1999; The Provision "On the Rules of Implementation of State Ecological Examination", 1999). Activities subject to the permission to impact the environment are divided into four categories based on their importance, scope and degree of their impact on the environment. Only the activities of category 1 are subject to an environmental impact assessment. These include activities that may cause serious negative impact on the environment, natural resources and human health. Other activities do not require the conclusion of the ecological examination.

197. According to the law "On Environmental Permit", public involvement in the decision-making process is an inalienable part of the procedure for obtaining an environmental permit. Thus, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources is obliged to ensure public discussion on environmental impact and, based on the public opinion and the conclusion of the Ecological Examination, take decisions on issuing a permit. According to the same law, the investor is authorized to organize a public discussion of the environmental impact and every interested person may attend this discussion. Project implementers are required to ensure public participation in the decision-making process. They should get acquainted with the written opinions of the public and envisage their comments in the process of formulation of the project document.

198. According to the law On Environmental Permit (1996), category 1 refers to infrastructure development plans, projects and programs (urbanization and town-planning programs, industrial development programs, energy development programs, territorial organization schemes, land planning, etc.). These programs are subject to the environmental impact assessment (EIA). However, strategic environmental assessment practice is low in Georgia. Environmental impact assessments have been implemented only for the project "On the Development of Organizations of Irrigation and Drainage Users" and sectoral environmental evaluation of the project of Forest Development. Both projects implemented through World Bank funding which required the procedures to assess environmental impact.

203. There are no special mechanisms of rapid reaction for threats to biodiversity. However, there are rapid intervention plans for emergency situations. Oil-spill contingency plans can be implemented in case of Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, Kulevi oil Terminal, Baku-Supsa pipeline, Poti and Batumi Sea Ports.
According to the Provision "On Environmental Impact", (approved by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Order #59 (31.05.1999)), possible risks of accidents should be defined in the process of the EIA and strategies to lower the negative impact and mitigation of risks should be elaborated. However, such plans are insufficiently covered in the reports on the environmental impact assessments.
According to the Georgian law "On the Safety of Dangerous Industrial Objects" dangerous enterprises must work out action plans to localize the accident, eradicate damage and act in emergency situations.

205, 211. The environmental impact assessment (EIA) is a new instrument for environmental protection specialists; hence, there is not sufficient knowledge in the field. Georgian specialists took part in training courses on the issues of the EIA held with funding from governments and donor organizations (Great Britain, Germany).

206. Since 1999 Georgia is a member of the network of Environmental Law Enforcement in the Newly Independent States (NIS) Countries (NISECEN). Georgia takes part in the annual meetings of the

Network, which helps to exchange information and experience in the legislative field. Georgia has presented relative information for report on "The Survey of Law Enforcement and Control Practices in the Environmental Field in the Countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia", elaborated for the 4th meeting of the Network in 2002.

208. According to the law "On Environmental Permit" (1997) and the Provision "On the environmental impact assessment" (approved by Order #59 (31.05.1999) of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia), one of the aims of the EIA was to identify the direct and indirect impact of activities on the objects of flora and wildlife, landscapes, natural and altered ecosystems, historical monuments, cultural values, social and economic factors. Due to the lack of expert knowledge and experience, the EIA is frequently on a formal act. The monitoring of the efficiency of activities for prevention/mitigation of the impact on biodiversity is low, due to a poor system of checks and controls.

209. Legislative-regulatory acts are approved after discussion and the elaboration of proposals by relative agencies. Hence, there is an opportunity to reflect biodiversity issues in the drafts of legislative and regulatory acts. However, this is rare, due to the lack of appropriate knowledge and experience or political will.

210. See answer 197.

214. According to Georgian law "On Environmental Permit" and the provision "On the environmental impact", the report on the environmental impact assessment should include the methods of prevention and mitigation of the negative impact on the environment and human health, the analysis of the alternatives of project implementation, selection of new alternatives. The alternatives are reflected poorly in the EIA reports, due to the lack of scoping rules and also due to the fact that preparation for the EIA starts after the project decision has been taken and it is very difficult for the project implementers to redesign the project.

Article 15 Access to genetic resources

216. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X

217. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

216-217. Georgia is an important centre of origin of genetic diversity of plants and agriculture, yet there is no legal basis for the distribution of profit and availability of genetic resources. Scientific research institutes cooperate on international genetic resource issues and provide samples to foreign partners. The materials obtained as a result of joint field expeditions are kept in local and foreign collections. The international centres for genetic resources, e.g. Vavilov Institute of Plant Studies (VIR), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Gatersleben University, maintain more samples from Georgia than those kept in local collections.

218. Has your country endeavoured to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties (15(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
219. Is there any mutual understanding or agreement in place between different interest groups and the State on access to genetic resources (15(4))?	
a) no	X
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
220. Has your country an open participation planning process, or any other process in place, to ensure that access to resources is subject to prior informed consent (15(5))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) processes in place	
221. Has your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Contracting Parties (15(6))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
222. Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources (15(7))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	

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

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

b) yes	
228. Is your country taking an active role in negotiations associated with the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

218. Since 2001 Georgia has participated in several regional and international programs for the creation of a database of genetic plant resources and the availability of this database, conservation of genetic resources and their accessibility, namely:

- Through a program for genetic resources of European plants (ECPGR), in 2001 the unified catalogue of genetic plant resources of Georgia was compiled. Information on the genetic resources of plants was placed on the web-site of the catalogue of European Genetic Plant Resources (EURISCO), see (http://eurisco.ecpgr.org).
- Interesting expeditions to collect the genetic resources of plants were carried out by Georgian and foreign specialists. In 2001 granular and leguminous cultures were collected in Central Kartli, Khevsureti, Achara, Lower Kartli, and Mtskheta-Mtianeti. A total of 152 samples were collected. The duplicates of these samples were placed in the genetic banks of the organizations participating

in the expeditions (Lomouri Institute of Agriculture, Ketskhoveli Institute of Botany, Australian genetic Bank of Autumn Cultures (AWWS), Genetic Bank of Germany (IPK) and Russian Institute for the Study of Plants (VIR)). These expeditions were organized through the project "Conservation of Field Culture Genetic Resources, their Evaluation and Use in South Caucasus and Central Asia". Financial support for the expeditions was provided by Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)) and International Research Centre of the Agriculture of Dry Regions (ICARDA). As a result of the project, the material and technical aspects of the genetic bank of the Institute of Agriculture were improved, as well as the state of the existing ex-situ collections.

220-222. Georgian scientific research institutes are involved in all projects of genetic resources. These projects are implemented with the financial support of international organizations. Before launching joint projects of collection and study of genetic resources of plants, the availability of research results is defined specifically for each concrete case between the organizations participating in the research. State agencies do not take part in this process, as there is no relative legal basis for their involvement. In general, these projects ensure equal distribution of obtained materials among the genetic banks of the participant countries, equal copyrights and long-term maintenance of the samples in duplicate collections.

229. Activities for the research of genetic plant resources are not coordinated in Georgia. Formally, the Academy of Agricultural Sciences leads the activities and represents the country in international cooperation on the genetic resources of plants. However, the Academy does not elaborate any policy, legislation or administrative measures for the availability of research materials or equal distribution of project benefits.

237. In 2001, in cooperation with the US Civil Research and Development Foundation (CRDF), Tbilisi Botanical Gardens and the Institute of Botany started a Caucasian regional Plants Seed Bank. Through this project, the Georgian partners were provided with necessary technical equipment for the long-term maintenance of seeds under modern methodology.

In cooperation with International Research Centre of the Agriculture of Dry Regions (ICARDA) the unified central genetic bank of field cultures was created at the Institute of Agriculture. Through the project, modern equipment was provided for the Institute. Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centers offer training and workshops for Georgian participants to specialize in the maintenance and renewal of genetic resources, elaboration of documentation and to work with databases.

Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology

238. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X

239. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
238-239. Georgian laws "On Environmental Protection" (1996) and "On the Development of Science and Technology" (1994) stress the importance of environmental technology for the development the economy and for the production of competitive products. However, there is no favourable political, legislative or institutional environment to attract and introduce new technoloigies. Decision-makers' awareness is low concerning the economic profitability of innovative technologies and their introduction. Institutional and information systems for ecologically acceptable technologies are weak. The private sector is not interested enough in the introduction of new environmental technoloigies. This might be due to comparatively low prices of resources, weak regulation of environmental issues and weak control (weak regulatory or controlling pressure from the environmental point of view) and a lack of economic incentive mechanisms. Economic reforms develop slowly, and export markets have barely been implicated by the private sector; this impacts environmental protection standards and competitiveness. The capacities of small and medium businesses are restricted in areas of selection, adoption and management of innovative technologies. With the support of the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF), the Georgian Scientific-Technological Development Fund was established, but its contribution to the introduction of new environmental technologies is still insignificant.

240. Has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment (16(1))?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
241. Is your country aware of any initiatives under which relevant technology is transferred to your country on concessional or preferential terms (16(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes (please give brief details below)	X
242. Has your country taken measures so that Contracting Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms (16(3))?	
a) not relevant	X
b) relevant, but no measures	
c) some measures in place	
d) potential measures under review	
e) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	

a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements	
243. Has your country taken measures so that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of government institutions and the private sector of developing countries (16(4))?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation?	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation?	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements?	
244. Does your country have a national system for intellectual property right protection (16(5))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
245. If yes, does it cover biological resources (for example, plant species) in any way?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	X

Decision III/17. Intellectual property rights

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

241. Projects implemented by the Institute of Agriculture, Horticulture, Vine-growing and Wine-production aim to develop technologies to collect and maintain genetic collections (see answer 218). Ketskhoveli Institute of Botany, with funding from the Missouri Botanical Gardens and the Georgian Fund for Scientific-Technical Development, implements a project entitled "Information Systems for the Sustainable Use of Genetic Resources". For this the Institute was granted the equipment to create a database and seed bank of wild plants.

A development project by the Georgian Forest Sector funded by the World Bank, with credit from the International Development Association (IDA) also envisages the introduction of new technologies for environmental protection in the forest sector. With funding from ESRI (which designs and develops the world's leading geographic information system (GIS) technology) Tbilisi State University opened a scientific education center « The Earth », where modern geo-information technologies are taught. In 2001 the Council of Europe launched a new program to support clean production in three countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and includes Georgia. The project aims to implement demonstration projects of timber processing and paper-recycling. Training will be held for the private sector and materials for increasing the awareness of decision-makers will be elaborated.

244-245. The issues of intellectual property are regulated in Georgia by the following laws: "on Copyright and Other Subsequent Rights" (1999), "Patent Law" (1999), "On Border Activities in Connection with Intellectual Property" (1999), "On the Protection of Achievements of Selection" (1996). This law has been replaced by "The Law on the Protection of New Species of Plants " (2006).

"The Law on the Achievements of Selection" defines special rights of use for the achievements of both plant and animal selection and the procedures and terms of issuance of certificates of achievements. According to this law, every person is required to obtain the selectioner's permission when using a selected species. The types of use include production, reproduction, sales, export and import. A selectioner may issue a permit upon certain terms and restrictions. Unified State policy in the field of selection achievements is carried out by the State Committee for the Protection and Examination of Selection Achievements within the Ministry of Agriculture. This committee discusses the applications for any new species, carries out expertise and examinations, compiles the State register of selection achievements and issues permits.

Article 17 Exchange of information

247. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X

248. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

247-248. Due to a lack of financial and technical resources, nothing is being done to ensure an informational mechanism. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources has no web-site. Thus electronically available information is restricted and information collected by NGOs and scientific research organizations is not systematized and used for the creation of a unified database on biodiversity. Therefore, little information is available for interested decision-makers and agencies.

According to the Georgian law "On Environmental Protection", the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources prepares annual national reports on the state of the environment, which include information on the environmental legislation, control, environmental policy and State programs, the state of flora and wildlife and the protected areas , the impact of industry on the environment and other issues. Apart from the State agencies, the Georgian Academy of Sciences and the Agricultural Academy are involved in the elaboration of the National Reports. Despite the requirements of the law, National Reports are not published for lack of sufficient means.

Information exchange is enhanced by joint projects and participation of Georgian specialists in international projects, e.g. compilation of the map of European Flora, a catalogue of genetic resources of plants (EURISCO) and others.

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

Article 18 Technical and scientific cooperation

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

a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	

253. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

252-253. Nearly all scientific research institutes and universities of Georgia have links with foreign institutions with similar profiles. But scientific cooperation with foreign organizations is ad hoc and largely dominated by individual contacts between individual scientists. Despite joint technical and research assistance projects, there are no mechanisms for long-term cooperation.

State funding is very limited, even though many foundations and programs include Georgia and largely support the integration of Georgian scientific sector in exchange programs and joint research projects. The most important are:

- the NATO program "Partnership for Peace ",
- the Georgian Research and Development Foundation (GRDF),
- the Open Society Georgia Foundation,
- the Eurasia Foundation,
- the Horizonti Foundation,
- and the German Academic Exchange Service Program (DAAD).

254. Has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (18(1))?

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

255. Do the measures taken to promote cooperation with other Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention pay special attention to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution building (18(2))?

a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	

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

a) no	X
b) early stages of development	

c) advanced stages of development	
d) methods in place	
257. Does such cooperation include the training of personnel and exchange of experts (18(4))?	
a) no	X
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
258. Has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention (18(5))?	
a) no	X
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	

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

259. Is your country cooperating in the development and operation of the Clearing House Mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
260. Is your country helping to develop national capabilities through exchanging and disseminating information on experiences and lessons learned in implementing the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
261. Has your country designated a national focal point for the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
262. Is your country providing resources for the development and implementation of the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) yes, at the national level	

c) yes, at national and international levels	
263. Is your country facilitating and participating in workshops and other expert meetings to further the development of the CHM at international levels?	
a) no	X
b) participation only	
c) supporting some meetings and participating	
264. Is your CHM operational	
a) no	X
b) under development	
c) yes (please give details below)	
265. Is your CHM linked to the Internet	
a) no	x
b) yes	
266. Has your country established a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary CHM steering committee or working group at the national level?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

254-255. At the Black Sea Ecology and Fish-farming Institute, the Regional Center of Black Sea Biodiversity was granted TACIS technical assistance through the Regional Environmental Program 2000. The aim of this assistance was to increase the Center's capacities for biodiversity research and monitoring. The assistance included equipment, training of local personnel and teaching of modern methods of research and monitoring.

The Ketskhoveli Institute of Botany implemented and is still working on ten joint projects in cooperation with institutes in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, USA and other countries. The Institute has participated

in the compilation of the map of European plants, coordinated by the German Federal Agency of Nature Conservation. In cooperation with the Missouri Botanical Gardens, a seed bank of Caucasian wild plants was created. Employees of the Institute have participated in training by botanical institutions of different countries. They have learned the latest methods of research and herbarium management.

Joint projects for the conservation of the genetic resources of agricultural granular plants and vine are implemented by Lomouri Institute of Agriculture, Horticulture, Vine-Growing and Wine-production. Through these projectse Institute staff participate in training in different countries. The Institutes have been given modern technical equipment. The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centers organize workshops and trainings to increase the qualifications of Georgian scientists in the maintenance and reproduction of genetic resources, production of documentation and working with databases.

Article 19 Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

268. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
269. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					

268-269. In Georgia there is no legislative basis to regulate equal distribution of benefits of the use of genetic resources and the field of biotechnology. The draft of the Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan states that one of the priority directions is the protection of Georgian biodiversity from threats by genetically modifed organisms. In this respect, the relative legislative basis should be established, State and public control mechanisms should be elaborated and existing informational gaps should be filled.

Despite the existing basic knowledge and scientific potential in the field of biotechnology, modern biotechnological research and regulation of biological safety are limited. There is no experience of assessment of the risks in connection with organisms with modified genes. Biotechnological research is carried out in several scientific –research institutes that are financed from State budget. However, State funding is very limited and the activities of these institutes largely depend on grants. Georgian specialists are not sufficiently informed, their access to the latests technologies is restricted and laboratory equipment is outdated. Existing educational programs in the field of agricultural biotechnologies need to be reviewed and cooperation with international biotechnological centers should be enhanced. There is a need for better internal coordination for the more efficient use of the existing resources. With this aim USAID has initiated a regional center for biotechnical research within the Agricultural Biotechnology Institute.

Georgia has not ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biological Safety. There are no legislative or administrative measures that manage the risks linked to GMOs. There is no official information concerning importation of GMOs and the scientific potential for evaluation and management of risks from GMOs is limited. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia and several NGOs including the Green Movement of Georgia and the Association of Biological Farms Elkana have elaborated a draft of legislation to regulate the field of biological technology and safe use as well as the introduction of transgenic organisms into the environment. However this draft has not yet been approved.

270. Has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research (19(1))?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures:	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	
271. Has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties (19(2))?	
a) no measures	X

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

Decision IV/3. Issues related to biosafety and Decision V/1. Work Plan of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Article 20 Financial resources

273. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	x

274. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

273-274. Expenditures of the State budget on the conservation of biodiversity are extremely limited. The only sources of funding for environmental protection activities are grants obtained from donor organizations and country donors. These donors provide significant assistance in the field of policy elaboration and capacity building, as well as technical assistance.

275. Has your country provided financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention (20(1))?	
a) no	X
b) yes – incentives only	

c) yes – financial support only	
d) yes – financial support and incentives	
If a developed country Party -	
276. Has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention, as agreed between you and the interim financial mechanism (20(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition –	
277. Has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable you to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention (20(2))	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If a developed country Party -	
278. Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
279. Has your country used financial resources related to implementation of the Convention from bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision III/6. Additional financial resources

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

Decision V/11. Additional financial resources

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

275. Since funding the environmental field from the State budget is severely limited, the State program of sturgeon reproduction in the Black Sea coastline was halted. This project's first stage was implemented in 1998 and was the only project in the field of biodiversity protection under State funding. Funds allocated for forest management, forest fund cadastre, fire-prevention and forest reproduction activities are extremely limited. According to the State budget of 2001, $186, 600 were allocated for protected areas, whereas for the implementation of the State program of restoration and renewal only $21, 700 were allocated.

Environmental spending in Georgia was analysed through support from the OECD, the Danish Ministry of Environmental Protection and Energy and the Danish Agency of Environmental Protection. As a result of this analysis, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources elaborated proposals for legislative changes for the enhancement of the funding of the environmental field. These proposals were presented to the Parliament and the Government of Georgia.

277, 279. Environmental projects, including those for the protection of biodiversity and its sustainable use, are financed from external sources. This includes grants from international funding institutions and donor countries. The major portion of this funding is received from the Global Environmental Fund (GEF). Major financial support is provided by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Reconstruction Credit bank (KFW), the World Bank and TACIS.

Funding support to Georgia for biodiversity protection in 2001 includes:

Global Environmental Fund (GEF):

- The Georgian Biodiversity Country Study (1994-1995. $96,000);
- The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and National Report (1996-1997, $120,000);
- Conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in the Caucasus (1999-2002, $750,000);
- Integrated Management of Georgian Coastline, Component 2: Establishing the Kolkheti National Park (1998-2006, $1,300,000);
- Development of Protected Areas of Georgia (2001, $9,050,000 thousand USD);
- Restoration, Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Agricultural Biodiversity of Georgia (2001, $25,000).

The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), German Reconstruction Credit bank (KFW):

- Establishment of the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park (1998, 2.5 million Euro);

- Rehabilitation of the Freshwater Infrastructure in Borjomi-Kharagauli Support Zones (1998, 4.4 million Euro).
- Rehabilitation of Community Infrastructures in the Borjomi-Kharaguli Support Zone (1999-2002, 10.7 million Euro).

Article 21 Financial mechanism

289. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X

290. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Information on current and implemented projects supported by financial mechanisms are described in 277-279.

Article 23 Conference of the Parties

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

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

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

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

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

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

297. Did your country pay its contribution to the core budget (BY Trust Fund) for 2001 by 1st January 2001?	
a) yes in advance	
b) yes on time	
c) no but subsequently paid	
d) not yet paid	X

298. Has your country made additional voluntary contributions to the trust funds of the Convention?	
a) yes in the 1999-2000 biennium	
b) yes for the 2001-2002 biennium	
c) expect to do so for the 2001-2002 biennium	
d) no	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Due to the economic situation Georgia's participation in the conferences of the parties of the convention and preliminary meetings depends on the financial support of the Convention Secretariat.

In 1999 Georgia took part in the Intergovernmental Conference "Biodiversity in Europe", Riga, Latvia, 2003.

Georgia participates in the meetings of the Pan-European Strategic Council of Biological and Landscape Diversity.

Due to the economic situation Georgia cannot meet its annual financial requirements as defined by international conventions.

Article 24 Secretariat

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Article 25 Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Due to the economic situation Georgia's participation in the meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) depends on the financial support of the Convention Secretariat.

Article 26 Reports

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

Decision IV/14 National reports

302. Did all relevant stakeholders participate in the preparation of this national report, or in the compilation of information used in the report?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
303. Has your country taken steps to ensure that its first and/or second national report(s) is/are available for use by relevant stakeholders?	

a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, was this by:	
a) informal distribution?	
b) publishing the report?	
c) making the report available on request?	
posting the report on the Internet?	X

Decision V/19. National reporting

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Georgia elaborated the first National Report in 1999 through the project "Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the National Report" (a GEF Enabling Activity). The summary report was submitted to the Secretariat of the Biodiversity Convention in 1999.

The Second National Report was elaborated through the project "Assistance in Biodiversity Capacity Building, Participation in the Mechanism of Biodiversity Resource Centre, Preparation of Second and Third National Reports for the Convention on Biological Diversity" in 2008 (UNDP/GEF, implementing agency – Centre for the Conservation of Species - NACRES).

The information necessary for the elaboration of the report was provided by

- State agencies (The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, The Ministry of Food and Agriculture, The Ministry of Education and Science),
- NGOs (WWF Caucasus Representation, IUCN South Caucasian Office, Wildlife Conservation Centre (GCCW), Field-researchers' Association CAMPESTER, The Union of Georgian Nature Researchers Orchis, Association of Biological Farms Elkana, The Green Movement of Georgia, Caucasian NGO Network (CENN), and Green Alternative),
- Scientific research institutions (The Institute of Zoology, Tbilisi Botanical Gardens and the Institute of Botany, Batumi Botanical Gardens, the Institute of Agriculture, Horticulture, Vine-Growing and Wine-production, The Centre of Biotechnology, The Institute of Molecular Biology and Biological Physics),
- and other interested parties (Tbilisi Zoo, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Caucasian branch).

Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

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

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

314. Is your country supporting and/or participating in the River Basin Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
315. Is your country gathering information on the status of inland water biological diversity?	

a) no	
b) assessments ongoing	X
c) assessments completed	
316. Is this information available to other Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes - national report	
c) yes – through the CHM	
d) yes – other means (please give details below)	
317. Has your country developed national and/or sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems?	
a) no	X
b) yes – national plans only	
c) yes – national plans and major sectors	
d) yes – national plans and all sectors	
318. Has your country implemented capacity-building measures for developing and implementing these plans?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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

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

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

310. The national report on Sustainable Development, elaborated for Johannerburg Summit (2002), covers the critical issues of the coutnry's sustainable development, namely, the planning of spatial development, energy security and the transit function of Georgia. The document reflects the impact of spatial development on the development of the network of protected areas. Information concerning the state of Georgian fresh water resources, their management and use, is covered in the document: Georgia,CountryProfile,JohannesburgSummit,2002 (http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/countr/georgia/index.htm). However, this document does not contain information on the biodiversity of Georgian inland waters.

312. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia and UNDP's Georgian Office elaborated a concept for the Global Environmental Fund for the "Prevention of the Transboundary Degradation of Mtkvari-Araksi Basin". The project aims to ensure that the quality and volume of water in the Mtkvari-Araksi Basin correponds to the optimal needs of the ecosystems for short-term and long-term periods. It also aims to meet the requirements of the populations that use these rivers. To achieve these goals the project seeks to enlist regional cooperation and the exchange of information necessary for the management of the basin of these rivers. It includes national and regional-level capacity building, improved quality and availability of water in certain parts of the basin, the establishment of stable financial and institutional mechanisms for the management and protection of the basin, and the initiation of changes in certain fields of the economy that lead to environmental pollution and degradation of the ecosystems.

313. The national priorities for protection of the biodiversity of inland waters are not defined, although certain activities of the work program are implemented. The WWF Georgian Representation coordinates activities for the identification of priority freshwater ecosystems for conservation in the ecoregion of the Caucasus. To this end a map of freshwater ecosystems was compiled in GIS format, the current state and threats were evaluated, key species were identified and evaluation criteria elaborated including biological significance, territorial integrity, existing threats and conservation opportunities.

Since 2000 Georgia has been making steps to elaborate a river basin management system. With the support of a USAID project "Management of Water Resources in South Caucasus", integrated management plans are being elaborated for the Alasani and Khrami-Debeda river basins. The project also supports the improvement of the monitoring of the quality of water and enhancement of cooperation between Caucasian countries for the management of water resources.

In 2001 the Caucasus Regional Environmental Center organized a conference "Sustainable Management of South Caucasian Water Resources", which discussed the state of the largest Caucasian rivers – the Mtkvari and the Araksi – and possible initiatives.

315. The State of the biodiversity of Georgian freshwater ecosystems is studied and evaluated through various current (or already implemented) projects. The study of the biodiversity of the Paliastomi lake and Kolkheti marshes is carried out through the management plan of Kolkheti National Park (Georgian Coastline Integrated Management Project, GEF/the World Bank, 1999-2006). The biodiversity of Javakheti Plateau lakes (Khanchali, Madatafa and Bugdasheni) was researched and evaluated within the project "Conservation of Javakheti Plateau Wetlands in South Georgia" (The Center for the Conservation of Species NACRES, RAMSAR Convention Small Grants fund, 1999-2000). Through this project Javakheti lakes were evaluated under the criteria of the RAMSAR Convention and identified as potential sites for inclusion in the list of wetlands of international importance, a management plan was elaborated for the conservation of the wetlands of Javakheti Plateau. The Center for the Conservation of Georgian Wildlife (GCCW) has been carrying out conservation research on the wetlands of Javakheti since 1996. In 2001 this organization was funded by the Scientific Program of the Open Society Institute (Research Support Scheme of the Open Society Institute) to implement a project called "Land Use and Conservation in South Georgia". Through this project a report was elaborated on the landscape and biological diversity and threats of the Javakheti Plateau.

Numerous scientific studies have been carried out with the aim of research of the ichthyofauna of Georgian inland waters, and relative scientific works have been published (*The Atlas of Georgian Freshwater Fish*, by Elanidze, Demetrashvili, Burchuladze, Kurashvili, 1970; *Georgian Fish*, by Sharvashidze, 1982; *The Ichthyological Fauna of Georgian Rivers and Lakes*, Elanidze, 1963). However these data need to be updated. In Georgia there is no unified database on the biodiversity of inland

waters. Hence information is scattered throughout different reports, research papers and publications.

319. The draft of the Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan includes activities for the conservation of inland water ecosystems. These activities include establishing new protected areas, carrying out inventories of wetlands and elaborating a national strategy for wetlands.

Marine and coastal biological diversity

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

320. Does your national strategy and action plan promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
321. Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) arrangements in place	
322. Has your country provided the Executive Secretary with advice and information on future options concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
323. Has your country undertaken and/or exchanged information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management?	
a) no	X
b) yes – previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
324. Has your country programmes in place to enhance and improve knowledge on the genetic structure of local populations of marine species subjected to stock enhancement and/or sea-ranching activities?	

a) no	
b) programmes are being developed	
c) programmes are being implemented for some species	
d) programmes are being implemented for many species	
not a perceived problem	X
325. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in an annex to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes	

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

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

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

320. The draft of the Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan does not include the protection of Black Sea Biodiversity. This should be done however, according to the requirements of The Regional

Strategic Action Plan of Black Sea Rehabilitation and Protection (signed by Georgia in 1996), which includes a Project of the Georgian Strategic Plan of Black Sea Rehabilitation and Protection. This document envisages activities for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of the biological resources of the Black Sea, namely, management of fishing in the Black Sea, restoration of andronomous fishes (such as the salmon for example which migrate up rivers from the sea in order to breed, species of fish of commercial value, compilation of the Red Book of the Black Sea, public awareness of rare and endangered species of the Black Sea, regular registration of the Black Sea mammals, reduction of by-catching of sea mammals while fishing, conservation of the wetland ecosystems of Kolkheti.

The problems of protection of the Black Sea environment and biodiversity and related activities are, to a certain extent, reflected in the First National Environmental Action Plan program of (2000-2004). Several activities of this program are being implemented. These include a Coastal Zone Integrated Management (ICZM) project, development of Kolkheti protected areas, as well as the improvement of the management of ballast waters in Batumi and Poti seaports.

321. The integrated management of the Black Sea coastline was initiated in 1993 through the Black Sea Environment Programme (BSEP). In 1999, in response to BSEP recommendations and the objectives of the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan, Georgia launched a national project of Integrated Coastline Zone Management of the with financial assistance from the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility, The first component of the project envisages institutional development for the integrated management of the coastline and creation of the relative legislative framework. The project also includes analytical research, on the basis of which the concept of integrated management of the coastline and a relative draft of law will be created.

325. Activities within the program of sea and coastline are implemented with the financial assistance of the Project of Integrated Coastline Zone Management and TACIS Black Sea Environmental Program Technical Assistance.

The project for an Integrated Coastline Zone Management also envisages the development of Kolkheti National Park. Apart from the coastline ecosystems, the Park includes a 15,742- hectare sea aquatoria, which is important for the conservation of sea mammals and sturgeon species.

In 1992-1996, through the Black Sea Environmental Program (BESP) of GEF, a regional Center for Black Sea Biodiversity was established on the base of Batumi Institute of Black Sea Ecology and Fish Farming. This Center prepared a national report on Black Sea Biodiversity (1998). The Center also participated in the elaboration and publication of the Black Sea Red Book. With the support of TACIS the following groups were formed at the Batumi Black Sea Biodiversity center: marine biodiversity, the biodiversity of wetlands, geo-information systems and ecological education. Capacity-building activities were implemented which included equiping and training staff in modern methods of monitoring.

Agricultural biological diversity

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

329. Has your country identified and assessed relevant ongoing activities and existing instruments at the national level?	
a) no	

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

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

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

341. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
342. Is your country promoting regional and thematic co-operation within this framework of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) some co-operation	
c) widespread co-operation	
d) full co-operation in all areas	
343. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) limited additional funds	
c) significant additional funds	
If a developed country Party –	
344. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity, in particular for capacity building and case-studies, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition?	
a) no	
b) yes within existing cooperation programme(s)	
b) yes, including limited additional funds	
c) yes, with significant additional funds	
345. Has your country supported actions to raise public awareness in support of sustainable farming and food production systems that maintain agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent	X
c) yes, to a significant extent	
346. Is your country co-ordinating its position in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	X

b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes	
347. Is your country a Contracting Party to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade?	
a) not a signatory	X
b) signed – ratification in process	
c) instrument of ratification deposited	
348. Is your country supporting the application of the Executive Secretary for observer status in the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation?	
a) no	
b) yes	
349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
350. Is your country compiling case-studies and implementing pilot projects relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
351. Has information on scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies been supplied to other Contracting Parties through media such as the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) not applicable	
b) no	X
c) yes - national report	
d) yes – through the CHM	
e) yes – other means (please give details below)	
352. Has your country considered how to address generic concerns regarding such technologies as genetic use restriction technologies under international and national approaches to the safe and sustainable use of germplasm?	
a) no	X
b) yes – under consideration	
c) yes – measures under development	
353. Has your country carried out scientific assessments on inter alia	

ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) some assessments	
c) major programme of assessments	
354. Has your country disseminated the results of scientific assessments on inter alia ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes – through the CHM	
c) yes – other means (please give details below)	
355. Has your country identified the ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) some measures identified	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive review completed	

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

c) yes – other means (please give details below)	

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

329-330. Georgian cultural flora is very diverse. This is due to the favorable soil and climatic conditions and a long-standing history of agriculture. In the Soviet period many species were withdrawn from agriculture and either lost or only remain in the collections of scientific research institutes or in the fields of a few farmers. For the last decade the increasing difficulties for Georgian agriculture has affected the genetic pool of indigenous agricultural species. Old plants were destroyed in many places and seed-farming has been destroyed too. This deficit of seeds has caused a mass import of alien seed species without preliminary testing procedures. The collections of traditional plants in various organizations are in poor condition.

Several years ago The Association of Biological Farms Elkana started to cooperate with farmers to help conserve and disseminate endangered agricultural species. Elkana held a workshop "Agricultural Biodiversity – International Agreements and Georgian Situation" attended by scientists, farmers and public officials. In 1997, in close cooperation with the Institute of Botany, Elkana established the Society of Protection of Agricultural Biodiversity, "Dika", which started activities for the preservation of the unique agro-biodiversity. They launched activities to increase public awareness. As a result of their efforts and those of decision-makers and scientists, the problem attracted attention at the national level and in 2001 the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources addressed GEF for the financial support for a project "Conservation, Restoration and Use of Georgian Agricultural Biodiversity". During the preparatory phase of the project target species were identified, then an evaluation was made for field cultures, fruit species and medical plants in three regions of Georgia (Racha-Lechkhumi, Svaneti, Samtskhe-Javakheti). Current relative legislation was analyzed and a study was made on attitudes by the local populations to the restoration and conservation of traditional cultural plants.

Challenges in the field of conservation of agricultural biodiversity and their causes were analyzed during the development of the Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. As a result, the conservation of agricultural biodiversity was identified as one of the key strategic directions of biodiversity conservation at the national level.

332. The exchange of experience in agricultural biodiversity conservation takes place at international conferences and workshops with the participation of Georgian specialists.

334. Key activities of the Society for the Protection of Agrobiodiversity, Dika, are the preservation of endemic species of cultural plants, their restoration and planting in farms, dissemination of information on the importance of preservation of agricultural biodiversity. The organization was founded in 1998 by the Association of Biological Farms Elkana and a group of scientists. For several years now Dika has been supporting farmers to sow local species and land-races and up to 500 species have been sown. With the support of a German organization Renovabis, Dika is implementing a project called "Preservation and Restoration of Georgian Agricultural Biodiversity". It draws the attention of farmers, decision-makers and society at large to the importance of conservation and use of local species of cultural plants. With this aim the economic potential of local species is demonstrated in niche markets (e.g. bread production). Farmers are consulted on the product niches, and marketing assistance is provided through exhibition-sales. Traditional species are promoted in small farms and church farms, and local seed species are prepared and distributed at markets.

336-338. After the 1990s radical changes took place for agricultural production and market. In 1992-1996 land reforms were implemented which resulted in the creation of private farms. However the process of creating independent farmers as entrepreneurs is still under way. Key directions of the reforms in the agricultural sectors are the completion of land reforms, the development of rural infrastructures, restoration of irrigation systems, capacity building of newly-created farms and income generation. The elaboration of the policy of agricultural ecology is still at the initial stage.

To support sustainable agricultural practices, since 2000 a project has been implemented called "Agricultural Research, Consultation and Education" with the support of GEF and the World Bank. Phase one of the project was dedicated to improve environmental practices in local farms. This included safe maintenance and management of fertilizers, introduction of the use of bio-gas energy through demonstrating proper technologies and addressing the reasons hampering its large-scale use (institutional, financial, markets). The grants scheme of the project will assist research, the dissemination of technologies and the introduction of environmental agricultural practices to reduce the impact on soil and water.

The aim of the program of development of agriculture in the highlands of Georgia (IFAD) is to improve the means of agricultural production, financial resources, social services, skills, processing lines and market access in the target regions. These activities will ensure the protection and restoration of the natural resources in Georgian villages.

Due to the efforts of the NGO sector (The Green Movement of Georgia, Association of Biological Farms Elkana) in the 1990s, the first biological farms were established. So far the number of biological farms in Georgian agriculture is small (only about 200 small farms) and there is no law or economic mechanism to encourage their development. Elkana renders consultations to biological farmers and assists them in marketing development. With the support of the Eurasia Foundation, ISAR-Georgia, Misereor and other donors, Elkana implements projects for the development of organic agriculture and cooperates in this field with other countries of South Caucasus.

In addition to the economic situation, the development of sustainable agricultural practice is hampered by the non-existence of outreach services. Only a small portion of farmers have received agricultural education, and their environmental awareness is low. In this regard Georgia is assisted by donor organizations like TACIS, CARE International, Eurasia Foundation and others. These assist farmers by creating educational and information centers, training courses and workshops for farmers. These chiefly address issues of marketing and financial management, as well as sustainable agricultural practices and the preservation of agricultural biodiversity.

345. Elkana and "Dika" publish public awareness and educational materials on the importance of preserving agricultural biodiversity. Elkana's *The Biofarmer* magazine, publishes articles on these topics regularly. These organizations take part in agricultural exhibitions and organize trade-fairs to promote local, almost extinct species of agricultural plants (See answer 334).

Forest biological diversity

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

359. Has your country included expertise on forest biodiversity in its delegations to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests?	
a) no	X

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

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

364. Do the actions that your country is taking to address the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity conform with the ecosystem approach?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
365. Do the actions that your country is taking to address the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity take into consideration the outcome of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests?	
a) no	X

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

b) under consideration	
c) measures taken	

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

Georgia is rich in forests. The lands of the State Forest Fund comprise 2,988,000 hectares, of which 2,767,000 are covered by forests (about 40% of the country's entire territory). The major part are mountain forests and ensure water regulation, soil protection, climate stabilization etc. These forests provide significant habitat for many plant and animal species, including rare and endangered species. The forest lands of Georgia are entirely State-owned. In the last decades of the Soviet period Georgian forests were used mainly for recreational purposes. Timber-processing industries relied on the raw materials imported from distant regions of Russia. In the first year of Georgia's independence,with poverty and an energy crisis, wood resources were harvested for heating purposes, illegal cuts were frequent, and timber was exported from Georgia to Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan where it was sold very cheaply. The funding of State agencies responsible for the forest sector was significantly decreased. As a result there was a strong impact on the forest ecosystem and the natural ecosystems of forests were at serious risk. Temporary measures taken by the government of Georgia, such as prohibition of logging and a moratorium on the export of logs, did not have a serious influence on the existing severe situation.

Thus, the country faced serious objectives. There was a need to envisage ecological and social elements to forest management and to introduce such principles as ecologically justified use, and to ensure a significant contribution through forestry to the economic development of the country. With this aim, the Government of Georgia expects to obtain a credit from the World Bank. In 1998, with the support of the World Bank and the Government of Japan, a project was created concerning "The Development of Georgian Forest Sector". At the initial stage of this project, targeted demonstration districts were identified. The objectives of this project were the improvement of the management of forest sector through legal, structural and financial reforms; improvement of forest planning and management in the pilot area of the Central Caucasus – the so-called "Laboratory Zone"; protection and restoration of forests on the target territories. The project was planned for six years (2001-2006) and financed through a credit from the World Bank in the amount of $15,000,000.

In 1999 the new Forest Code of Georgia was adopted. Its aim is to introduce market relationships in the forest sector. It defines the necessity for preserving biodiversity and formally shares the key principles of the Biodiversity Convention. However, the principles of sustainable development are not envisaged by the methods and rules of inventory of forest resources, cadastre, planning and cutting; these are regulated by legal acts. Thus, the practice of forest resource management does not correspond to the principles of sustainable development and is a principle reason for forest biodiversity degradation.

"The Strategy for the Development of Georgian Forestry", supported by the World Bank, states that the existing system of the forest sector was formed in the period of Soviet centralized planning and no longer responds to the needs of biodiversity preservation or the principles of sustainable development. The document covers the institutional changes for forestry development as well as the key directions of investment projects.

360. Several agencies are simultaneously responsible for the forest biodiversity issues: The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, the State Department of Forestry, the State Department of Reserves, Protected Areas and Hunting-Farms. There is a great deal of overlap between the activities of these agencies. This lack of coordination leads to the shortcomings in the introduction of a forest biodiversity work program. Georgia's participation in international meetings on forest issues is limited and adequate attention is not paid to the implementation of the decisions of the Convention.

361. A Preparatory phase of the forest development project is under way in cooperation with the World Bank. The project aims to implement the management systems based on the environmental principles in the forest sector, for forest protection and restoration. There is close cooperation with WWF for the development of sustainable forestry and refinement of the system of protected areas. On the basis of preliminary analyses, the Cabinet of Ministers approved seven target districts of protected areas, which include large forest massives. Through the project of WWF and the World Bank "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forests", the WWF Georgian Office implemented a project to disseminate information on the key principles of sustainable forestry among Georgian foresters and conservationists.

363. "The Project for the Development of Protected Areas of Georgia", funded by GEF, will support the establishment of new protected areas and the enhancement of the existing ones in the vast ecosystems of Eastern and Central Caucasus. It will also support conservation of biodiversity in the agricultural landscapes that join the protected areas. The Central Caucasus is becoming an area that will support both the development of forest sector and protected areas. This should ensure forest conservation and sustainable use of the resources in the region.

369. According to the Forest Code, unions of citizens may obtain complete, objective and timely information on the state of the State Forest Fund and may participate in every stage of forest fund management planning. The Agencies that deal with the management of the State Forest Fund organize discussions with citizens and their unions prior to decision-making. However, such mechanisms for public participation are not defined so far.

"The Project of Development of Georgian Forest Sector" of the World Bank organized meetings and debates with the participation of experts of the World Bank, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, State Forestry Department, the Agricultural University, The Institute of Highland Forestry and other concerned agencies and scientists. The meetings and workshops were held to discuss the project goals and objectives.

370. Development projects for the forest sector and protected areas are to support institutional management for the relative sectors, as well as capacity building, training and equipment on the central and local levels.

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

372. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you will implement it?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	X
373. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work?	

a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	X
374. Is your country fostering cooperation for the regional or subregional implementation of the programme among countries sharing similar biomes?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	X

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

372-374. Arid and semi-arid ecosystems are found in the very southeast areas of Georgia. They are rich in biodiversity and historical-cultural heritage. Key habitats are semi-desert, steppe, rock xerophytes, polydominant hemi-xerophytes bushes, arid clear forests, and Tugai type groves. Many rare and endangered fauna species are found here and though the territory is nearly uninhabited, it suffers severe anthropogenic impact, due to excessive grazing, poaching, improper planning of the irrigation infrastructure, military operations on the territory and other factors. In order to protect and preserve this significant cultural and natural heritage, the Iori plateau was included in the first scheme of the spatial development of Georgian protected areas, elaborated in 1990-91. In 1995, based on the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Georgia, a planning region of the protected areas of Iori Plateau was created. The region contains two reserves - Vashlovani (8484 hectares) and Mariamjvari (1040 hectares) as well as four managed reserves (Gardabani, Korugi, Iori and Chachuna).

The project "Conservation of Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems in the Caucasus" has been implemented since 1999 by UNDP and NACRES, with support from GEF. The project is addresses the degradation of arid and semi-arid ecosystems, through ensuring sustainable use of natural resources. NGOs and scientists from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan take part in the implementation of the project. A comprehensive study of the arid and semi-arid ecosystems was carried out and social-economic factors in the given region were analyzed. The project defined conservation activities and alternative ways of land use, then steps were made to enhance coordination between the three South Caucasus nations and to promote environmental awareness of land users and other interested parties.

Based on research data about the arid and semi-arid ecosystems and the social-economic factors in the region, a regional management plan was elaborated. One type of implementation of this plan is pilot-projects. As a result of one of these pilot projects, the hunting-farm "Dali Mountain" was formed; its management is based on the principles of sustainable use of biodiversity components.

Decision V/20. Operations of the Convention

375. Does your country take into consideration gender balance, involvement of indigenous people and members of local communities, and the range of relevant

disciplines and expertise, when nominating experts for inclusion in the roster?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
376. Has you country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	
377. Has your country undertaken a review of national programmes and needs related to the implementation of the Convention and, if appropriate, informed the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) under way	
c) yes	

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

The Convention on Biodiversity was ratified in Georgia in 1994 becoming a Contracting Party to the Convention.

In 1996 the program of biodiversity research was implemented with the support of GEF and the Environmental Program of the UN (UNEP). The goals of this program were the assessment of the status of biodiversity threats, species and habitats of Georgia, collection and compilation of the existing information, identification of drawbacks and elaboration of relative recommendations. The materials of the study were published in Georgian and English languages (see Article 7, answer 34).

The Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan has been elaborated since 1998, with the support of GEF and the World Bank. The process is coordinated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. Representatives of different NGOs and scientific institutions are involved in the process. A draft has been elaborated and is being discussed by the interested parties (See Article 6, answers 20-21).

In 1999 the First National Report was prepared and submitted to the Secretariat of the Biodiversity Convention (See Article 26, answer 301).

The legislative framework was formed to ensure preservation of biodiversity and sustainable use. In this regard, the following laws should be mentioned:

- The Law on Environmental protection (1996),
- The Law on the System of Protected Areas(1996),
- The Law on Environmental Permit (1997),
- The Law on State Ecological Examination(1997),
- The Law on Wildlife ((1996),
- The Law on Water (1997),
- The Law on the Creation and Management of the Protected Territories of Kolkheti (1999),
- The Forest Code of Georgia (1999).

Relative amendments were made in the tax, administrative and criminal legislation. Despite these laws, certain requirements of the Convention are insufficiently reflected in the national legislation, which should be further developed in this regard. The system of protected areas is being formed, relative laws have been created. With the support of GEF the project of development of the system of protected areas of Georgia has been launched. With the financial assistance of the Government of Germany and GEF the National Parks of Borjomi-Kharagauli and Kolkheti have been established (See Article 8, answers 72-76).

A project for the conservation of arid and semi-arid ecosystems in the Caucasus has been implemented (see answers 373-374);

The preparatory phase of the project of conservation and restoration of Georgian agricultural biodiversity is under way (see answer 329);

Activities are implemented for better conservation and availability of genetic resources of plants (Article 15, answers 218-237).

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

Georgia has signed mutual agreements of cooperation in the environmental field with the following countries: Turkey (1997), Kazakhstan (1996), Armenia (1997), Azerbaijan (1997), Turkmenistan (1997), Uzbekistan (1995), Ukraine (1993). These agreements envisage cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

In cooperation with Germany, a project is being implemented for the establishing of the National Park of Borjomi-Kharagauli (see answer 72).

Georgia cooperates with Ukraine for the protection of fish in the Black Sea. Cooperation is ongoing with other countries of the Black Sea for the environmental protection of the Black Sea (see answers 13, 320-325).

Georgia cooperates with South Caucasian ecoregion countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, Iran, Russia) for the elaboration of the plan of conservation of the ecoregion. Jointly with the above-mentioned countries, Georgia has prepared an investment strategy for biodiversity conservation (see answer 13).

Projects are implemented jointly with Armenia and Azerbaijan to improve the management of transboundary river basins (see answer 14). In cooperation with the same countries, the biodiversity of transboundary arid and semi-arid ecosystems was studied and a management plan was worked out (see answer 372-374).

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

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

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

Date of completion:	
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government	
By which authority?	
On what date?	
If the NBSAP has been published please give	
Title:	
Name and address of publisher:	

ISBN:	
Price (if applicable):	
Other information on ordering:	
If the NBSAP has not been published	
Please give full details of how copies can be obtained:	
If the NBSAP has been posted on a national website	
Please give full URL:	
If the NBSAP has been lodged with an Implementing Agency of the GEF	
Please indicate which agency:	
Has a copy of the NBSAP been lodged with the Convention Secretariat?	

Yes		No	

Please provide similar details if you have completed a Biodiversity Country Study or another report or action plan relevant to the objectives of this Convention

The project Georgian Biodiversity Country Study was implemented in 1995-1996 with the support of the global project of GEF. Within the project framework, trilateral cooperation was established between the Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, UNDP and the local NGO NACRES. As a result of this, within NACRES, the Georgian Biodiversity Country Study Unit was formed. Its experts were involved in the coordination and implementation of the project and the Report was published in Georgian and English; it was submitted to the Convention Secretariat, as well as to UNEP and other international organizations.

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