

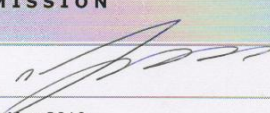
**Third National Report
of Georgia
to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

The Ministry of Environmental Protection of Georgia
Center for the Conservation of Species NACRES

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A. REPORTING PARTY

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SUBMISSION	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report	
Date of submission	06 May 2010

Information on the preparation of the report

Box I.

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

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

Georgia received financial assistance to create the Second and Third National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity in late 2008 thus was unable to meet the submission deadlines of submission as defined by Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties (Resolutions V/19 and VII/25). This project needed consultation and training in order for the Reports to fully reflect the processes on the local level regarding the Articles and Resolutions of the Convention.

The Report describes the status of implementation of the Convention in Georgia from 2002-2005. It discusses the activities implemented in the given period and their results, as well as the background situation and problems in the fields of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

The elaborate the National Report was coordinated by the Center for the Conservation of Species, NACRES. The following experts of the Center were involved for the elaboration:

- Anna Rukhadze, Chief Specialist of the Biodiversity Protection Service of The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia (Responsible for the elaborate the document);
- Dr. Irakli Macharashvili, Association "Green Alternative" (Forest Biodiversity);
- Dr. Gia Sofadze, Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Research and training, public education, technical and scientific cooperation).

For creating this document, interviews and consultations were held at the following departments, scientific research institutes and NGOs:

State Agencies:

- The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources:
 - The Department of Integrated Management of the Environment;
 - Environmental Protection Inspection;
 - Department of Protected Areas;
 - Forest Department;

The Department of International Relations and Policy;

- The Ministry of Agriculture;
- The Ministry of Education and Science.

Scientific research Institutes and Educational Institutions:

- Tbilisi Botanical Garden and the Institute of Botany;
- Batumi Botanical Gardens;
- The Institute of Zoology;
- Kanchaveli Institute of Plant Protection;
- Gulisashvili Forest Institute;
- The Institute of Agriculture;
- The Institute of Horticulture, Vine-Growing and Wine-Production;
- Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University;

- Chavchavadze State University;
- Georgian Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Non-Governmental Organizations:

- WWF Caucasus Programme Office;
- IUCN South Caucasian Office;
- Georgian Centre for the Conservation of Wildlife (GCCW);
- The Association of Field Researchers CAMPESTER;
- Association of Biological Farms Elkana;
- Centre for Sustainable Tourism;
- CGIAR Program for Central Asia and the Caucasus;

On the basis of the data obtained from 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 reflects 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 for the elaborate the report:

- The First National Environmental Action Plan program of Georgia, 2000 -2004;
- Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot, Ecosystem Profile, CEPF, 2003
- Caucasus Environmental Outlook, CEO, GRID- Tbilisi, 2002;
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Georgia, 2005;
- 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 Protection of Biodiversity, Climate Change and To Combat Desertification, "National Capacity Needs, Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management", 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 Environmental Action Plan program, UNDP, L. Butkhuzi, 2007;
- The Second National Environmental Action Plan Program, 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 of Georgia (2001-2006).
- National Reports on the State of the Environment (2001-2005).
- Millennium Development Goals in Georgia, 2004;
- The Program of Poverty Reduction and Economic Development of Georgia, 2003;
- The Indication 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.

A. PRIORITY SETTING, TARGETS AND OBSTACLES

Box II.

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

Being part of the Caucasian ecoregion, Georgia is recognized as one of the "Hot Spots" of biodiversity (Conservation International). The Caucasus is among the 200 global ecoregions distinguished by WWF, based on the following criteria: diversity of species, level of endemism, taxonomic uniqueness, evolutionary processes, the peculiarities of the historical development of flora and fauna and diversity of plants types and the rarity of biomes on the global level.

The topographical complexity and climatic differences condition the diversity of landscapes and ecosystems of Eastern and Western Georgia. The key biomes are: flood plain forests, semi-desert, steppe, arid light woodland forests, deciduous, coniferous and mixed forests, sub-alpine, alpine, sub-nival and nival biomes and wetlands. Among countries with temperate climates, Georgia is one of the richest in flora. About 21% of flora or about 900 species are endemic (600 Caucasian, 300 Georgian endemic species). The endemic genera of Georgian flora is very high. 16 endemic and sub-endemic genera are represented here. Georgia is one of the centers of origin and diversity of cultural plants: many species of vine, cereal plants, fruit etc. originate here. The fauna of Georgia is also unique and diverse. Due to the geographic location of the Caucasus, Georgia counts species of certain provinces of East Europe (European-Siberian Region), and of dry and semi-dry climate (Iran-Turanian province, Sahara-Gobi region). The level of endemism is high (the percentage of Caucasian endemic species) in both vertebrates and invertebrates. A total of 28,900 species are registered in Georgia, out of which 2700 are algae, 8000 fungus and lichens (cryptogamic plants), 4100 vascular plants. There are approximately 14,100 animal species, of which 570 are vertebrates.

39.7% of Georgian lands are used for agriculture. The most intensively used lands (agricultural fields and perennial crops) comprise 35.2% of all agricultural lands, 59.4% are pastures and 4.7% are used as hay meadow. Approximately 40% of Georgian territory is covered with forests. The Protected Areas (IUCN categories I-IV) cover 5.3%, mainly forests.

Many animal species are rare and they are included in the Red List of IUCN. In 2003 a law "On "The Red List" and "The Red Book" of Georgia" was adopted. According to this law, the "Red List" was approved, where the species defined by the Red Book of Georgia (1982) were included. The Red List includes the species under Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and under the Agreements of that Convention, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS). These species inhabit the territory of Georgia permanently or temporarily. The Red List, approved in 2003, includes 26 species of mammals, 55 birds, six reptiles, four amphibians, one fish and 150 plant species. Currently, the Committee on Endangered Species of the Georgian Academy of Sciences assesses the status of the species based on IUCN criteria. On the basis of this assessment, a new "Red List of Georgia" will be compiled.

The key threats to biodiversity are: destruction of habitats, fragmentation of habitats, degradation of water ecosystems from irrigation and drainage works, excessive grazing, irrational and illegal cutting of forests, illegal hunting and fishing.

After the Rose Revolution (2003) Georgia started to implement significant legislative and institutional reforms. The Government defined priority directions in the field of environmental protection and the use of natural resources which implies further development of the system of Protected Areas and the reform of the forest sector. In 2005 the Government approved the Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

In 2002-2005 new Protected Areas were created and the existing ones were enhanced. As a result, the total area of protected territory (IUCN categories I-V) was enlarged by 149,339 hectares. Steps were made aimed to improve the management of these territories, as well as to ensure their financial sustainability. In the last two years State financing of the Protected Areas increased significantly.

To preserve the Caucasian ecoregion and Black Sea biodiversity, Georgia recognized transbound-

ary cooperation as one of the priority directions. Jointly with other countries of the region, Georgia takes part in the elaborate concrete projects and plans in these directions.

A unified State system of control of environmental protection was elaborated. The Inspection of Environmental Protection was formed at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. This improved law enforcement in the field of environmental protection and the use of natural resources. Illegal logging decreased significantly.

The role and the assistance of the international community and donor organizations cannot be overestimated regarding biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of biological resources.

Despite these improvements, biodiversity conservation planning and implementation is still poor, the pressure on natural resources is high, environmental awareness is low both for the public and decision-makers' awareness are low, public participation in the decision-making processes is poor. Biodiversity issues are poorly reflected or not reflected at all in the plans and programs of other sectors. From recent changes in the national legislation, many discrepancies can be observed in the legal mechanisms of regulation of biodiversity conservation and the use of natural resources. Despite the legal requirements, there is no unified system of the monitoring of biodiversity. Various organizations and specialists implement the monitoring of separate components, but the information collected is not systematic and there is no unified database. This makes it impossible to observe the dynamics of the biodiversity and to plan timely actions. All this hampers the prevention of degradation of natural resources.

Priority Setting

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

Article/Provision/Programme of Work	Level of Priority		
	High	Medium	Low
a) Article 5 – Cooperation	X		
b) Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use	X		
c) Article 7 - Identification and monitoring		X	
d) Article 8 – <i>In-situ</i> conservation	X		
e) Article 8(h) - Alien species			X
f) Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions		X	
g) Article 9 – <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation			X
h) Article 10 – Sustainable use of components of biological diversity		X	
i) Article 11 - Incentive measures			X

j) Article 12 - Research and training			X
k) Article 13 - Public education and awareness		X	
l) Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts		X	
m) Article 15 - Access to genetic resources			X
n) Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology			X
o) Article 17 - Exchange of information			X
p) Article 18 - Scientific and technical cooperation		X	
q) Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits			X
r) Article 20 - Financial resources	X		
s) Article 21 - Financial mechanism	X		
t) Agricultural biodiversity	X		
u) Forest biodiversity	X		
v) Inland water biodiversity		X	
w) Marine and coastal biodiversity		X	
x) Dryland and subhumid land biodiversity	X		
y) Mountain biodiversity	X		

Challenges and Obstacles to Implementation

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

Challenges	Articles																		
	5	6	7	8	8h	8j	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
a) Lack of political will and support	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	
b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	N/A	2	1	1	1	1	N/A	2	2	2	1	3	2	N/A	1	N/A	2	N/A	
c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	1	3	N/A	2	1	N/A	N/A	3	3	N/A	1	3	2	1	N/A	N/A	2	3	
d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	2	N/A	N/A	2	2	N/A	N/A	3	2	3	N/A	N/A	2	2	
e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	
f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	N/A	N/A	1	1	2	N/A	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	3	N/A	
g) Loss of traditional knowledge	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	3	N/A	3	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	N/A	1	1	1	1	N/A	1	1	N/A	2	N/A	2	1	2	N/A	2	3	N/A	

i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	N/A	1	1	1	1	N/A	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	2	3	2	
j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	N/A	2	N/A	3	2	N/A	N/A	3	1	1	2	2	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	N/A	N/A	1	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	1	1	1	2	N/A	N/A	1	1	N/A	
l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	N/A	2	N/A	3	1	N/A	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	
m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	1	2	3	2	2	N/A	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
n) Lack of economic incentive measures	N/A	2	N/A	3	1	N/A	2	3	3	N/A	N/A	3	2	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	
o) Lack of benefit-sharing	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	1	N/A	N/A	1	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	N/A	1	N/A	1	1	N/A	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	
q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	1	2	N/A	1	1	N/A	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	
r) Lack of effective partnerships	1	2	1	2	1	N/A	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	

s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	N/A	N/A	1	1	1	N/A	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	N/A
t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	N/A	2	2	1	1	N/A	1	2	3	1	1	2	3	3	2	2	3	2
u) Poverty	N/A	2	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	2	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3
v) Population pressure	N/A	2	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	N/A	1	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	2	N/A	1	3	2	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
x) Lack of capacities for local communities	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	1	1	N/A	2	1	N/A	3	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	N/A	1	N/A	3	2	N/A	N/A	3	2	N/A	2	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3
z) Weak law enforcement capacity	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	2	N/A	N/A	2	1	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
bb) Others (please specify)																			

2010 Target

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

Box III.

Goal 1	Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes.
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Target 1.1	At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>One of the strategic targets of Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (approved by the Decree of the Government of Georgia, 19 February 2005, #27) is the development of the system of Protected Areas with the aim to protect and recover biodiversity and sustainable use of the natural resources. To achieve these targets, the following objectives have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of a complete network of Protected Areas; • Improvement of the planning and management of protected areas; • Elaborate the system of sustainable monitoring; • Improvement of the financial mechanism of Protected Areas; • Creation of the database on the Protected Areas; • Political support and development of transinstitutional and cross-sectoral cooperation and partnership; • Development of international and transboundary cooperation; • Introduction of a comprehensive system of education and interpretation concerning Protected Areas; • Introduction of ecotourism principles on Protected Areas; • Identification of problems of the population in Protected Areas and their outskirts with the aim of including the issues in the planning and establishment of Protected Areas. <p>In 2005 the elaborate a plan of conservation of Caucasian ecoregion was finished. This plan was approved by the governments of Caucasian countries, including Georgia. The plan envisages long-term (2025) and 10-year (2015) targets regarding the protection and sustainable use of the ecoregion's forests, freshwater, coastline and highland ecosystems. According to the ECP (Emergency Conservation Program), additional protection should be implemented for 10% of forests, 5% of freshwater ecosystems, 5% of Black Sea and Coastline ecosystems and 8% of highland ecosystems. Ecoregion conservation plans define activities on the regional and national levels.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	

e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>By 2005 the system of Protected Areas included the following: 18 Strict Nature Reserves (IUCN category I, in all 171,673 hectares), four National Parks (IUCN category II, in all, 211 003 hectares), three Natural monuments (IUCN category III), eight Managed Nature Reserves (IUCN category IV, in all, 20,093 hectares) and one Protected Landscape (IUCN category V, in all, 27 903 hectares). The territories of IUCN categories I, II and IV include 403 thousand hectares in all, which is 5.3% of the entire Georgian territory.</p> <p>The most important areas are currently grouped under various Protected Areas. In the last period Protected Areas were established on the Eastern Caucasus and the Iori Plateau (Tusheti, Batsara-Babaneuri, Lagodekhi and Vashlovani Protected Areas). They include highland, forest and semi-arid ecosystems.</p> <p>Several new Protected Areas are planned in the Central Caucasus (Svaneti and Racha-Lechkhumi). In the nearest future planning for a protected area on Javakheti Plateau will start. Corresponding drafts of law are elaborated for the establishing of Tbilisi and Mtirala National Parks and the complex of Imereti caves.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>To achieve these targets and goals, the NBSAP defines the following activities and indicators of implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government has approved a plan of development of the system of Protected Areas in Georgia; • A law has been adopted on the establishment of Protected Areas on Central Caucasus, a management plan has been elaborated; • A law has been approved on the establishment of a protected area on the Javakheti Plateau, management plans are elaborated and approved; • The lakes of Javakheti are included in the list of wetlands of international importance; • A minimum of three strict nature reserves are reorganized; • The Government and public organizations have evaluated the efficiency of work of the Protected Areas; • At least one site is presented to the list of wetlands of international importance; • The list of objects – potential natural monuments- has been compiled, corresponding laws are adopted, management plans are elaborated; • These Protected Areas are recognized by UNESCO as the reservates of the biosphere; 			

- Documentation is submitted to UNESCO for the inclusion of the relative sites in the list of global natural and cultural heritage;
- Official agreements are signed with the neighboring countries concerning the establishment of transboundary Protected Areas;
- A system for monitoring Protected Areas is elaborated and included in the unified system of biodiversity monitoring;
- A database is compiled and corresponding publications have been issued;
- The status of protected area is attached to the identified migration corridors;
- Minimum one pilot project has been implemented at each national park;
- A normative act has been approved regarding the mechanism of compensation to the population of the territories adjacent to the Protected Areas;
- The financial state and infrastructure of Protected Areas are significantly developed due to their own income-generating capacity.

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

The following challenges have been identified in the field of development of the system of Protected Areas in Georgia: lack of funding, non-flexibility of financial mechanisms, institutional weaknesses, low levels of environmental education and awareness of the population the conflict of interests of the local population and Protected Areas in several regions.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box IV.

Target 1.2	Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X
Please provide details below.		
<p>Apart from the inclusion of important territories for biodiversity into the scheme of protected areas (see corresponding information in Box III), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) has identified the conservation and rational use of the existing significant territories as one of its key objectives. To achieve this objective, the document refers to the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of important areas for birds (including transboundary territories), definition of principles of rational use of these areas; • Inventory of wetlands; • Elaborate State strategy for wetlands; • Elaborate a State program of protection and restoration of flood plain forests; • Assessment of the Surami and Gombori ranges as biological corridors and creation of a management plan for the sustainable use of these territories; • Implementation of the management plan of arid and semi-arid zones; • Identification of endangered plant coenoses (including rare, relict, primary and close to primary, of global importance, especially vulnerable). 		

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>The preparation a plan for the system of Protected Areas, elaborate the plan for the conservation of Caucasian ecoregion and preparation of the investment portfolio for the Fund of Preservation of Critical Ecosystems (CEPF) have all assisted in the identification of important biodiversity sites. Within the program of Birdlife International on the Indentification of Important Areas for Birds, 31 sites of a global category have been identified. With the support of CEPF, Birdlife International and local NGOs have started to establish a public network of management and monitoring of important sites for birds throughout the entire Caucasus ecoregion. The plan for conservation of Alazani flood plain forests is being elaborated. With the support of the Government of Norway, WWF Caucasian Representation implements a project for the prevention of degradation of tugai-type flood plain forests along the Iori river banks.</p> <p>Information on the inclusion of important biodiversity sites in the Protected Areas is provided in Box III.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>The NBSAP defines the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 80% of endangered plant coenoses are identified; • The list of important sites regarding biodiversity is compiled, grouped according to the types of habitats; the methods of conservation and sustainable use are defined for the most important sites in each group; • Important areas for birds are identified and included in the international publications; management principles are defined for the majority of areas; where possible, the areas are granted corresponding protection status; corresponding activities are being implemented; 			

- A database is created including information on the main wetland areas of Georgia; corresponding maps are compiled;
- The State strategy on wetland areas is elaborated and approved;
- The State program of protection and rehabilitation of flood plain forests is elaborated and approved; the program is being implemented;
- The plan of sustainable use of Surami range is elaborated and being implemented;
- The management plan for the sustainable use of the Gombori Range is elaborated and is being implemented;
- A minimum of 75% of the activities under the management plan of arid and semi-arid zones are implemented.

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

There is no complete information concerning the key biodiversity sites thus their management is not based on conservation principles. The implementation of the objective is hampered by problems regarding the development of the system of Protected Areas (see Box III and information on the implementation of Article 8 (a)-(e)), the lack of cooperation between sectors, low public awareness of biodiversity conservation issues.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box V.

Goal 2	Promote the conservation of species diversity	
Target 2.1	Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X
Please provide details below.		
Regarding the conservation of the species diversity, the NBSAP has defined the following targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation and restoration of Georgian habitats, species and their genetic diversity by means of <i>in-situ</i>, <i>ex-situ</i> and <i>inter-situ</i> conservation measures and sustainable use of biological resources; • Development of a system of biodiversity monitoring, elaborate an active and integrated biodiversity database to ensure sustainable use and conservation of biological resources; activities are defined regarding these targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct inventory of plant and animal species and assess their status using IUCN categories of threat; • Create a Raptor Conservation Action Plan and begin implementation; 		

- Elaborate a Conservation Action Plan for Waterbirds and begin implementation
- Carry out a bat inventory and create a Bat Conservation Action Plan;
- Elaborate a Marine Mammal Conservation Action Plan and begin implementation;
- Elaborate a Wolf Conservation Action Plan and begin implementation;
- Establish bird ringing centres.

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

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

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

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

Please provide details below.

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

The status of species is assessed in accordance with IUCN criteria. This will form a basis for the creation of the new Red List of Georgia.

Georgian legislation prohibits the capture of sea mammals. In 1999 the Black Sea Protected Area was established to protect and preserve these mammals. It includes a five-mile zone from the juncture of the Rioni River to Anaklia. This aquatic site is distinguished as an important habitat and breeding-site of dolphins. With the support of the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS, in 2004 the Institute of Fish Research studied the conservation status of small cetaceans, and the short-term (two years) and long-term (three years) strategy for the protection of cetaceans were elaborated. According to these strategies, in 2005 Georgia, Ukraine and Russia implemented joint research on cetacean distribution in the Black Sea and identification of their numbers.

The Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife (GCCW) has been studying the populations of raptors since 1994. The research includes the following: the modeling of habitats, satellite telemetry, marking, pathogenic analysis and public awareness activities. Four species of raptors are found: *Gyps fulvus*, *Aegypius monachus*, *Neophron percnopterus* and *Gypaetus barbatus*. Out of these, *Aegypius monachus* is recognized as an endangered species of global importance, and the remaining three are integrated in the list of endangered birds of Europe (EU Wild Birds Directive 79/409/EEC). Apart from *Neophron percnopterus*, they are included in The Red List of Georgia. According to the

international Red List and the Red Book of Georgia, it is prohibited to carry out any activity that may threaten these birds or their breeding areas. The results of the research of the past decade have been published in book "*Raptors of the Caucasus and Georgia*" (2005).

Bats are highly diverse. According to the latest information, there are 35 species of bats inventoried. Their status has not yet been assessed and the current state of their major colonies is not known and their main habitats are not listed. The Union of Field Researchers (CAMPESTER) has been studying bat species for several years and in the nearest future, with the support of Critical Ecosystems Protection Fund (CEPF), this organization will create a network of bat monitoring in the Caucasus, elaborate the regional strategy and action plan of protection of bats and form a basis to define how to best protect bats in the Caucasus.

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

The NBSAP has defined the following indicators:

- The Raptors Conservation Action Plan published and approved by the government, and activities started ;
- The Waterbirds Conservation Action Plan published and approved by the government, and activities started;
- Inventory completed for at least 75% of bat species thought to be present. The Bat Conservation Action Plan published and approved by the government, and activities started;
- The Marine Mammals Conservation Action Plan published and approved by the government, and activities started ;
- The Wolf Conservation Action Plan published and approved by the government, and activities started;
- The Conservation Action Plan for various key species published and approved by the government, and activities started;
- At least two bird ringing centers set up integrated in international bird bringing schemes.

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

- The lack of political will and support
- Low awareness of the importance of conservation of biodiversity;
- Extremely small financial resources;
- Degradation and loss of habitats.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box VI.

Target 2.2	Status of threatened species improved
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Yes, the same as the global target	<input type="checkbox"/>

c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X	
Please provide details below.			
<p>The NBSAP has defined the following goal: the conservation of critically endangered species and the restoration of endangered species.</p> <p>To achieve this goal, the NBSAP has defined the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of the Red List and the Red Book of Georgia; • Elaborate conservation programs for critically endangered, rare, endemic and relict species, initiation of implementation of the programs; • Elaborate a national recovery programme for the goitered gazelle (<i>Gazella subgutturosa</i>) and begin implementation; • Elaborate a Striped Hyena Conservation Action Plan and begin implementation; • Elaborate a Cervidae Conservation Action Plan and begin implementation; • Elaborate a Caprinae Conservation Action Plan and begin implementation; • Elaborate a Leopard Conservation Action Plan and begin implementation. 			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>Many species of animals in Georgia are rare and important on the global scale, found on the Red List of IUCN. In 2003 a law "On the Red List and the Red Book of Georgia" was adopted. According to this law, the "Red List of Georgia" was approved. It includes the species defined by the Red Book of Georgia (1982). The Red List includes the species under Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and under the Agreements of Bonn Convention The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA); The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetace-</p>			

ans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS); These species inhabit the territory of Georgia permanently or temporarily. The Red List, approved in 2003, includes 26 species of mammals, 55 birds, six reptiles, four amphibians, one fish and 150 plant species. Currently, the Committee on Endangered Species of Georgian Academy of Sciences assesses the status of the species based on IUCN criteria. On the basis of this assessment, the new "Red List of Georgia" will be compiled.

According to Georgian legislation, any activity that may cause the perishing of the species on the Red List, decrease the number of these species or destroy their habitat, is strictly prohibited. Harvesting species on the Red List is permitted only for certain scientific purposes.

Recently important actions were taken for the conservation and restoration of endangered species in Georgia (those on the Red List of Georgia). In cooperation with WWF Switzerland, WWF Caucasian Representation implements the project of reintroduction of bezoar (*Capra aegagrus*) in Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park. With the aim of creating the initial population, nine individuals were brought from Armenia (with the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Armenia). Several individuals will be brought from Daghestan to retain the viability of the population and preserve genetic diversity. In cooperation with WWF Switzerland, conservation activities are carried out regarding *Pantera pardus* in the ecoregion of the Caucasus. This animal, which was considered extinct in Georgia, was found in Vashlovani National Park through NACRES' research under the project "The Development of a System of Protected Areas of Georgia" (GEF/The World Bank) in 2004. In cooperation with NACRES, the Administration of Vashlovani National Park monitors this species on the Park's territory. To protect and recover deer populations (*Cervus elaphus*), WWF Caucasian Representation supports the elaborate the monitoring program for the sites of deer habitats, mainly the Protected Areas. Activities include public awareness raising, especially for local communities and the elaborate proposals to establish migration corridors. The environmental investment program of BP and its partner organizations (BTC, SCP) supported an action plan for the conservation of brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and Caucasian Black Grouse (*Tetrao mlokosiewiczi*). CEPF supported research on the West Caucasian tur (*Capra caucasica*), a mountain dwelling goat antelope found only in the western half of the Caucasus Mountain range to create a conservation management plan. In the nearest future the conservation status of all representatives of the acipenseridae in the southeast part of the Black Sea will be identified.

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

The NBSAP defines the following indicators:

- According to preliminary data, conservation status is assigned to at least 75% of estimated threatened species; corresponding database is created and placed on the internet;
- The Red List of Georgia is updated and approved; The New Red Book of Georgia is published;
- Conservation programmes are initiated for at least 20% of key species;
- The National recovery program for *Gazella subgutturosa* is elaborated and approved by the government and the implementation is in process;
- The striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*) Conservation Action Plan published and approved by the government, and activities started;
- The Cervidae Conservation Action Plan published and approved by the government, and activities started;
- The leopard (*Pantera pardus*) Conservation Action Plan published and approved by the government, and activities started.

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

Many species of plants and animals are critically endangered due to deficiencies in the legal regulation of hunting and fishing, as well as destruction of habitats and poaching. Local populations and the governing agencies are not involved in conservation activities due to low environmental awareness. The level of law enforcement is poor regarding illegal hunting. Even endangered species are not considered a priority for conservation; therefore, financial resources are not allocated to plan

or implement concrete activities.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information

Box VII.

Goal 3	Promote the conservation of genetic diversity		
Target 3.1	Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>The NBSAP defines the following strategic goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation and restoration of Georgian habitats, species and their genetic diversity by means of <i>in-situ</i>, <i>ex-situ</i> and <i>inter-situ</i> conservation activities and sustainable use of biological resources; • Conservation of the agricultural biodiversity by means of elaborate framework conditions for its sustainable use and support of <i>ex situ</i> and <i>in situ</i> activities. <p>Regarding these goals, the following objectives have been defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation of <i>ex-situ</i> and <i>inter-situ</i> conservation; • Creation and development of infrastructure that will support the restoration, protection and study of the agricultural biodiversity of Georgia; • Conduct an Inventory of Georgian agricultural biodiversity and compilation of the Red List; • Recovery, preservation and study of local species and related wild species; • Disseminating local and international knowledge and experience on agricultural biodiversity; • Promotion of Georgian agricultural biodiversity and traditions; • Evaluation of the resources of agricultural biodiversity and granting Georgian agricultural biodiversity the status of cultural heritage. 			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	

b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>More than 2000 species of Georgian flora have some direct economic value. They are used as food, animal food, medicinal plants, paints, essences, timber etc. Many local species of cultural plants and their related wild species (wild relatives) have been identified. Locally occurring cereals include 350 native species from 100 families, including many endemic. For example, out of the 15 wheat species in Georgia, five are endemic. The country is believed to be the origin of grapes. The literary sources make mention of 500 different varieties of grapes have been recorded here, out of which, according to the latest data, only 300 are preserved. Among one hundred fruits high varietals diversity is found in apples, pears, sour cherries and quinces. Species that were introduced, including species of maize, French beans, soy and others are widespread and have developed into many local forms and species which might be already considered as part of local biodiversity. Fifty species of beans are registered.</p> <p><i>In-situ</i> conservation of the genetic resources of plants chiefly occurs in the Protected Areas, where thousands of plant species are represented, including endemic plants.</p> <p>Within the framework of the GEF/UNDP project "Recovery, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Georgian Agricultural biodiversity", 11 target cultures were conserved on farms, and local species of fruit were recovered. With the aim of on-farm conservation of cultural plant species, the project supports the selection of strategic niche products out of local traditional species, the definition of technological standards and the promotion of new products at market and tasting events/workshops.</p> <p>There is only one genetic bank for <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of agricultural plants, which functions at the Institute of Agriculture. It contains about 2500 field and vegetable culture samples. 75 samples of virus-free potato tissues are kept at the Center of Biotechnology. With the support of Biodiversity International, the Institute of Vine-growing, Horticulture and Wine-production has collected about 300 species of local vines. Expeditions are organized to different districts to enrich the collections of cultural plants and their wild relatives.</p> <p>Since 2005 Tbilisi Botanical Gardens has taken part in the UK Kew Gardens' Millennium Seed Bank project. Duplicate collections of 520 species have been created (within the seeds and herbariums of Kew Gardens and Tbilisi Institute of Botany) and out of these, 200 species are endemic Caucasian and Georgian.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

To reach these goals and objectives, the NBSAP has defined corresponding activities and indicators of implementation:

- The programs of recovery and development of Georgian Botanical Gardens are elaborated and approved, at least one demo project has been implemented;
- The center for *ex-situ* conservation of animals is established;
- Under the patronage of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the State program of recovery, protection and sustainable use of Georgian agricultural biodiversity is elaborated and approved;
- Georgian agricultural biodiversity is recognized as cultural heritage;
- The legislative basis is prepared for the protection and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, qualified staff is trained, a specialized structural unit of agricultural biodiversity is formed at the Ministry of Food and Agriculture;
- The Red List of Georgian agricultural biodiversity is compiled, concrete programs of restoration of endangered species have been elaborated;
- An updated database of Georgian agricultural biodiversity is created;
- The country has adequate human resources for the management and implementation of *ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation;
- The qualification and technical equipment of scientific research institutes are improved;
- The initial base is formed for the development of the State genetic bank;
- Several mini-reserves are created to ensure the *in-situ* conservation of the wild ancestors of cultivated plants and medicinal plants;
- The Fund of protection of Georgian biodiversity is established, the restoration of traditional species has started on local farms;
- Minimum 10% of traditional endangered species are already planted in rural farms;
- The existing legislative basis is improved in view of better availability of the genetic resources of Georgian agricultural biodiversity, the legislation is in harmony with the Convention;
- Corresponding amendments are made in the legislation that regulates seed flow, at least three seed farms are established;
- An information network on traditional knowledge and experience is created at the local and international levels; special web-site is created.

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

The *in-situ* conservation of the genetic resources of plants is hampered by the non-existence of Protected Areas in places where the wild relatives of cultivated plants are widespread. The majority of genetic resources of plants are kept in collections and their seeds are inaccessible to farmers in the amount necessary for reproduction. There are no economic incentives for farmers to implement farm-based conservation. *Ex situ* collections of the genetic resources of plants have no State support, which would need allocated lands for research and modern equipment necessary for the maintenance of the collections in favourable conditions. Until now, *ex situ* conservation of genetic resources of plants has been implemented only with support from the international community. The protection of agricultural biodiversity is not recognized as a priority at the State level.

Other important challenges include the following:

- Threats from uncontrolled import and introduction of modern biotechnology;
- Lack of knowledge and experience in *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation of agricultural biodiversity;
- Lack of information exchange both within the country and internationally;
- The loss of traditional knowledge and experience regarding the use of agricultural biodiversity;
- The shortcomings in the technical equipment of scientific research institutes, insufficiently developed bases of these institutes;
- Non-existence of economic leverage for the protection and sustainable use of Georgian agricultural biodiversity.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box VIII.

Goal 4	Promote sustainable use and consumption.		
Target 4.1	Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>The strategic goal of the NBSAP is to conserve forest biodiversity through sustainable forest management. In connection with this goal, the document defines the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaborate sustainable forest policies and management strategy based on an ecosystem approach; • Introduce forestry regulations and methodology that take into consideration biodiversity issues and the principles of sustainable use (forest inventory, cadastre, planning and consumption of forests (including cuts)); • Develop indicators for sustainable forestry management that take into consideration the local biodiversity conditions; • Elaborate a forest certification system; • Create the methodological, legal and technical documents necessary for the development of forest management plans and their implementation; • Regulate the forest consumption tax system to ensure income generation that will support forest protection and management, attraction of investments in the forest sector; • Establish a moratorium on timber extraction from old growth forests and those of high conservation value; • Use land consumption planning and zoning methods in the management of forest resources; • Elaborate and implement programs for the recovery and development of forest stands to enlarge forest areas and restore the types of forests that are significantly degraded or totally annihilated; • Create forest plantations through consumption and cultivation of native species; prohibit further dissemination of alien species. 			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	

b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>One important target of the reform in the environmental sector is reorganization of the forest sector and the support of the development of sustainable forestry. With this aim, new forest strategy is being elaborated, which will lead to the development of corresponding legislation, aimed at the attraction of investments in the sector and improvement of the qualitative management of forest sector. The Ministry has elaborated the concept of forest reform, on the basis of which in 2006 the institutional reform of the system will be launched.</p> <p>Since 2003, with the support of the World Bank, the development of the Georgian forest sector has been implemented. This project aims to increase contribution of the forest sector in the economic development of the country through efficient management systems based on environmental protection principles. To achieve this aim, the project envisages forest inventory and identification of the functions of forest stands (on the basis of landscape-ecological zoning). To improve the legal regulation of forest management, corresponding legislative changes and normative acts should be elaborated, information systems for forest management should be created, and forest policy and strategy should be worked out.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<p>The key challenges for the development of sustainable forestry are a lack of political will and support, institutional weaknesses, lack of cooperation between departments, lack of interest of the involved parties, lack of knowledge and practice in the field of management based on ecosystem approach and the absence of corresponding legislative, institutional and financial bases for the sustainable management of forests. Current practices in forest resource management do not correspond to the principles of sustainable management and are chiefly oriented towards exploitation, and lead to the degradation of forest biodiversity.</p>			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box IX.

Target 4.2	Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>One of the strategic targets of the NBSAP is to promote hunting and fishing through adequate planning restoration and protection of key biological resources. In connection with this goal, the document defines the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the maintenance of genetic diversity of game species; • Maintain the populations of each game species at an optimal level; • Develop effective tools for the protection of wild animals and to control poaching. <p>Based on these objectives, the document defines the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the licensing procedure hunting migratory birds; • Define hunting quotas for migratory birds and conduct studies on hunting to identify sites where wildfowling will be permitted and those where all hunting should be banned, based on bird counts on these sites; • Define special fees for trophy kills (the price of which should largely exceed the price of non-trophy individuals of the same species); • Define a list of birds of prey that can be used in falconry (based on licenses) and definition of quotas for these species; • Restore the former Agency of Hunting Control and create Public Inspection schemes; • Organize professional training for public officials and the personnel of hunting farms; • Publish leaflets and or/ brochures for public information, to explain hunting seasons and quotas with special emphasis on rare game species etc.; • Develop traditional hunting concepts and introduce the relative amendments in the legislation; • Restore or establish hatcheries dedicated to the recovery of native fish species using modern technology; • Ensure that the income generated from the use of biological resources is used for conservation and renewal of these resources; • Define quotas for non-game species. 			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	

b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>Since the adoption of the Law On Wildlife in 1996, only amateur and sports hunting is authorized in Georgia in special hunting farms. Outside the hunting farms only hunting migratory game birds is authorized. The normative acts define the rules of hunting, the list of species for hunting, hunting seasons, daily norms for hunting migratory birds, permitted or prohibited weapons of hunting. Long-term licenses are issued for establishing hunting farms (20-25 years) by way of auction. The hunting farms are established based on the preliminary ecological, biological and economic study. The aim of this study is to ensure sustainable use of game species and the biodiversity of the hunting farms. The owner of a hunting farm is obliged to implement registration of animals on the territory of his/her farm and present annual results to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. On the basis of these results, quotas will be defined for each hunted species. Currently there are 29 hunting farms in Georgia.</p> <p>Commercial fishing is authorized only on the basis of special licenses, issued by way of auction. Prior to the auction, based on a special study, the limits of harvesting are defined per species and water reservoir. In 2005, for the purpose of sustainable use of fish resources, a State program was implemented. The program included the study of fish resources in eight lakes, artificial reservoirs and the Black Sea marine area. The list of authorized commercial fish species was defined, the seasons of fishing, fishing sites, permitted and prohibited nets and tools and the rules of reporting were also defined. Legislation defines responsibilities and fines for the violation of hunting and fishing laws.</p> <p>Removing certain non-timber forest products (bulbs of <i>Galanthus</i> and <i>Cyclamen</i>, cones of the Caucasian or Nordman fir (<i>Abies nordmanniana</i>) are subject to licensing in Georgia.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>To achieve these targets and implement the corresponding activities, the NBSAP defines the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate amendments are made in the legislation concerning the licensing on migratory game birds; • A list of sites exists to show where hunting migratory birds is permitted or banned (based on bird count) and hunting quotas are defined; 			

- Relevant amendments are made in the legislation regarding trophy hunting;
- Relevant amendments are made in the legislation concerning birds of prey;
- Legal basis for the restoration of Agency of Hunting Control is established;
- A certain number of public officials and the personnel of hunting farms have been trained;
- Related literature is published and disseminated;
- Additions to the legislation concerning traditional hunting are in place;
- Fully equipped hatcheries using modern techniques are established;
- Amendments are made in legislation regarding the reinvestment of income generated by means of taxes on hunting wild animals, allotting funds to the conservation of these animals;
- The quotas for species that cannot be hunted are defined; export quotas for the objects of international trade are defined.

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

The key obstacles for the sustainable use of biological resources are: lack of knowledge and experience of resource management in the State and private sectors, legislative drawbacks, poor law enforcement, especially regarding illegal hunting.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box X.

Target 4.3	No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	

e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>International trade by species of wild flora and fauna is regulated by CITES, joined by Georgia in 1997. Appendices I and II of the Convention include 76 species of Georgian fauna and 63 species of Georgian flora, which include <i>Galanthus</i>, <i>Cyclamen</i>, sturgeons, dolphins, Mediterranean tortoise, brown bear, wolf, birds of prey and all species of owl. Out of Georgian species in the Appendices of CITES, international trade refers to the bulbs of <i>Galanthus</i> and <i>Cyclamen</i>. Limited trade of these bulbs is authorized only in case they are planted in private gardens of farmers. The export of <i>Galanthus</i> bulbs has grown significantly in recent years (10 million units in 1997, 18 million in 2005). A CITES scientific committee evaluates the resources in farmer gardens annually and defines export quotas on the basis of evaluation.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>The NBSAP defines the following indicators for implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological and agricultural resources are identified; the quotas for harvesting and export are defined. 			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<p>To implement the requirements of CITES at the national level, the following challenges should be overcome: absence of national legislation, lack of cooperation among the interested agencies, poor law enforcement.</p>			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XI.

Goal 5	Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.
Target 5.1	Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	

a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X	
Please provide details below.			
The national targets regarding Target 5.1 are integrated in the national targets that correspond to 1.1. and 1.2. See frames III and IV.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XII.

Goal 6	Control threats from invasive alien species.		
Target 6.1	Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
The NBSAP defines the following activity: evaluation of the impact of the invasive species and definition of the strategy for their management.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Separate scientific research institutes have obtained data on the alien species that entered Georgia at different times and in different ways. There is little research oo their impact on local ecosystems, flora and fauna. The main activities have been aimed at the prevention of penetration and spreading alien species that affect agricultural plants and forest species.			

In 1996 "The Law on Wildlife" was adopted, which prohibited the introduction of alien species of fauna.

According to the Georgian law "On Agricultural Quarantine" (1997), the spreading of parasites, plant-infecting agents and weeds is strictly controlled.

The prevention of penetration of dangerous and pathogenic organisms from ballast waters of the Black Sea aquatoria is mentioned in the Presidential Decree #227, 09.06.01 "On the Control of Ship Ballast Waters" and the Provision "On the Procedure of Management of Ballast Waters", approved by the joint order of the Minister of Environmental Protection and the Minister of Transport and Communications of Georgia, #83-#53, 2001.

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

The NBSAP defines the following indicators for implementation:

- The impact of key invasive species on local ecosystems is assessed; the strategy of their management is elaborated.

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

The financial and human resources necessary for the implementation of this objective are extremely limited and existing preventive measures are insufficient.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XIII.

Target 6.2	Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X
Please provide details below.		
The national target that corresponds to Target 6.2 is integrated in the target defined in accordance with 6.1, see frame XII.		
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).		
Programme of work	Yes	No
		Details

a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XIV.

Goal 7	Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.
Target 7.1	Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	X

b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>In 1997-1999 the Georgia's first National Communication to the UN Climate Change Framework Convention was elaborated. For the creation of this document, the vulnerability of Georgian ecosystems to climate change was evaluated, key strategic directions of adaptation were defined and an action plan was drawn up. The study included the vulnerability of the Black Sea coastline, the anticipated changes of the areas of separate species in Kolkheti, Eastern and Southern Georgia, results of the possible upward movement of forest upper borders by 150-200 meters, possible transformation of pasture lands in the Alpine zone of the Eastern Caucasus, as well as management opportunities. Concrete project proposals concerning the adaptation measures for especially vulnerable ecosystems will be defined within the framework of the project "Activities to Elaborate the Georgia's Second National Communication to the Convention on Climate Change". This project will be launched in the nearest future with support of GEF. In 2001 an official national body was formed to discuss the opportunities for Georgia's involvement in the clean development mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol, including the forest sector.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

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

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XV.

Target 7.2

Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) No | X |
| b) Yes, the same as the global target | |
| c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established | |

Please provide details below.

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

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

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

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

Please provide details below.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XVI.

Goal 8	Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods.		
Target 8.1	Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and			

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

Box XVII.

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

d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No		X	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XVIII.

Goal 9	Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities.
Target 9.1	Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X
Please provide details below.	
The NBSAP defines the following activities:	

- Definition of the concept of traditional hunting in Georgia and introduction of corresponding amendments in the legislation;
- Research of the traditional attitudes to nature in Georgia, preparation of a popular publication.

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

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

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

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

Please provide details below.

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

Georgia has ancient traditions and harmonious attitudes towards nature by local populations, and diverse traditions of their sustainable consumption of natural resources. These traditions have been thoroughly studied and documented, though many of these traditions are lost or altered in the Soviet and recent periods, due to a "consumer attitude" to nature.

The concept of development of Georgian Protected Areas envisages protect and encourage traditional agriculture and customs to preserve the unique historical and cultural environment. These issues are in the law "On the Development of the System of Protected Areas".

With the support of donor organizations attitudes and traditional knowledge of the local populations are encouraged and preserved. See answer to question 62 and frame XLVI.

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

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

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XIX.

Target 9.2	Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XX.

Goal 10	Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.		
Target 10.1	All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
The NBSAP defines the following activities:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of mechanisms of control regarding the export and import of genetic resources; training of corresponding personnel; technical equipment; • Development of the legislative basis aimed at better availability of genetic resources of agricultural biodiversity and harmonizing legislation with the Convention. 			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	

f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>In Georgia there is no mechanism that regulates the accessibility to genetic resources and their distribution. The legislation does not require the registration of export and import of genetic resources. The collections of various scientific research institutes (Ketskhoveli Institute of Botany, The Institute of Agriculture and The Institute of Vine-Growing) are free and accessible for all interested parties.</p> <p>Scientific research institutes involved in projects of genetic resources work with the support of international organizations. Prior to the implementation of joint projects, the availability of resources for the purpose of collection and further study is defined for each concrete case between the scientific organizations participating in the research. State agencies do not take part in this process, as there is no corresponding legislative basis to do so. In general, such projects ensure equitable distribution of the collected materials between various genetic banks of the countries involved in the project, equal copyrights on publications and long-term maintenance of samples in duplicate collections.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>The NBSAP defines the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The customs-office implements strict control of the export and import of genetic resources; • The existing legislation is improved regarding better availability of the genetic resources of agricultural biodiversity; the legislation is in harmony with the Convention. 			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XXI.

Target 10.2	Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	

a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
This issue is not relevant for Georgia, because the selection programs chiefly make use of the local genetic resources. In rare cases, the materials provided by the public agencies of the developed countries are used.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XXII.

Goal 11	Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention.		
Target 11.1	New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XXIII.

Target 11.2	Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X

b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)

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

Box XXIV.

Target 1. A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (approved by the Government of Georgia, February 19, 2005, decree #27) envisage the registration of plant species.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X

b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>Taxonomic research has a long history in Georgia and in 2005 a nomenclature list of Georgian flora was published. It includes 182 families of calicyform plants, 1016 geni and 4130 species. This list was based on the second edition of <i>Georgian Flora</i>, the I-XIV volumes of which were published in 1971-2003. Volumes XV and XVI are ready to be published. <i>Georgian Flora</i> contains updated information on the taxonomy, endemism, rarity and habitats of the flora. The results of the systemic study of the brio-flora and algo-flora are reflected in the three-volume edition of "Georgian Spore-bearing Plants", "Notes on Georgian Sporiferous Flora", "The Checklist of Georgian Moss Species" and other publications. A database is created for Georgian epiphytic moss (about 300 species) and epiphytic licaens (285 species). The existing taxonomic information is not accessible on the internet, however and an annotated list (checklist) needs to be updated and enriched with the latest taxonomic data.</p> <p>Additional information on the issue is provided in Article 7 and comments on the implementaiton of the Global Taxonomic Initiative.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXV.

Target 2. A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	

The assessment of the status of species is one of the objectives defined by The NBSAP. To fulfill this objective, the following activities are defined by the document:

- Inventory of plant species and definition of their status based on IUCN categories;
- Publication of the Red List and the Red Book of Georgia.

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

a) Yes

X

b) No

Please specify

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

The temporary Red List of Georgia, approved by the Order of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources in 2003 includes 150 species of plants.

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

In 2003 the law "On the Red List and the Red Book of Georgia" was adopted. According to this, by 2005 the status of species had to be assessed based on IUCN criteria, from which the updated version of the Red List would be published. The Committee of Endangered Species at the Academy of Sciences of Georgia is currently studying the materials provided by scientific research institutes and NGOs concerning the status of species.

With the coordination of IUCN Switzerland, supported by Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), and with technical assistance from Missouri Botanical Gardens, the Red List of plants of the Caucasian ecoregion is being compiled. This project also aims at the capacity building of local botanists regarding the use of methods recognized on the international level in the fields of plant conservation, assessment of plant status and monitoring.

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

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Often the materials provided to the Committee of Endangered Species of Georgian Academy of Sciences do not contain complete information for the assessment of the status of certain species. In fact, there are no materials for the assessment of the status of spore-bearing plants by IUCN criteria. In 2005 the categorization of herb plants failed; hence, only woody species will be included in the national Red List.

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXVI.

Target 3. Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.

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

a) Yes

X

b) No

Please specify

The NBSAP defines the following activities:

- Elaborate programs for the conservation of endangered, rare, endemic and relict species; initiation of implementation.
- Elaborate and adopt a law on the flora of Georgia.

The following targets are defined by The NBSAP regarding the implementation of methods of sustainable forestry:

- Elaborate methods and rules for the inventory of forest resources and forest use, based on the principles of sustainable development and preservation of biodiversity;
- Elaborate indicators of biodiversity and sustainable forestry specifically for Georgian conditions;
- Elaborate the scheme of forest certification;
- Elaborate the methodological and normative-technical documents necessary for the drafting and implementation of management plans.

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

a) Yes

X

b) No

Please specify

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

Currently no conservation program has been elaborated for any plant species. The sustainable use of plant resources is regulated by the Forest Code of Georgia, Georgian law "On Licenses and Permits" and corresponding legal normative acts.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p>"The Forest Code of Georgia" (1999) regulates the legal relations in connection with the maintenance, protection, restoration and use of the forest fund and its resources. According to the Forest Code, based on the materials of forest fund inventory, the annual optimal volume of timber-production is defined. The use of forest resources (timber) is subject to licensing, and licenses are issued on the basis of auction.</p> <p>Since 2000 the Presidential Decree on the Rules of Forest Use, Cutting, Forest Protection and Rehabilitation is in force. These activities are aimed at the preservation of the forests soil-protecting and water-regulating function and protection of wildlife (envisaging the breeding period while planning the timber-harvesting activities). Places are defined where commercial cuts are not implemented (e.g. flood plain forests, sub-alpine forests, sites with the dominance of relict and endemic species, slopes steeper than 35 degrees, the forest zones that protect the banks of rivers, canals and water reservoirs). The rules also define the tree species authorized for cutting. The Order of the Chairman of the Forest Department defines the rules of maintenance cuts. Despite these, due to large-scale illegal cuts in the recent years, forest stands were severely damaged. After unregulated exploitation over 10 years forests are in poor conditions and it is necessary to implement forest inventory. This activity is mentioned in "The Project of Development of Georgian Forest Sector". Logging technology and equipment are outdated, which negatively affects the forests of Georgia.</p>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
There are legal constraints regarding the use of non-timber resources for commercial purposes. Legislation in the field of forestry does not regulate this issue at present.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXVII.

Target 4. At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Information concerning this target is provided in frame 3.	

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

Box XXVIII.

Target 5. Protection of fifty percent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The NBSAP defines endangered plant communities as a key issue (including rare, relict, primary and close to primary, globally important, especially vulnerable).	

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
No activities have been implemented to identify important plant sites (IPA) and their protection in accordance with IPA criteria and methodology. However Nature Reserves are chiefly aimed at the conservation of flora species. These territories include the majority of species on the Red List of Georgia.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXIX.

Target 6. At least thirty percent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	

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

Box XXX.

Target 7. Sixty percent of the world's threatened species conserved <i>In-situ</i>.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)
<p>There are no plants on the IUCN list under status VU and higher. The current Red List of Georgia includes 150 species, the majority of which are found in reserves, created for the purpose of conservation of plant species in the past.</p> <p>Currently the status of species is assessed based on IUCN criteria. Later these species will be added to the updated Red List of Georgia.</p>
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target
VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXI.

Target 8. Sixty percent of threatened plant species in accessible <i>Ex-situ</i> collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 percent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The NBSAP envisages creating a Center for <i>ex-situ</i> Conservation and the development of centers already existing in the given field.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>There are several botanical gardens: Tbilisi Botanical Gardens and its branches in Kutaisi and Bakuriani, the botanical gardens of Batumi, Zugdidi and Sokhumi. Tbilisi Botanical Gardens counts more than 400 species of rare and endangered plant species of Georgia and the Caucasus, among these, 24 species from the Red Book of Georgia (published in 1982). The analysis of the ecological-geographic diffusion of these plants and their endemism has been implemented. The factors that restrict the viability pheno-phases are identified. Batumi Botanical Gardens counts 19 species from the Red List of Georgia.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p>Since 2005 Tbilisi Botanical Gardens has participated in the Millenium Seed Bank project of Kew gardens, UK. Within the project framework, the duplicated collection of 520 species has been created (plant seeds and herbarium of Kew Gardens and Tbilisi Institute of Botany). Out of these, 200 species are endemic Caucasian.</p>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
<p>The NBSAP defines the following indicators of implementation: the program of restoration and development of the Botanical Gardens of Georgia is elaborated and approved; at least one demo project has been implemented.</p>	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
<p>So far the assessment of the status of Georgian plants under IUCN criteria is not complete. Programs of plant restoration and reintroduction in the environment are not implemented.</p>	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXII.

Target 9. Seventy percent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>The NBSAP defines the following targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of Georgian agricultural biodiversity and compilation of the Red List; • Restoration, preservation and study of the local cultural species and their wild relatives. 	

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>Georgia is an important center of origin of a diversity of genetic resources of plants and agricultural species. There are approximately 100 families and 350 local species of cereal cultures, may endemic. Five species are endemic out of 15 wheat species found. The literature mentions about 500 local species of grapes, out of which 300 are preserved. There are about 100 fruit species. <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation of Georgian cultural flora started in the 50s of the past century. Collections of cultural plants and seeds are kept at the Institute of Botany, Institute of Agriculture, Horticulture, Vine-Growing and Wine-Production, the Institute of Tea, Sub-tropical Cultures and Tea-Production, the Agricultural University, the Center of Biotechnology.</p> <p>Additional information on cultural plants and other social-economic plants is provided in frame VII.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p>Within the framework of international and bilateral cooperation, Georgia implements projects of inventory, research, updating of collections and conservation.</p> <p>With the financing of Global Crop Diversity Trust, in cooperation with ICARDA, (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas), a genetic bank was created on the base of the Institute of Agriculture. This bank includes the collections earlier scattered throughout various store-houses and spots. The genetic bank of the Institute of Agriculture currently maintains about 2500 samples of field culture plants and vegetables. With the support of ICARDA, Australian International Agricultural Foundation (ACIAR) and the US Department of Agriculture, USDA, in 2001-2005 expeditions were held to various districts of Georgia with the aim of collecting the samples of cereal and leguminous plants. In all, 345 samples were collected.</p> <p>In the countries north of the Caucasus and the Black Sea region, Bioversity International leads a project for the conservation and sustainable use of the genetic resources of vine. This project was launched in 2002 and Georgia is also involved (the Institute of Vine-Growing, Horticulture and Wine-Production). This project gathered a collection of local species of grape vines. It includes about 300 species.</p> <p>Within the framework of the project "Restoration, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Georgian Agricultural Biodiversity", selected target cultures are conserved on farm in the region of Samtskhe-Javakheti.</p>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXIII.

Target 10. Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The NBSAP defines the following activity:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of the impact of invasive species and elaborate strategy for their management. 	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>Currently there is no reliable scientific information on the quantitative analysis of populations of alien species; there is no list of the habitats that are especially vulnerable to the invasive species. It is known that hundreds of invasive plant species have penetrated Georgia. However, only two scientific papers are published so far, enlisting the invasive species growing on the territories of Achara and Abkhazia. The classification schemes on which these papers are based are outdated and do not meet modern requirements.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p>To prevent the invasion and dispersal of alien and invasive species, phytosanitary control is implemented. The legislation does not prohibit the introduction of alien species of plants, but the use of local species is recommended regarding forest development. See also answer to question 47.</p>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIV.

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

Box XXXV.

Target 12. Thirty percent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.

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

a) Yes	X
b) No	

Please specify

The NBSAP has defined the support of the traditional and organic agriculture in the country as one of its activities, especially in buffer zones and mountain regions.
For information on the development of sustainable forestry, see box VIII.

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

a) Yes	X
b) No	

Please specify

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

The development of organic agriculture started in Georgia in the 1990s, although its portion of the agricultural sector is still insignificant. Currently about 1000 small farmers have introduced practices based on biofarming principles; more than 5000 farmers have attended training on the issues.

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

The development of organic farming is largely supported by the Association of Biofarmers Elkana which provides consultancies and implements projects through the support of donor organizations. In 2005 a national body to certify biological products was formed, but so far it has not obtained international accreditation. Georgian legislation is now being elaborated concerning biological agricultural production. This law will form a legal basis for the regulation of bio-production issues. The draft of this law is based on the international standards – Codex Alimentarius GL 32 and EU regulation (EEC #2092/91).

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

The NBSAP defines the following indicator:

- The portion of organic agriculture is increased, a minimum of 500 bio-farmers are registered in Georgia.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Due to the absence of a legislative basis, the certification and registration of bio-farmers is impossible; hence, there are no exact data on the organic farms and their territories.

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXVI.

Target 13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.

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

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

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

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

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

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

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

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXVII.

Target 14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes.

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

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

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

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

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

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

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

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXVIII.

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

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>The management of the conservation of species of flora and plant resources is the function of the Biodiversity Protection Service of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, the Department of Protected Areas and the Forest Department. Research of the biodiversity of flora, protection and use of natural resources of plants is implemented by the Ketskshoveli Institute of Botany, The Chair of Botany of Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and Gulisashvili Institute of Highland Forestry. <i>Ex situ</i> conservation of plants is implemented in five botanical gardens: Tbilisi Botanical Gardens and its branches in Kutaisi and Bakuriani, Batumi Botanical Gardens and Zugdidi Botanical Gardens. Conservation of cultural plants is implemented by the institutes of agriculture, horticulture, vine-growing and wine-production. Public officials and representatives of the scientific sector take part in workshops and training courses organized by donors on the issues of <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation of plants.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIX.

Target 16. Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	


Box XL.

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

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


Ecosystem Approach

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

3.  ¹ Is your country applying the ecosystem approach, taking into account the principles and guidance contained in the annex to decision V/6? (decision V/6)


- a) No
- b) No, but application is under consideration
- c) Yes, some aspects are being applied
- d) Yes, substantially implemented

X

4.  Is your country developing practical expressions of the ecosystem approach for national policies and legislation and for implementation activities, with adaptation to local, national, and regional conditions? (decision V/6)

- a) No


X

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

b) No, but development is under consideration	
c) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying some principles of the ecosystem approach	
d) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying most principles of the ecosystem approach	

5. Is your country strengthening capacities for the application of the ecosystem approach, and providing technical and financial support for capacity-building to apply the ecosystem approach? (decision V/6)

a) No	X
b) Yes, within the country	
c) Yes, including providing support to other Parties	

6.  Has your country promoted regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders? (decision V/6)

a) No	
b) Yes, informal cooperation (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, formal cooperation (please provide details below)	

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

A plan for the conservation of the Caucasian ecoregion is elaborated based on the ecosystem approach. The document defines a complex of activities (conservation, management, restoration, capacity building, public awareness and legislative and institutional changes) for the preservation of the following ecosystems of the Caucasus: freshwaters, sea and coastline, forests and mountains, including transboundary ecosystems.

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

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

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

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

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant policies and programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the creation of an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach.	

C. ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

Article 5 – Cooperation

9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Is your country actively cooperating with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
c) Yes, multilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
d) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation (please give details below)	X
e) Yes, other forms of cooperation (please give details below)	
Further comments on cooperation with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
<p>Being part of Bucharest Convention on the Prevention of Pollution in the Black Sea, Georgia takes part in the work of Istanbul Committee consultation groups, the activities of which include the following issues: aspects of environmental safety of navigation , pollution monitoring and assessment, pollution control from land-based sources, integrated management of the coastline zone, protection of biological diversity, production of fish and other living marine resources.</p> <p>In 2002-2005 Georgia participated in the following Black Sea environmental projects:</p> <p>a) Technical assistance to the Black Sea Environmental Program in Russia, Ukraine and Georgia, EU TACIS, 2002-2004. The project improved the regional profile of the Black Sea Biodiversity Center of Georgia.</p> <p>b) Restoration of the Black Sea Ecosystems, UNDP/GEF, (2002-2008). The project aims at supporting the implementation of the obligations under the Bucharest Convention of Black Sea Basin States. It aims to increase the efficiency of the institutional and management structures of the Black Sea Committee and update the draft protocol on "Land Based Sources of Pollution and Corresponding Activities". A transboundary diagnostic analysis of the Black Sea is implemented and based on this analysis, the second strategic action plan will be drafted. The integrated program for monitoring and assessing the pollution of the Black Sea has been launched. A small grants program was implemented with the aim of increasing public awareness.</p> <p>In 2002-2005 Georgia's cooperation with the countries of the Caucasian ecoregion was enhanced (Turkey, Iran, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russian Federation). There are several initiatives for cooperation in the ecoregion: establishment of transboundary Protected Areas jointly with Armenia (Javakheti and Arpi lakes) and Azerbaijan (Belakani-Lagodekhi), Turkey (South Kolkheti); conservation and restoration of certain species (<i>Panthera pardus</i>, <i>Gazella subgutturosa</i>). With the coordination of WWF Caucasian Representation, a network of independent monitoring of biodiversity is being formed. To ensure long-term financial sustainability of priority Protected Areas of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Foundation of Caucasian Protected Areas was created with the support of WWF, Conservation International and the Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation of Germany (BMZ).</p> <p>In cooperation with IUCN European Regional Office, an international conference is being prepared, aimed at the involvement of the Caucasus in Countdown 2010 process.</p> <p>At the initiative of the Government of Germany, in 2005 "The Program of South Caucasian Environmental Protection" was launched. This program supports cooperation between Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan on issues of conservation of biodiversity of the ecoregion. The project will support the establishment of new transboundary Protected Areas in Georgia and Armenia. The joint transboundary secretariat established within the program will ensure the development of a vision of sustainable development in the South Caucasus and biodiversity conservation issues in the spatial development and agricultural planning and encourage dialogue between different interested parties.</p>	

With the support of the Government of Norway, a joint Georgian-Azerbaijani project was implemented to conserve Iori relict flood plain forests. The project enhanced transboundary cooperation on sustainable management of the Iori River and capacity building concerning existing Protected Areas (*Pinus eldarica* forest in Azerbaijan and Chachuna Managed Nature Reserve in Georgia).

In 2004 the 8.5 million USD Critical Ecosystems Preservation Fund, an investment program, was implemented in the ecoregion of the Caucasus. This process is coordinated by the WWF Caucasian Representation. The program focuses on 50 species of high conservation value and 5 biological corridors. During the preparatory stage of the project (2002-2003) more than 130 experts from all the six countries of the ecoregion evaluated the main results of the decrease of biodiversity. An investment strategy was created and reflected in the 2003 document "The Analysis of the Ecosystem of the Caucasian Ecoregion". The investment program of CEPF gathers partners from the entire ecoregion and supports joint efforts for the preservation of the biodiversity of the Caucasus.

Georgia continues its active cooperation to ensure the sustainable management of transboundary river basins. This is largely supported by the following regional projects: Reduction of Degradation in the Transboundary Basin of Kura-Araksi (UNDP-GEF, 2005-2007); USAID projects such as The Management of Water Resources in South Caucasus (2000-2004) and South Caucasian Water Program (2005-2008); Monitoring of Kura-Araksi Basin Rivers (NATO-OECD, 2003-2007); Development of Transboundary Cooperation for Reporting Accidents in the Mtkvari Basin – elaboration and implementation of activities (German Federal Ministry of Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, 2003-2006); and Joint Management of Rivers – the Kura Basin, EU TACIS, 2002-2005.

In 2004 a memorandum of bilateral cooperation was signed between the Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forest, Water and Environmental Management. An agreement is ready to be signed between Georgia and Latvia. A memorandum of cooperation with the Netherlands has been drawn up. These agreements and memoranda include general provisions on cooperation in the field of biodiversity.

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

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

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

Being part of the Caucasian ecoregion, Georgia cooperates with its neighboring countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Russian Federation) in the field of biodiversity conservation. With the coordination of WWF Caucasian Representation, Caucasian **Ecoregion Conservation Plan (ECP)** was drafted and approved by the Ministers of Environmental Protection of the countries of the ecoregion. The plan is based on an ecosystem approach and underlines the necessities of capacity building, involvement of all the interested parties, equitable distribution of benefits, as well as the need for education. ECP is a tool for the governments of the Caucasian ecoregion for the implementation of the requirements of international conventions, especially the Convention on Biological Diversity, and reaching its targets by 2010. In 2004 the **Caucasian Regional Biodiversity Council** started to function and supports and monitors the implementation of the conservation plan for the ecoregion, regional programs and projects. The Council also makes it possible to share opinions on transboundary activities. It includes representatives of State and NGO sectors of all the six countries of the ecoregion.

11. Is your country taking steps to harmonize national policies and programmes, with a view to optimizing policy coherence, synergies and efficiency in the implementation of various multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) and relevant regional initiatives at the national level? (decision VI/2011.

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

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

To enhance the implementation of international conventions on the national level, in 2003-2005 GEF supported the implementation of the project "National Capacity Needs, Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management". The project evaluated the institutional, financial, technical, informational and human resources of Georgia regarding the implementation of three conventions of the UN – on Climate Change, On Biodiversity and To Combat Desertification. Problems were identified, and a strategy and action plan was elaborated to overcome the problems and increase capacities at the systemic, institutional and individual levels. It analyzed favorable conditions and obstacles regarding the implementation of these three conventions (political environment, coordination and cooperation between State institutions), as well as other important related issues (public awareness, opportunities of strategic planning in the environmental field, monitoring, management of informational resources, use of technologies, the academic sector and research in the environmental field). Based on these, strategic directions and interrelated measures were identified to increase the capacity for the implementation of Rio Conventions.

Box XLI.

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

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

Regarding the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of biological resources, in 2002-2005 Georgia enhanced cooperation with the governments of various countries, international organizations and financial institutions. Cooperation with GEF, the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP, USAID, SDC, governments of Germany, USA, the Netherlands, Japan and Norway, other bilateral and multilateral donors, greatly assists in the achievement of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Georgia has joined all international conventions and regional agreements on the issues of biodiversity. International cooperation plays a major role in the environmental reforms and supports the formulation of State policy and capacity building in the country. The financial and technical assistance obtained from the international community has helped to create new Protected Areas and enlarge the existing ones, elaborate strategic documents and plans, implement regional projects on the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources.


Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use

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

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

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

Decree no 27 of February 19, 2005 of the Government of Georgia approved the **Georgian National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)**. The first draft of this document was elaborated with the support of GEF and the World Bank. The final stage of elaborate this document was implemented within the framework of a joint project of UNDP, GEF and Center for the Conservation of Species (NACRES), "Conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in the Caucasus". The Action plan defines the 10-year strategy of protection and sustainable use of Georgian biodiversity, as well as concrete activities for five-year period. This document is a framework for coordinated activities in the field of biodiversity conservation. The NBSAP identifies the state of biodiversity, its problems and threats. Ten key issues are identified: protected areas, species and habitats, agricultural biodiversity, hunting and fishing, monitoring of biodiversity, biological safety, environmental education, public awareness and involvement, financial-economic program, sustainable forestry and well as legislative aspects. The plan includes the analysis of existing problems, a general goal and a future vision. It lays out the strategic principles of biodiversity conservation, concrete targets and objectives for each of these issues, concrete activities, the dates of implementation of each activity and the budget.

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

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

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

The NBSAP includes a list of activities per each strategic target, indicators of implementation of the activities, which are quantifiable where possible.

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

a) No

b) No, but priority actions are being identified

c) Yes, priority actions identified (please provide details below)

X

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

NBSAP provides a list of priority activities (140 activities) that should be implemented in the first five years in order to achieve the strategic targets given in the document.

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

a) No

b) Yes, in some sectors (please provide details below)

X

c) Yes, in major sectors (please provide details below)

d) Yes, in all sectors (please provide details below)

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

The program of the Government of Georgia for the years 2005-2010 defines as one of the priority directions of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources further development of the system of Protected Areas.

Additional activities aimed at biodiversity protection and sustainable use are envisaged in several strategic documents concerning environmental protection and economic development. These documents are: **The National Program of Action to Combat Desertification** (approved by Presidential Decree of April 2, 2003, #112), which analyses the state of the arid and semi-arid ecosystems that are the most sensitive to desertification, and factors that lead to desertification and the activities aimed at the preservation of biodiversity in a context of desertification; In the **Georgian Program of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction** (2003-2007, approved by the Decree of the President, 800, 28.06.2003), one of the priorities is the improvement of the state of the environment, for which the document defines the reform of the system of environmental monitoring and control and the development of Protected Areas. The **Millennium Development Goals in Georgia** defines prevention of the tendency of decrease of the natural resources (degradation) as one of its objectives. Indicators of implementation include forest territories over the whole country and all the protected areas created for the purpose of preservation of biological diversity. The National Report on the Millennium Development Goals underlines the importance of protection and preservation of Georgian biodiversity, as part of the Caucasian ecoregion, one of the hot spots of the world's biodiversity. The issue of biodiversity protection is reflected in **The State Program of Ecological Education of the Population** (approved by the Presidential Decree in 2002).

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

a) Yes

X

b) No

I) If YES , please briefly describe the extent to which it addresses	
(a) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species	<p>The NBSAP defines the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaborate management plans for the conservation of migratory mammals (bats, sea mammals, certain ungulates), start of implementation of these plans. • Elaborate a management plan for the conservation of waterbirds; • Improve the licensing procedure for hunting of migratory birds; • Definition of hunting quotas for migratory birds; conduct studies on hunting. Identify sites where hunting is strictly prohibited or permitted, and conduct an inventory on these territories.
(b) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats, including protected areas	<p>The NBSAP plans to establish Protected Areas on Javakheti Plateau, which includes important habitats of migratory birds. These areas will be included in the list of RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. The NBSAP also envisages an inventory of the wetlands and elaborate State strategy concerning these territories.</p>
(c) Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration	<p>The NBSAP envisages an Action Plan for the protection of migration routes of large mammals and migratory birds.</p>
(d) Research and monitoring for migratory species	<p>The NBSAP envisages the establishment of Migratory Bird Ringing Centers.</p>
(e) Transboundary movement	
II) If NO , please briefly indicate below	
(a) The extent to which your country addresses migratory species at national level	
(b) Cooperation with other Range States since 2000	

Biodiversity and Climate Change

17. Has your country implemented projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	X
b) No, but some projects or programs are under development	

c) Yes, some projects have been implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.	
<p>The Institute of Botany implements research within the framework of the project of EU 5th Frame Program Project, GLORIA EUROPE (Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments). Research will be carried out to determine a system for long-term monitoring of Georgian highland biodiversity in a context of global climate change. The plants of Kazbegi highland district have been studied, comparisons made of current climatic conditions with those 10, 15 and 25 years back. Changes in phytocoenoses caused by global warming were identified. With the support of GRDF, within the framework of a Georgia-US Bilateral Grant Programme, the Institute of Botany studied the impact of global climate change on the stability of the upper forest zone and the mechanisms of renewal of sub-alpine birch forests and made a forecast of vertical movement of the forest borders.</p>	

18. Has your country facilitated coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, relevant mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the UNFCCC and the UNCCD.	
<p>There is no national coordinated mechanism of implementation of Conventions on Climate Change and To Combat Desertification. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Georgia does not envisage the issues of possible impact of climate change on biodiversity. Hence, no activities are planned in this regard.</p>	

Box XLII.


<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.
<p>The approval of the NBSAP by the Government of Georgia is an important step for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the national level. Apart from State agencies, the plan is implemented by NGOs and scientific research institutes. The implementation of the planned activities is coordinated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. With approval of this plan Georgia expressed its readiness to fulfill the commitments under the Convention on Biodiversity. However, implementation and monitoring still represent challenges.</p> <p>In a context of economic recession and other priorities in the country, conservation of biodiversity is not fully represented in the medium-term programs of the country's development. Intersectoral cooperation is still rather poor.</p>

Article 7 - Identification and monitoring

19. ◊ On Article 7(a), does your country have an ongoing programme to identify components of biological diversity at the genetic, species, ecosystem level?	
a) No	
b) Yes, selected/partial programmes at the genetic, species and/or ecosystem level only (please specify and provide details below)	
c) Yes, complete programmes at ecosystem level and selected/partial inventories at the genetic and/or species level (please specify and provide details below)	X
Further comments on ongoing programmes to identify components of biodiversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.	
<p>From activities aimed at the development of Protected Areas, the general assessment of Georgian ecosystems was carried out. Based on this assessment, the most important areas of the country became Protected Areas. The identification of priority conservation species, habitats and ecological corridors was largely supported by the Caucasian Ecoregion Conservation Plan (2000-2006) and preparation of the investment portfolio for CEPF (2002-2003). These activities were coordinated by WWF Caucasus; more than 140 experts from the six countries of the Caucasus ecoregion took part. The plan of conservation of the Caucasian ecoregion identified 26 key species and 19 additional species, 56 sites of conservation priority (out of these, 17 are located in Georgia and transboundary districts) and 60 important corridors. Within the framework of CEPF, 28 priority species and 49 sites were identified.</p> <p>Within the program of important sites for birds of Birdlife International (IBA), GCCW identified 31 sites of global importance.</p> <p>In cooperation with WWF Caucasus, maps of sites of high conservation value are compiled, on the basis of which the reserve forest fund of protected areas will be created.</p> <p>According to the Georgian law "On the Red List and Red Book of Georgia", in 2005 the Committee of Endangered Species of the Georgian Academy of Sciences started working on the compilation of the updated Red List of Georgia. Scientific research institutes, environmental NGOs and specialists of the given field are involved in the process. In order to compile information for the Red List, the status of species is assessed in accordance with IUCN categories and criteria, based on the latest scientific information. The updated Red List of Georgia will include the species that fall within IUCN criteria: categories "Vulnerable" (VU), "Endangered" (EN), "Critically Endangered" (CR) and "Regionally Extinct" (RE). With the coordination of IUCN Switzerland and support of CEPF and Missouri Botanical Gardens, the Red List of plants of the Caucasian ecoregion is being compiled. The project also aims at building the capacities of local botanists regarding the knowledge and use of internationally-recognized methods of plant conservation, assessment of status and monitoring.</p> <p>The Institutes of Botany and Zoology as well as environmental organizations such as WWF Caucasus, Center for the Conservation of Species NACRES, Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife GCCW, Field Researchers' Association CAMPESTER, Georgian Natural Researchers Union "Orchis" and others implement research to assess the status of species, taxonomic groups and ecosystems. The Institute of Botany published a complete checklist of Georgian vascular plants, in 1971-2003 the I-XIV volumes of <i>Georgian Flora</i> were published, currently volumes XV and XVI are ready to be published. These volumes include the botanical characterization of 182 families, 1016 genera and 4130 species of plants. The database has been created including Georgian epiphytic moss (225 species), fresh-water algae (300 species), epiphytic lichens (285 species) and fungus (about 1100 species). The personnel of the Institute of Botany are involved in the compilation of electronic maps of Georgian fungus, which is available on the web-site: www.cybertruffke.org.uk.</p> <p>The Leibnitz Institute of Genetic Resources of Plants (Gatersleben, Germany) and the Institute of Botany of Georgia implemented a project to identify the status of populations of wild species of the</p>	

Allium genus. Taxonomic research was carried out for the identification of species; live collections and database were created. The project was financed by the Volkswagen Fund program of Caucasus and Central Asia.

The biodiversity and status of Georgian orchis were studied and assessed by IUCN criteria (NGO Orchis, BP program "Ecology and Economy in Harmony"). With the support of CEPF, NGO the Caucasian Ecological House carries out research on the endemic species of the floristic region of Achara-Shavsheti. Within the framework of the project Conservation, Restoration and Use of Georgian Agricultural Biodiversity (GEF/UNDP), the endangered medicinal plants of Javakheti are researched to define corresponding conservation activities. The Institute of Zoology and Association of Field Researchers CAMPESTER carried out research and inventory of small mammals and bats to identify their conservation status in various regions of Georgia. Materials were published from the cadastre of small mammals of Georgia (2004). GCCW prepared materials for the second edition of *Birds in Europe, Population Estimates, Trends and Conservation Status*, Birdlife International. Jointly with foreign partners, GCCW implements research to identify the conservation status of birds of prey. The Institute of Zoology implements research for the identification of the species content of insects, worms, spiders and crustaceans and for the inventory of invertebrate fauna in various protected areas of Georgia.

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

K


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

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


There is no unified national system of biodiversity monitoring. In protected areas separate species of flora and fauna are registered and materials are annually presented to the departments of Protected Areas and Statistics. However, the rules of observation and inventory are not defined, and there are no unified methods and reporting rules. With the financial support of international organizations activities are being carried out to improve the monitoring system for Protected Areas. For example a program of biodiversity monitoring system was elaborated for the Kolkheti National Park and Strict Nature Reserve (the project of integrated Coastal Management of Georgia, 2004). Monitoring guidelines are published for the territories of Vashlovani, Lagodekhi, Tusheti and Batsara-Babaneuri protected areas (development of Georgian Protected Areas), and trainings and workshops are planned for the personnel of the protected areas.


The creation of a system of biodiversity monitoring and dynamic database is one of the strategic purposes of the NBSAP, although the implementation of activities in this regard has not started yet.

Environmental NGOs and individual specialists in the field implement the monitoring of some endangered species: brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and leopard (*Pantera pardus*) in Vashlovani National Park, Eurasian otter in Alazani flood plain forests (NACRES), bats (CAMPESTER) and birds of prey (GCCW). Several identifications and inventories of water birds were carried out in Kolkheti Protected Areas. With the support of CEPF, Birdlife International cooperated with local NGOs for the creation of a network of management and monitoring of important bird sites in the Caucasian region. Since 2004 the monitoring of certain species is implemented regularly in the corridor under the impact of Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. However, the data collected by separate NGOs and scientific institutes are not gathered in a unified system.

21.  On Article 7(c), does your country have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes on any

of the following key threats to biodiversity?	
M	
a) No	
b) Yes, invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, climate change (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, pollution/eutrophication (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, land use change/land degradation (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, overexploitation or unsustainable use (please provide details below)	
Further comments on monitoring programmes on key threats to biodiversity.	
<p>The Center for Monitoring and Forecast of Georgian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources implements the monitoring of water pollution in 40 points of 25 rivers, 2 lakes and 1 water reservoir. Since 2006 observation will be resumed in the Black Sea marine area. However, the results of monitoring are not analyzed from the viewpoint of the impact on biodiversity.</p>	

22.  On Article 7 (d), does your country have a mechanism to maintain and organize data derived from inventories and monitoring programmes and coordinate information collection and management at the national level?	
a) No	
b) No, but some mechanisms or systems are being considered	
c) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are being established	
d) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are in place (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, a relatively complete system is in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the coordination of data and information collection and management.	
<p>There is no modern operational system to collect data on the state of biodiversity, or to maintain and analyze the data. This complicates the evaluation of reality and forecast of future tendencies. All this, in its turn, hampers optimal decision-making.</p> <p>In 2005 Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University initiated the creation of a unified database of Georgian biodiversity. The database will include information on all taxons (with the exception of sea organisms), their status and dissemination. The database will be found on the web-site: (www.biodiversity-georgia.net).</p> <p>The results of species inventory of flora and fauna are published by the Institute of Botany and the Institute of Zoology, for example in scientific papers of these institutes, <i>Georgian Flora</i> etc.</p>	

23.  Does your country use indicators for national-level monitoring of biodiversity? (decision III/10)	
a) No	
b) No, but identification of potential indicators is under way (please describe)	X

c) Yes, some indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
d) Yes, a relatively complete set of indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
Further comments on the indicators identified and in use.	
<p>The indicators of biodiversity and forest resources are defined to create indicators and study the status of the country related to of the Millennium Development Goals, objective 7 (ensuring the sustainability of the environment), supported by the World Bank. The following indicators were defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the territory of protected areas as compared to the entire territory of the country, • the territory of protected areas of IUCN categories I-IV as compared to the entire territory of the country, • the portion of endangered/extinct species, • the coefficient of the intensity of forest use, • forest territories compared to the entire territory of the country, • the territory of degraded forests as compared to the entire forest territory. <p>WWF Caucasus coordinated the creation of a system of independent monitoring of biodiversity in the Caucasus ecoregion; within the framework of this activity, indicators were defined for species, important conservation sites and corridors.</p>	

Box XLIII.


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

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


The process of identification of priority conservation sites on the ecosystem level is completed in Georgia. In the nearest future the assessment of vulnerable species of flora and fauna under IUCN criteria will be completed. On the basis of this assessment, the updated Red List of Georgia will be compiled. This is one of the priority activities defined by the NBSAP.

So far no activities have been implemented for the formation of unified system of biodiversity monitoring, even though this activity is a requirement of the national legislation and Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. This failure is caused by the lack of financial and human resources. Certain State, scientific and non-governmental organizations implement monitoring and inventory projects, but the data are not systematized and collected on the national level. There is no modern operational system of maintenance and analysis of the data which could be later used for the purpose of further analysis in the decision-making process.


Decisions on Taxonomy

24.  Has your country developed a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1? (decision IV/1)


a) No	X
b) No, but a plan is under development	
c) Yes, a plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, reports on implementation available (please provide details below)	
Further information on a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1.	

25.  Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections? (decision IV/1)

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on investment on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections.	
<p>Due a lack of funding, conditions of Georgian National Museum and scientific research institutes (of botany, zoology and forestry) are too poor to maintain of collections. Certain collections are inaccessible for scientific research. There are no unified accessible databases of the collections. In 2005 the National Museum started a rehabilitation project which significantly improved the conditions of maintenance of the collections.</p>	

26.  Does your country provide training programmes in taxonomy and work to increase its capacity of taxonomic research? (decision IV/1)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further information on training programmes in taxonomy and efforts to increase the capacity of taxonomic research.	
<p>Georgia has a long tradition of taxonomic research at the national and regional levels. However this taxonomic research does not use modern methods and technologies. There are highly qualified specialists of various groups of living organisms. The BA and MA programs of State universities include lectures in the taxonomy of various systemic groups. However, in general, there is little interest in these specialties. Due to the lack of financial and human resources, taxonomic research is restricted. There are no qualified specialists in a number of groups like algae, lichens, mosses, families of fish and invertebrates.</p>	

27.  Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable? (decision IV/1)

a) No	
b) No, but steps are being considered	
c) Yes, for some institutions	
d) Yes, for all major institutions	X

In a context of educational and scientific reform, changes are implemented in the scientific research institutes responsible for taxonomic activities with the aim of improvement of fund-raising and administration. The salaries of the scientific staff have increased somewhat and State funding for fundamental and applied scientific research has increased. To identify the best scientific projects and achieve efficient management of funds, the National Scientific Fund was established to organize the allocation of State grants and scholarships under State financing, based on competition principles. However, funding for scientific institutions is still insufficient for comprehensive research.

28.*² Is your country collaborating with the existing regional, subregional and global initiatives, partnerships and institutions in carrying out the programme of work, including assessing regional taxonomic needs and identifying regional-level priorities? (decision VI/8)

a) No	X
b) No, but collaborative programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessments)	
d) Yes, comprehensive collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessment and priority identification)	
Further information on the collaboration your country is carrying out to implement the programme of work for the GTI, including regional needs assessment and priority identification.	

29. * Has your country made an assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities at the national level for the implementation of the Convention? (annex to decision VI/8)

a) No	X
b) Yes, basic assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
c) Yes, thorough assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
Further comments on national assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities.	
Georgia intends to request GEF financial support for the evaluation of the national taxonomic needs. A project proposal is currently being elaborated and in the nearest future it will be submitted to the National Office of UNDP.	

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

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

31. * Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) Yes, for forest biodiversity (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for marine and coastal biodiversity (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for dry and sub-humid lands (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, for inland waters biodiversity (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for mountain biodiversity (please provide details below)	X
g) Yes, for protected areas (please provide details below)	X
h) Yes, for agricultural biodiversity (please provide details below)	X
i) Yes, for island biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention.	

The Institute of Botany has implemented numerous research projects for the study of the flora of highland regions of Georgia. Comparative studies of Georgian flora and the flora of the highlands of the Caucasus and Europe have been implemented. Classification systems for plants of mountainous regions have been created and studies have been made on endemism of Caucasian highland flora. Other studies include the diversity of orophytes and the most sensitive phytocoenoses of the Central Caucasus, including Alpine and sub-nival nanocoenoses, subalpine trees and bushes and high herbs.

A detailed study of biodiversity has been implemented to establish protected areas and expanding existing ones in the mountainous regions (Tusheti and Lagodekhi protected areas, Batsara-Babaneuri reserve and Ilto Managed Nature Reserve). With the support from the Georgian Protected Areas project development, NACRES collected data on key species, carried out inventory of birds and flora, identified the general structure of phytocoenoses and made a study of spatial distribution, prepared thematic maps and a database. Similar activities were carried out in the Vashlovani National Park (arid and semi-arid ecosystems).

In general, research on flora and fauna is implemented in every process of establishment of Protected areas and the elaborate management plans. Taxonomic research was implemented for the national parks of Borjomi-Kharagauli and Kolkheti, Iori Plateau (arid and semi-arid ecosystems) and the Central Caucasus (highland ecosystems). Guidebooks on plants, vertebrates and birds of the National Park of Borjomi-Kharagauli have been published. The guidebook of birds of Kolkheti wetlands territories has been prepared for publication (Georgian Integrated Coastal Management Project, GCCW). A guidebook of Birds of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems has been published (GEF/UNDP, NACRES, 2002). A guidebook of birds of Samtskhe-Javakheti is also published (GCCW, "Orbi" Union). In cooperation with the Institute of Botany of Greipswald, Germany, detailed floristic research was implemented in the Kobuleti Strict Nature Reserve and Managed Nature Reserve and in the Imnati district of Kolkheti National Park.

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

a) No	X
b) Yes, for access and benefit-sharing (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for Article 8(j) (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for the ecosystem approach (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for impact assessment, monitoring and indicators (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for others (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention.	


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

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

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are being identified	
c) Yes, some measures undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.	
<p>In 2005 Georgia started a reform of the system of use of natural resources. This reform envisages increasing the efficiency of the legal framework and creation of favorable investment opportunities. Significant changes were made in the legislative basis concerning the use of natural resources. In June 2005 the law on "Licenses and Permits" was adopted. According to this law, all the existing laws and normative acts should be reworked and made consistent with the given law. Licenses on the use of natural resources are issued on the basis of auction, including long-term licenses. According to this law the following activities are subject to licensing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest use (timber harvesting and establishing of hunting-farms), • fishing, • harvesting certain non- timber resources (<i>Abies nordmanniana</i> cones, <i>Galanthus</i> and cyclamen bulbs). <p>The taxes are determined according to the law "Fee on Natural Resource". Currently licensing conditions are defined by a special provision of the Government, which includes a number of requirements aimed at the protection of biological resources and sustainable use. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources is authorized to define the norms of use of a certain resource prior to the auction. According to the law, harvesting natural resources (fishing, hunting, cuts and collection of non-timber products) is permitted only on the basis of a preliminary study of the permissible volume of harvesting. In 2004-2005, within the framework of the State program, the Institute of Sea Ecology and Fish-Farming studied the state of fish resources in the Black Sea and inland waters of Georgia. From this study, the species and amounts permitted for commercial fishing were defined and recommendations were elaborated for the dates of prohibition of fishing and permitted nets and other tools of fishing. In 2005, with the support of the project Integrated Coastal Management, research was started to elaborate a system of monitoring of fishing on Paliastomi Lake and Pichora River. The Paliastomi Lake is part of the zone of traditional use of Kolkheti National Park; limited fishing is permitted here, based on the needs of the local community. The research included the supply of fish resource and defined the limits of harvesting; the breeding places were identified to implement strict control of prohibition of fishing in these places.</p> <p>Within the framework of the project of development of the forest sector of Georgia, with the aim of implementation of sustainable forest use, inventories are planned in several districts of Georgia; landscape-ecological zoning of Georgian forest fund is also implemented.</p> <p>With the aim of ensuring sustainable use of wild medicinal plants, with the support of SDC, WWF Caucasus and CUNA Georgica (Society in Support of Culture and Nature in Georgia) compiled a list of plant species that are widely used for medicinal purposes, database was created, containing information on the collection, cultivation, processing and marketing of these plants; National standards and guidelines were prepared for the sustainable use of these plants, community projects were implemented.</p>	

34. ♦ On Article 8(k), has your country developed or maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations?	
a) No	

b) No, but legislation is being developed	
c) Yes, legislation or other measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
Further information on the legislation and/or regulations for the protection of threatened species and populations.	
<p>Georgian law on the Red List and the red Book was adopted in 2003 and formed a legislative basis for the protection of endangered species, their harvesting and the rules of compilation of "The Red List". According to this law, the status of the endangered species should be assessed in accordance with IUCN criteria. The removal of species on the Red List from their natural environment is permitted only in special cases with the aim of their saving, medicinal treatment, reproduction and scientific study. These species cannot be harvested for commercial purposes. Based on the given law, in 2003 the order of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources approved a temporary Red List, which included the species from the Red Book of Georgia published in 1982, also the species of Bonn Convention on migratory species and its regional agreements (AEWA, ACCOBAMS). The latter species inhabit Georgia temporarily or permanently. The Committee on Endangered Species was formed at Georgian Academy of Sciences. Based on IUCN categories and criteria, as well as the existing information and research results, the Committee works on the updated Red List of Georgia (see answer to question 19).</p> <p>The administrative and criminal codes define responsibilities for the illegal harvesting or destruction of habitats of the species on the Red List of Georgia.</p>	

35.  On Article 8(l), does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant processes and categories of activities being identified	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the regulation or management of the processes and categories of activities identified by Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biodiversity.	
<p>Georgian laws "On Environmental Protection", "On Environmental Permits" and "On Ecological Examination" define the obligation to carry out an environmental impact assessment and ecological examination, on the basis of which an environmental impact permit for the implementation of activities are issued. The list of activities subject to the environmental impact assessment and need environmental permit are defined by the Provision "On the Rules of Issuance of Environmental Impact Permit" (approved by the Decree of the Government of Georgia, #154 (01.09.05)). The report on the environment impact assessment defines measures of prevention of the impact on the environment or its mitigation. However, the measures of prevention and mitigation of the impact on the environment are not monitored sufficiently due to poor system of control. In the corridor of Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, according to the scheme agreed with the Ministry, biodiversity is monitored on a regular basis and reports are annually submitted to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources.</p> <p>"The Law on Water" defines obligations of protection of natural and artificial water reservoirs from pollution. According to this law, the letting of industrial and utility waters into objects of water is permitted only under special permission, after the purification of the waters to the preliminarily defined level.</p>	

Box XLIV.

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

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

The results of *in situ* conservation that contribute to the achievement of Targets for the year 2010, Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the strategic plan, are as follows:

- The territory of protected areas has grown significantly, new national parks were created and the existing reserves were enlarged (2010 targets 1, 2).
- The law on the Red List and the Red Book of Georgia is adopted; based on IUCN criteria, the status of species is being assessed with the aim of compiling an updated Red List; bezoar goat is reintroduced in the National Park of Borjomi-Kharagauli; conservation plans are elaborated for separate species (2010 target 2).
- The legislation for the sustainable use of natural resources is elaborated and developed (2010 target 4).

Certain progress is made in the implementation of *in situ* activities under the NBSAP:

7 out of 20 activities defined by the component of the development of the system of Protected areas are being implemented with the support of the project of development of Protected areas (The World Bank /GEF), protected areas are being planned in the Central Caucasus (Activity A1); the existing reserves are assisted with the aim of improvement of their functioning and management (Activity A6); The system of monitoring of biodiversity is developed for the Eastern Caucasus and Iori Plateau protected areas (Activity A12); Information system and complete database is created at the Central Service of protected areas (Activity A13); Legislative basis is formed for the reinvestment of income generated by the protected areas from tourism, recreation and other activities (Activity A18); Financial agreement is to be signed between Georgia and Germany with the aim of creation of protected areas on Javakheti Plateau (Activity A3); The list of sites to be included in the world's natural and cultural heritage and corresponding documents are compiled and will be submitted to UNESCO (Activity A10).

10 out of 30 activities defined by the component of species and habitats are being implemented: definition of the status of plants and animals by IUCN categories (Activity B1), compilation of the updated Red List of Georgia (Activity B2); elaborate conservation programs for rare, endangered, endemic and relict species (Activity B4); elaborate management plans for the conservation of Caprinae, Pantera pardus, birds of prey and sea mammals (Activities B7, B8, B9, B10, B13), inventory of bat species (Activity B12), identification of important bird sites (Activity B19).

Financial and human resources are limited for research aimed at defining the level of sustainable use of biological resources. There is no unified system of monitoring. Hence, there are insufficient reliable data to ensure the sustainable use of biological resources.

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

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

a) No (please specify reasons)

b) No, but relevant work is under way

c) Yes, some targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on targets and indicators for protected areas.	
<p>The development of the system of protected areas with the aim of protection, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources is one of the strategic purposes of the NBSAP (approved in 2005 by the decree of the Government of Georgia, #27). The document defines the following objectives in this regard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop network of protected areas; • Improve planning and management of protected areas; • Develop a sustainable monitoring system; • Develop financial mechanisms for protected areas; • Create a protected areas database; • Develop political support, trans-institutional and trans sector cooperation and partnership; • Develop international and transboundary cooperation; • Introduce a comprehensive system of education and interpretation in the protected areas; • Start ecotourism in protected areas; • Identify the problems of the populations residing in or near protected areas including them within planning for protected areas. <p>The NBSAP defines 20 activities aimed at these objectives. Implementation dates and indicators are defined per each activity.</p> <p>Timelines and quantifiable indicators are defined for those territories that are created or developed with the support of donor organisations (Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, Kolkheti, Tusheti, Lagodekhi and Vashlovani Protected Areas). The management plans of these areas include objectives and activities for which the dates of implementation are defined.</p>	

37. Has your country taken action to establish or expand protected areas in any large or relatively unfragmented natural area or areas under high threat, including securing threatened species? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on actions taken to establish or expand protected areas.	
<p>In 2002-2005 the National Parks of Tusheti and Vashlovani were established, Lagodekhi reserve was enlarged significantly and the Tusheti protected landscape was created. New protected areas are envisaged: National parks of Tbilisi and Mtirala and a complex of caves in Imereti. Establishing protected areas in the Central Caucasus is also planned. In the nearest future, protected areas will be founded on Javakheti Plateau in South Georgia. In 2002-2005, the entire territory of protected areas was enlarged by 149,339 hectares through enhancement of the existing reserves and creation of new ones (IUCN categories I-V).</p>	

38. Has your country taken any action to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	

b) Not applicable	
c) No, but relevant actions are being considered	
d) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on actions taken to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas.	
<p>Kolkheti National Park was established in 1999. It includes 15 742 hectares of sea marine area (strict and managed protection zones). The Park also includes the Paliastomi Lake (surface territory 18.2 km²). According to an order of the Cabinet of Ministers, in 1995 Ktsia-Tabatskuri Managed Nature Reserve was founded, including the Alpine lake of Tabatskuri (surface 14.2 km²) and highland wetlands ecosystems.</p> <p>The establishment of protected areas on the Javakheti Plateau is planned. These will include Khanchali, Madatafa, Bugdasheni and Saghamo lakes, probably in the form of a Managed Nature Reserve. The lakes of Khanchali, Madatafa and Bugdasheni are recognized as wetlands of international importance (Conservation of the wetlands of Javakheti Plateau, RAMSAR Convention Small Grants Fund, Center for the Conservation of Species NACRES, 1999-2001).</p>	

39. Has your country identified and implemented practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on practical steps for improving integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures.	
<p>In the 1990s a new approach to the creation and development of protected areas began with the development of a system of protected areas of different "regimes" (IUCN categories I-VI). This differs from the past when only separate, strictly protected reserves were founded. The legal basis for this new approach was created by the law "On the System of Protected Areas" (1996), according to which the aim of protected areas is to protect nature and harmonize it with social-economic development. These aims were implemented by the establishment of Borjomi-Kharagauli and Kolkheti National Parks, as well as the establishment of the protected areas in the Eastern Caucasus. The same approach is applied in the planning of a network of protected areas in the Central Caucasus. The process of creation of new protected areas and development of the existing ones was implemented in several stages: within the regions territories were selected based on biological, historical, cultural and socio-economic information, as well as field research and consultations with the local populations.</p> <p>The development of Georgian protected areas has been carried out in close cooperation with the development of the forest sector in the Central Caucasus. This means that in five districts (Oni, Ambrolauri, Tsageri, Mestia and Lentekhi) the sector of protected areas and sustainable use of forests will be planned in a coordinated way. The project of forest sector development implies elaborate a new model of forest planning and management. This model will be tested on the territory of the Central Caucasus. Although this territory is unique in its well-preserved ecosystems and biodiversity, no reserves have been established there yet. Therefore, for forest sector and protected area planning it was decided that the two projects would be implemented in close cooperation with each other, to achieve the conservation of forest ecosystems and sustainable use of forest resources.</p>	

Parallel to the establishment of new territories and the enhancement of the existing ones, two ecological corridors were selected in the Central Caucasus: the territory of Multiple Use Area of the Alazani flood plain forests, which unites the protected areas of Eastern Caucasus and adjacent pasturelands, and the Davit Gareji protected landscape, which unites various categories of protected areas on the Iori Plateau.

However, due to the integrated management of these protected areas, it is rather complicated to establish and efficiently manage protected landscapes and territories of Multiple Use Area.

The constraints for the efficient integration of vast territorial units of protected areas are caused by the absence of complete data on the spatial planning and land cadastre. Therefore, opinions concerning the future development of the same territory vary greatly on the central and local levels, as well as between various sectors.

40. Is your country applying environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant EIA guidelines are under development	
c) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to some projects or plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to all relevant projects or plans (please provide details below)	

Further comments on application of environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas.

The Provision "On the Rule of the Issuance of the Environmental Impact Permit" (approved by the decision of the government of Georgia, #154 (01.09.05)) provides a list of activities that are subject to the environmental impact assessment. Other activities are not subject to such assessments despite their location; however they are obliged to fulfill the environmental technical regulations that are currently in the stage of elaboration.

According to the law "On the System of Protected Areas", to assess the negative impact on the environment, the development programs that affect buffer zones and certain agricultural and construction projects should be controlled. However there is no mechanism that would ensure the implementation of this legal requirement.

41. Has your country identified legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes, some gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below))	X
d) Yes, many gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	

Further comments on identification of legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas.

The legislative and institutional constraints for the establishment of protected areas are contained in the following documents: The National Report on the Assessment of Sustainable Development

(2002); Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2005); The Review of the Situation Regarding the Protection and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (2004) and The Capacity Building Strategy and Action plan in the field of Biodiversity Protection, to Combat Desertification in a context of Climate Change (2005), (the latter two documents are elaborated within the framework of GEF project "National Capacity Needs, Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management").

However, there is a need for more detailed analysis of institutional constraints and elaborate corresponding legislative amendments.

These documents identify the following legislative and institutional constraints: the absence of legislation that would regulate the planning of spatial development; the regulatory activities within the protected areas and their adjacencies are not identified; the financial-economic part needs significant changes (e.g. there is no legal basis for the reinvestment of the income generated by the protected areas in the development of these territories); the competences of the agencies involved in the planning and management of protected areas are not well-defined, their responsibilities and functions overlap in certain cases, the provisions of the law on the system of protected areas are not reflected in other laws; coordination between the administrations of different protected area is weak (regarding the exchange of information and experience); the majority of protected areas have no management plans or capacities for implementation.

In 2005 the country started to implement significant structural and organizational changes to solve an important problem identified by these documents: the overlap of functions between various agencies involved. The State Department of Georgian Protected Areas and Hunting Farms became part of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. The administrations of the protected areas also became part of this Ministry. Further optimization of the structure is planned. Legislative amendments are being elaborated on the level of the entire system and on the level of improvement of management of separate protected territories.

42. Has your country undertaken national protected-area capacity needs assessments and established capacity building programmes? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, a basic assessment undertaken and some programmes established (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, a thorough assessment undertaken and comprehensive programmes established (please provide details below)	

Further comments on protected-area capacity needs assessment and establishment of capacity building programmes.

No specific assessment of the protected areas has been carried out.

Within the framework of the project "National Capacity Needs, Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management" (GEF/UNDP, 2002-2005) the capacities in the field of biodiversity were evaluated on the systemic, institutional and individual levels and corresponding recommendations were elaborated. The capacities of the central bodies of management of the protected areas were evaluated (The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, the Department of Protected Areas), but no evaluation was implemented on the level of separate protected areas.

The following key problems were identified on the institutional level: lack of qualified specialists in certain fields, lack of knowledge of mechanisms of financing of protected areas, best practices in management models, educational activities aimed at the training of management specialists, lack of experience in tourism development, education, monitoring, public relations, lack of equipment and technology, lack of financial sustainability of protected areas, and a lack of experience by administrations of protected areas regarding fund-raising.

The institutional enhancement of the protected areas is one of the components of the project "The Development of the System of Protected Areas" launched in 2002. This component implies the restructuring and enhancement of the Department of Protected Areas, assistance in the staff training and technical equipment. This project also implies the capacity-building of the administrations of separate protected area -Borjomi-Kharagauli national park, protected areas of Kolkheti, Tusheti, Lagodekhi, Batsara-Babaneuri and Vashlovani, which implies staff training and technical equipment.

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

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

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

WWF, Conservation International, the German Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) and German Bank of International Development (KfW) have cooperated to establish a trust fund to ensure long-term financial stability of priority protected areas in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. The existence of sustainable financing is vital for the maintenance of the results achieved in the past years regarding the projects implemented in the protected areas with the support of international donor organizations. The Fund will be established in 2006, at the conference of Ministers in Berlin.

In general, the lack of financial sustainability of the protected areas is an acute problem that creates obstacles for their efficient management and implementation of conservation activities. This problem is caused by the absence of a legislative framework and low institutional capacities. Many protected areas have no management plans; none of them has any business plan; their administrations have no experience in fund-raising, there is no legislative basis that would ensure the reinvestment of generated income into the development of the protected areas. No analysis has been carried out to identify the financial shortcomings of sustainable management of the protected areas. In 2003 a law was adopted "On the Formation and Management of Tusheti, Batsara-Babaneuri, Lagodekhi and Vashlovani Protected Areas". to ensure that these territories were registered as legal entities of public law and thus they became able to generate their own income and implement management. According to the law, 80% of the income should be used for the financing of the protected areas and 20% should be used for the purpose of development of the system of protected areas.

In comparison with previous years, State financing of protected areas increased significantly by 2005 (\$238,400 in 2004, 634,000 USD in 2005). However, State financing is not enough for the management of the Protected Areas.

External financing is very important (financial institutions, grants from donor Governments) for the development of Protected Areas. Some examples include:

- GEF grant of \$1,300,000 for the formation of the National Park of Kolkheti, Kobuleti Strict Nature Reserve and Managed Nature Reserve;
- The grant of Japanese Social Development Fund (\$1,379, 875) for the improvement of social security of the population of Kolkheti lowland.
- GEF grant \$9,050,000 for the development of the system of protected areas in Georgia, which includes the formation of protected areas of Tusheti, Lagodekhi, Vashlovani, Batsara-Babaneuri on the East Caucasus, planning of protected areas in the Central Caucasus, planning of two ecological corridors multiple use area of Alazani flood plain forests and Davit Gareji protected landscape) in the East Georgia, implementation of grants program in the villages adjacent to the protected areas of Tusheti, Vashlovani and Lagodekhi;

- A grant from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and German Reconstruction Credit Bank (KfW) (400,000 Euro) aimed at the development of the National Park of Borjomi-Kharagauli (salary bonuses, operational costs, study tours).

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

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

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

There are no national methods, standards, criteria and indicators for the evaluation of the efficiency of management. Within the framework of the project "On the Development of Georgian Protected Areas", the managers of the protected areas of Eastern Georgia were trained on the issues of self-monitoring, based on the methods of evaluation of the efficiency of monitoring elaborated by The World Committee of Protected Areas (WCPA), the World Bank and WWF.

In 2003, based on the methodology of WWF for the rapid evaluation of management and prioritizing of Protected Areas (RAPPAM), the efficiency of management of several protected areas was evaluated (12 reserves, two national parks and five managed nature reserves). From evaluation, the key threats and impacts on the protected areas were identified, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of systemic management. The main recommendations included the following: systemic planning, legislative amendments, creation of a favourable environment, financial stability, capacity building, improved planning for separate protected areas, urgent measures to be taken in separate protected areas.

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

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

In 2001-2005 the following important results were achieved regarding the protected areas:

- Attraction of new financial resources for the further development of protected areas;
- Improvement of the management of the protected area on the system level from the current institutional reform;
- Establishment of Tusheti and Vashlovani national Parks, enhancement of Vashlovani and Borjomi-Kharagauli Protected Areas, support to development of the protected areas;
- Improvement of management of the existing national parks, including equipment,

development of tourist and administrative infrastructures, trainings of the administrative personnel;

- Improvement of the planning of separate protected areas from the current process of elaborate management plans;
- Development of public relations and educational activities (interpretation programs, advertising, films, publications);

All these correspond to targets four and five for the year 2010 and supports the achievement of target seven of the Millennium Development Goals.

Seven out of 20 activities defined by The NBSAP regarding the protected areas are being implemented, five activities are planned for the nearest future.

The main constraints for the development of the system of protected areas in Georgia are:

- Absence of financial sustainability of protected areas;
- Lack of coordination and joint action plan;
- The insufficiency of the territory of the strict nature reserves to carry out conservation activities;
- The absence of ecological corridors between the protected areas;
- Lack of information on land use and land-ownership;
- Absence of spatial planning, which causes conflicts between various agencies regarding the development of the same territorial units;
- Illegal harvesting of natural resources in the protected areas;
- Low environmental awareness of the population residing adjacent to protected areas;
- Low level of basic applied research in protected areas and the absence of the system of biodiversity monitoring.

Article 8(h) - Alien species

45. Has your country identified alien species introduced into its territory and established a system for tracking the introduction of alien species?

a) No	
b) Yes, some alien species identified but a tracking system not yet established	X
c) Yes, some alien species identified and tracking system in place	
d) Yes, alien species of major concern identified and tracking system in place	

46.  Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?


a) No	
b) Yes, but only for some alien species of concern (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, for most alien species (please provide details below)	

Further information on the assessment of the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species.

Evaluation has been implemented only regarding the impact of those alien species that damage agricultural and forest species, such as the European spruce beetle, white American butterfly, Colorado Beetle etc.

Since 2006 Ketskhoveli Institute of Botany and Montana University, USA have been implementing research of the invasion of a widespread weed, the yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) and its impact on plant coenoses (CRDF grant, 2006-2008).

The impact of alien species on the local fauna was assessed within the framework of the project "Conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in the Caucasus" (Center for the Conservation of Species NACRES, 2003).

47.  Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate, those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?

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

Further information on the measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

According to the law "On Wildlife" (1996), the introduction of foreign species and releasing hybrid forms into the natural environment is prohibited. The same law stated that it was necessary to obtain a special permission for the introduction of wild animals. However, due to the absence of relative procedures, this requirement was not implemented in reality, with the exception of the species included in the appendices of CITES.

With the aim of restoration and development of the forest fund, in accordance with the rules of selection and use of plants (approved by the Order of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, #75, 05.08.03), non-timber species are primarily selected from local ones. The selection of woody species for introduction should be implemented with great care, envisaging their natural-climatic features to prevent their negative impact on the local species. According to this rule, measures should be taken to prevent the spreading of plants unacceptable for the environment of Georgian forests and their spread from target plantations and scientific research territories.


According to the laws "On the Protection of Plants from Dangerous Organisms" (1994) and "On Agricultural Quarantine" (1997), any cargo that may transport objects of quarantine (insects, bugs, fungus, bacteria, viruses, nematodes) and weeds should be subject to phytosanitary control. There are special services that implement this control (The Service of Protection of Plants of Georgian Ministry of Food and Agriculture, since 2006 The National Service of Food Safety, Veterinary and Plant Protection of the same Ministry). The rules of implementation of control are also approved.

The prevention of dangerous and pathogenic organisms introduced into the Black Sea via ballast waters is envisaged by the Decree of the President of Georgia, #227, 09.06.01 "On the Control of Ballast Waters of Ships" and the Provision "On the Procedures of Management of Ballast Waters", approved by the joint order of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and the Minister of Transport and Communications, #83-#53, 2001.


In 2005 research on invasive dangerous insects was carried out in several strict nature reserves (Algeti, Ajameti, Liakhvi and Saguramo) and in the National Park of Borjomi-Kharagauli; the areas of

spreading were identified and prevention measures were defined.

The Kanchaveli Institute of Plant Protection and Gulisashvili Institute of Forestry implement research aimed at the elaborate methodology for the prevention of pests that affect agricultural plants and forest species (American white butterfly, grasshoppers, beetles etc.). Bioagents of several parasites were introduced in the environment (entomoparasite nematode, pathogenic fungus). New bacterial substances are tested for the prevention of leaf-cutting beetles. The current state of the spread of parasite insects in forests was studied and plans for integrated management of the preventive activities has been elaborated.

48.  In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed, or involved itself in, mechanisms for international cooperation, including the exchange of best practices? (decision V/8)

a) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation	X
c) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation	
d) Yes, multilateral cooperation	

49.  Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species? (decision V/8)

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the use of the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches in work on alien invasive species.	

50. Has your country identified national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)

a) No	X
b) No, but needs and priorities are being identified	
c) Yes, national needs and priorities have been identified (please provide below a list of needs and priorities identified)	
Further comments on the identification of national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles.	
The legislative acts and rules regarding alien species reflect the guidelines of prevention of alien species and reduction of their introduction and impact. However, there are no databases concerning alien and invasive species; their impact on the local species and ecosystems is not evaluated; activities aimed at the reduction of the impact of alien species have not been planned (with the exception of parasites of agricultural and forest plants).	

51. Has your country created mechanisms to coordinate national programmes for applying the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)

a) No	X
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanisms created to coordinate national programmes for implementing the Guiding Principles.	

52. Has your country reviewed relevant policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles, and adjusted or developed policies, legislation and institutions? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	X
b) No, but review under way	
c) Yes, review completed and adjustment proposed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, adjustment and development ongoing	
e) Yes, some adjustments and development completed (please provide details below)	
Further information on the review, adjustment or development of policies, legislation and institutions in light of the Guiding Principles.	

53. Is your country enhancing cooperation between various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	X
b) No, but potential coordination mechanisms are under consideration	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on cooperation between various sectors.	

54. Is your country collaborating with trading partners and neighboring countries to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity in ecosystems that cross international boundaries? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	X
b) Yes, relevant collaborative programmes are under development	
c) Yes, relevant programmes are in place (please specify below the measures taken for this purpose)	
Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighboring countries.	

55. Is your country developing capacity to use risk assessment to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity and incorporate such methodologies in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA)? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but programmes for this purpose are under development	
c) Yes, some activities for developing capacity in this field are being undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further information on capacity development to address threats of invasive alien species.

The employees of the Institute of Protection of Plants have attended training courses at the following universities and institutes: Ohio State University, the University of California, Canadian Agricultural Scientific Center, Georg Augustin Gettingen University, Nvear Weed Center (Israel) and others. The trainings were chiefly dedicated to the alien invasive species that affect agricultural plants.

The issue of prevention of the dispersal of invasive species was discussed during the environmental impact assessment carried out at the time of construction of Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. The program of monitoring of biodiversity envisages observation of the dispersal of invasive species in the corridor of this pipeline.

56. Has your country developed financial measures and other policies and tools to promote activities to reduce the threats of invasive species? (decision VI/23)

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

Further comments on the development of financial measures and other policies and tools for the promotion of activities to reduce the threats of invasive species.

Box XLV.

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

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

The current study of alien species is insufficient, as no project has been implemented on the national scale so far. It is necessary to implement a project that would compile the literary data and the results of the field research. The system of control of the dispersal of alien species in the country is still poor. The threats caused by the introduction of alien species are not assessed and the strategy of management of these threats is not defined.

One of the activities defined by the NBSAP envisages the assessment of the impact of invasive species and elaborate a corresponding management strategy. However, this activity is not yet implemented.

Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions

GURTS

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

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

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

Status and Trends

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

a) No	X
b) No, but support to relevant studies is being considered	
c) Yes (please provide information on the studies undertaken)	

Further information on the studies undertaken to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and priority actions identified.

Akwé:Kon Guidelines

59. Has your country initiated a legal and institutional review of matters related to cultural,

environmental and social impact assessment, with a view to incorporating the Akwé:Kon Guidelines into national legislation, policies, and procedures?	
a) No	X
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, a review undertaken (please provide details on the review)	
Further information on the review.	

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

Capacity Building and Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities

61. Has your country undertaken any measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities to be effectively involved in decision-making related to the use of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/16)	
a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes being developed	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities.	

62. Has your country developed appropriate mechanisms, guidelines, legislation or other initiatives to foster and promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in decision making, policy planning and development and implementation of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at international, regional, subregional, national and local levels? (decision V/16)	
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a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are under development	
c) Yes, some mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are in place (please provide details below)	X
Further information on the mechanisms, guidelines and legislation developed.	
<p>According to the law "On the System of Protected Areas", individuals and unions may take part in the discussions on the issues of establishment, development, reduction and abolishment of Protected Areas; on the management and maintenance of protected areas and buffer zones: as well as on central programs and consultative councils. According to the same law, for the purpose of cooperation with local organizations, scientific councils are to be established. Such councils are already formed for the protected areas of Kolkheti, Batsara-Babaneuri and Vashlovani.</p> <p>To preserve the traditional hunting in highland regions of Georgia, the "Law on Wildlife" defined the rights of priority use of objects of fauna for those citizens and unions, the traditional lifestyle of which is connected with animals. This implies the right to select and create hunting farms on the territories of their traditional settlements and farms. However, due to a lack of financial resources and experience in this field, concrete activities have not been implemented.</p> <p>The Georgian law on environmental permissions defines the rights of the society for decision-making. According to the law, the assessment of the impact of an initiated activity on the environment is carried out in the administrative center of the district where the activities are to be implemented. Any representative of the local community may express his/her opinion and comments, implement an impact assessment on the environment through their own financial means. The results of this assessment should be envisaged for issuance of permits.</p> <p>One of the directions of the small grants program of the project of development of protected areas is to preserve and maintain traditional approaches to the use of natural resources in the adjacent villages. The program finances projects that support traditional activities; tourist guidelines are published concerning the rituals and customs of local communities.</p> <p>The small grants program for the development of protected areas in Georgia and the projects of social welfare of the population of Kolkheti lowlands (the grant of the Social Development Fund of the Government of Japan) largely supported community mobilization on the local level. It also encouraged strategic planning, capacity building of local community and non-governmental organizations, planning of the needs and resources, fund-raising, elaborate project proposals and accountability. In this regard the Environmental Investment Program of BP/BTC/SCP is aimed at the settlement of environmental issues across Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline and capacity building of local environmental NGOs (see answer 94).</p>	

63. Has your country developed mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities with specific provisions for the full, active and effective participation of women in all elements of the programme of work? (decision V/16, annex)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are being developed	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all elements of the programme of work.	

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Support to implementation

64. Has your country established national, subregional and/or regional indigenous and local community biodiversity advisory committees?	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes	

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

66. Has your country supported, financially and otherwise, indigenous and local communities in formulating their own community development and biodiversity conservation plans that will enable such communities to adopt a culturally appropriate strategic, integrated and phased approach to their development needs in line with community goals and objectives?	
a) No	
b) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the support provided.	
<p>The Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife (GCCW) – in 2002 initiated a program aimed at the formation of community organizations in priority conservation sites, capacity building of these organizations by means of special training programs, small grant, and equipment. At present there are seven community organizations and the program is still under way.</p> <p>In two highland villages the agenda is elaborated for REC Caucasus project “Sustainable Development of Caucasian Highland Regions – Local Agenda for XXI Century”. This project is financed by the Environmental Ministries of Germany and Liechtenstein and includes trainings and workshops that support community mobilization processes aimed at identification of local environmental problems and their solutions. “The Manual of Sustainable Development for the Local Population” was translated into Georgian, which is a methodology for working with the local community; meetings of the village population were organized and information was provided to them for their involvement in the elaborate the document. Meetings of the residents of pilot villages of the Caucasus were also held. The next stage of the project envisages support to implement a local agenda for the XXI century through grants allocated to the villages so they can achieve the short-</p>	

term targets defined by the documents.

Box XLVI.

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

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

Georgia has ancient traditions of harmonious relationship of the population to nature. Unfortunately, the knowledge and capacity of the local population and communities regarding the protection of biodiversity are rather poor. There are few community organizations in Georgia and those that exist lack experience and their activities are limited. Creation, enhancement and involvement of community organizations in the protection of biodiversity and its sustainable use is envisaged by several internationally-financed projects. However there is no systematic State approach to this issue. Co-management should be supported in the field of biodiversity conservation. Local traditional knowledge should be preserved and used for the purpose of protection of biodiversity. In certain cases it is possible to give the leverage of management of protected areas to local community organizations or associations since similar activities are locally implemented regarding water resource management, such as irrigation.

Article 9 - *Ex-situ* conservation

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

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

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

The botanical gardens have sufficient basis and long-standing experience in the field of *ex situ* conservation of rare, endemic and endangered species of plants.


The collections of Tbilisi Botanical gardens include thousands of species of Georgian, Caucasian and introduced flora, including endangered species. On the basis of research, priority species are selected and introduced in the Gardens for their cultivation and reintroduction in nature. More than 400 rare and endangered plant species from Georgia and the Caucasus are planted in Tbilisi Botanical Gardens. Their ecological-geographic dissemination and endemism is analysed and rules of reproduction of species well-adjusted to the soil and climate conditions of Tbilisi are elaborated. In 2001, in cooperation with US Civil Research and Development Fund (CRDF), Tbilisi Botanical Gardens began a regional seed bank, which was founded in 2004. Within the project, Georgia was funded for the equipment needed for long-term maintenance of seeds with modern methodology. Within the framework of the project, about 150 seeds of medicinal plants were gathered in the seed bank. Since 2005 Tbilisi Botanical Gardens has participated in the Millennium Seed Bank Project of Kew Gardens, UK. The duplicate collection of 520 species is already created (plant seeds and herbariums in Kew Gardens and Tbilisi Institute of Botany. Out of these, 200 species are endemic for Georgia and the Caucasus.

The project will last until 2010.

The Botanical Gardens carry out plant inventories and document the collection funds, and an updated electronic database has been created. One of the scientific directions of the Gardens is the study of the medicinal plants of Georgia, identification of their portion in the flora, identification of resources, introduction, cultivation testing and elaborate reproduction technologies. Recently the species content of the medicinal plants in regions around Tbilisi was studied, as well as the intensity of their spreading and narrowly local endemic species. The genetic resources of the medicinal plants of Eastern Georgia were assessed for about 200 species. Tbilisi Botanical Gardens closely cooperates with the Royal Kew Gardens, UK, The Botanical Gardens of Montreal (Canada), New-York Botanical Gardens (USA), Nevstall University (Sweden) and other botanical gardens. With the financial support of BP and in cooperation with the NGO "Association for the Conservation of Wild Plants", Tbilisi Botanical Gardens implemented a joint project "Conservation of Economically Important Relict Species of Georgian Flora". Within this project, seeds of six target species were placed in the Seed Bank of the Institute of Botany and sites with live collections of these species were allocated.

Batumi Botanical Gardens implements theoretical and experimental research with the aim of *ex situ* conservation of the flora of the Region of Achara. Research is implemented regarding the rules of ecology and individual development of numerous species. Distribution maps have been compiled and the reasons for the decrease in their populations have been identified. In 2004-2005 Batumi Botanical Gardens was granted government funding for a project "The Biological and Ecological Features of the Species of *Primula Genus* in Achara and Conservation of this Species in Batumi Botanical Gardens". Batumi Botanical Gardens has seed exchange programs with approximately 80 botanical gardens throughout the world.

Only the Tbilisi Zoo implements the *ex-situ* conservation of fauna. The zoo's departments include ungulates, birds, predators, primates and an aquarium-terrarium. The departments of terrarium a vivarium and insectarium are planned. The Zoo houses 203 animal species, out of which 13 are on the Red List of Georgia. Currently the collection of the zoo is being renewed. The key activities are: education, scientific research and conservation. These activities are financed from the zoo's own income. In 2005 the Tbilisi Zoo started to reproduce the local species of pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) in captivity with the aim of its reintroduction in nature.

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

a) No

b) No, but potential measures are under review

c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)

X

d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)


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

Since 2003 the reintroduction of bezoar (*Capra aegagrus*) started in Borjomi-Kharagauli national Park (see answer to question 34). The project is implemented by WWF Caucasus with the support of WWF Switzerland. The project is supported by the Environmental Protection Ministries of Georgia and Armenia.

Within the framework of the project of development of the systems of protected areas, it is suggested to support the reintroduction of gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*) to its natural habitats (above all, Vashlovani National Park). Negotiations are held with the Ministry of Ecology of Azerbaijan, from where individuals are likely to be brought.

Within the framework of the project "Restoration, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Georgian

Biodiversity” (GEF/UNDP, implementing agency – Association of Biological Farms Elkana, 2004-2009) a demonstration site of four hectares was created in South Georgia where the demonstration and reproduction of local endangered cereal plants are implemented, for eleven species). The seed and planting materials of fruit species are also grown and reproduced. Seeds and planting materials are annually provided to local farmers for the purpose of on-farm conservation. Currently 120 farmers are involved in the project.

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

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

Further information on the measures to 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.

There is no legislative basis for the regulation of the enrichment of zoological and botanical collections.

Certain legislative constraints are observed in connection with the withdrawal of the Red List species from their natural environment. On one hand, the law on the Red List and the Red Book of Georgia permits withdrawal of species under the Red List from their natural environment for scientific and artificial reproduction purposes. On the other hand, the law on “Licenses and Permits” adopted in 2005 does not consider such permits. Legislative amendments are being elaborated to overcome this drawback. The same law abolished licensing of zoological collections.

Box XLVII.

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

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

In close cooperation with the international community, wild and cultivated plant seed banks of modern standards were created. Close cooperation is established with the leading botanical gardens of the world in the field of *ex situ* conservation, namely Kew Gardens (UK). Collections of wild and cultural plants are created and enriched, attention is focused on the endemic Georgian and Caucasian plants, as well as medicinal plant species and endangered species. Georgian specialists have been trained on the issues of *ex situ* conservation at the leading Universities and botanical gardens of the world. This contributed to the introduction of modern methods of *ex situ* conservation .

Despite these advances a lack of financial and human resources still represent major constraints. It is difficult to attract young personnel (especially to botanical Gardens) due to low salaries. State grants are insignificant. Tbilisi Botanical Gardens has been awarded the grant of Georgian Charity Foundation “Kartu” for a 12-year period of scientific research.


Only Tbilisi Botanical Gardens has created a data base, and even this needs further development. The data are not available yet. The Botanical Gardens do not have web-sites. Educational programs are not

elaborated.

Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2005-2010) attaches great importance to *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation to ensure efficient conservation of species. Regarding *ex situ* conservation activities defined by the NBSAP, certain steps have been made for the enhancement of the existing centers; seed banks are created. However, no programs are elaborated with the aim to enhance and restore the Botanical Gardens. The *ex situ* conservation of fauna is very limited.

The status and needs of *ex-situ* conservation have been identified and are envisaged for the second phase of GEF Biodiversity Enabling Activity, for which a project proposal is currently being worked out.

Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity


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

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

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

The principles of inclusion of the issues of conservation and sustainable use in the decision-making process are defined by the following laws: "On Environmental Protection" (1996), "On Wildlife" (1996), "On the System of Protected Areas" (1996), "On Water" (1997), "On the Protection of Soil" (1994), The Forest Code of Georgia (1999), "On Environmental Permits" (1997) and "On Ecological Examination" (1997).

From structural and organizational reforms implemented by the Government since 2003, various governing bodies in the biodiversity field were united. Forestry, fishing, Protected Areas, land management, spatial planning etc. were earlier governed by independent bodies. Now they are subject to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. Despite these, sectoral cooperation is still weak and biodiversity issues are not sufficiently integrated in the plans and programs of other sectors. This especially refers to the issues of land usage. The legislation that governs the management of agricultural lands does not envisage the issue of protection of biodiversity. There are no mechanisms to regulate sustainable management of pasturelands. Integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the hunting and fishing sectors is largely hampered by the lack of knowledge and experience in the field of resource management both in the State and private or scientific sectors. Another important constraint in these field is the absence of the system of monitoring.

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

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

Further information on the measures adopted relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or

minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity.

The key mechanism defined by the legislation regarding the prevention or minimizing of the negative impact on biodiversity are licensing to harvest biological resources, establishing quotas for the amounts harvested, the rules of use of natural resources, responsibility to repair damage caused by illegal harvesting of natural resources, penalties in case of violations.

The following fields are subject to licensing: fishing, timber harvesting, hunting-farms and certain non-timber resources. Hunting is permitted only in hunting-farms, with the exception of migratory birds. The species, dates, places and weapons of hunting are defined.

In 2005 the State program was launched for the assessment of the species of fish and fish resources in the Black Sea. The updated rules of fishing were approved by the Order of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources in 2005. This document defines the seasons and places where fishing is authorized, as well as the permitted and prohibited fishing-tools. Fishing is entirely prohibited in the rivers used for migration by the fish and breeding sites of sturgeon and salmon, a five-mile zone of the marine area between Poti and Ochamchire. This zone is very important for the conservation of the acipenseridae family and sea mammals.

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

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

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

In the National Parks of Kolkheti, Borjomi-Kharagauli and Vashlovani zones of traditional use have been identified for activities connected with the traditional use of renewable natural resources. In these zones it is authorized for the local population to gather fire-wood. Fishing and grazing is also authorized. "The Law on Wildlife" states that amateur and sports fishing with permitted nets and tools is authorized in all water reservoirs of common use. The Forest Code permits collection of non-timber products and secondary timber materials for the private purposes of the local population.

73. On Article 10(d), has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced?

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

Further information on the measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biodiversity has been reduced.

BP/BTC/SCP Environmental Investment Program (EIP) allocates small grants to assist the environmental projects of NGOs alongside Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline and the pipelines of South Caucasus. These projects imply restoration of forests and slopes affected by landslides, arrangement

of nurseries, evaluation of the state of natural monuments and restoration of their status. Eroded sites were identified and mapped; database was created to reflect the ecological problems.

74. Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)

a) No	X
b) No, but assessment of potential indicators and incentive measures is under way	
c) Yes, indicators and incentive measures identified (please describe below)	
Further comments on the identification of indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	

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

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

Further information on sustainable use programmes and policies.

One of the issues of the Program of Economic Development of Georgia and Poverty Reduction (2003-2007, approved by the Decree of the President, #800, 28.06.2003) is the improvement of natural environment. With this aim, the document defines the following activities: implementation of the projects of development of the protected areas in the forest ecosystems of Central Caucasus, integrated management of Georgian coastline, creation of an additional zone of Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park. These projects are implemented with the support of GEF, the World Bank and the Government of Germany.

The strategic directions defined by the NBSAP are: planning of hunting and fishing aimed at restoration, protection and rational use of fish and animals resources, protection and preservation of forest biodiversity by way of introduction of sustainable management of forest resources.

The legal basis for the sustainable use of biological resources is formed by the following laws: "On Environmental Protection"; "On Licenses and Permits"; "On Wildlife"; the Forest Code of Georgia. The practices of sustainable use of biological resources are described in answer to question 33.

76. Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)


a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	

c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please describe below)	X
Further comments on the development of mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity.	
According to the law "On Wildlife", the owners of licenses for hunting-farms are obliged to carry out activities with the purpose of reproduction of populations, preservation of their habitats, improvement of habitats, protection of the animal species included in the Red List of Georgia.	
Currently the terms of long-term licensing of fishing and harvesting of certain non-timber resources are being discussed. The licensing implies the involvement of the private sector in the monitoring of biodiversity resources on which licenses are harvesting. However, the lack of sufficient knowledge and experience of the private sector represents a significant constraint in this field.	


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

78. Has your country taken any initiative or action to develop and transfer technologies and provide financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some technologies developed and transferred and limited financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many technologies developed and transferred and significant financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development and transfer of technologies and provision of financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.	

Biodiversity and Tourism

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

a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please specify below)	
d) Yes, existing mechanisms are under review	
Further comments on the establishment of mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity.	
<p>The legislative and normative acts do not envisage the assessment of the impact of tourism on the biodiversity or the procedures of monitoring and measurement. However, the creation of management plans for several protected areas assessments of the impact of tourism and recreation on the environment was evaluated and corresponding mitigation measures were defined. These include biodiversity research results while creating tourist infrastructures, in order to minimize the impact on natural ecosystems and their components; trainings for the administrations of national parks for the efficient management of tourism; monitoring the impact of tourists and visitors; cleaning waste; and research on the social and economic aspects of the local populations to assess the impact of tourism in this direction.</p> <p>Within the framework of the project of development of protected areas (GEF/The World Bank), ecotourism management plans were elaborated for the protected areas of the Eastern Caucasus and Iori Plateau (Lagodekhi, Vashlovani and Tusheti protected areas), guidelines were prepared for travel agents and managers of the protected areas dedicated to the issue of nature friendly tourism.</p> <p>To increase the awareness of managers of protected areas on the impact of tourism on biodiversity, and with the aim of capacity building regarding visitor management a cycle of workshops was held: "Regional Cooperation- Tourism and Protected Areas". This was done with support from the Department of Tourism, the Center for Sustainable Tourism, WWF Caucasus and Capacity Building International, Germany (InWent). Representatives of the protected areas of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia took part in the workshops. Trainings were held for the heads of visitor programs of the protected areas.</p>	

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

a) No	X
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please describe below)	
Further comments on educational and training programmes provided to tourism operators.	
Although the impact of tourism on biodiversity is weakly reflected in the study programs of tourism managers certain programs include a course on general ecology.	

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

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are being considered	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments in the capacity-building and financial resources provided to indigenous and local communities to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management.	
<p>Parallel to the development of the system of protected areas, attention is focused on the development of ecological tourism in the protected areas and their outskirts. The South Caucasus Initiative of the World Bank and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) supported the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of tourism in the regions of Georgia where the World Bank implemented a project aimed at the preservation of natural and cultural heritage. Within the project, local initiative groups were formed, information centers established and a small grants program was implemented. The capacity building of local population aimed at their involvement in the tourist activities was supported by the small grants program of the project of development of the system of protected areas. Within this program, 22 infrastructure and information projects of local NGOs and community organizations were financed, including the arrangement of family inns, development of horse-riding tourism, publication of tourist guides and manuals.</p> <p>Besides these, with the coordination of the Department of Tourism and Resorts, with the support of donor organizations (SDC, USAID, GTZ, CEPF) and participation of NGOs, a number of projects have been implemented to develop ecological and agricultural tourism and capacity building of the local population, especially in Georgian highlands. The Caucasian NGO Network (CENN), supported by SDC and the Institute of International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (IIZ DVV), supports the enhancement of local tourism in Bakuriani (a highland resort in South Georgia). With the support of SDC, the Center of Sustainable Tourism implemented a community tourism development project in Kazbegi (creation of Kazbegi Tourist House). In the nearest future, with the support of SDC, the Association of Biological farms Elkana will launch the project of development of tourism and villages, which also envisages capacity building of local populations and their involvement in tourist activities. A USAID project to develop small and medium business in Svaneti, included education and training and assistance in the development of tourism infrastructure. With the support of CEPF, the International Association of Ecology and Tourism implements a project of development of tourism on Chaukhi Massive, which implies assistance in the capacity building of the local population.</p>	

82. Has your country integrated the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development in the development or review of national strategies and plans for tourism development, national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, and other related sectoral strategies? (decision VII/14)	
a) No, but the guidelines are under review	
b) No, but a plan is under consideration to integrate some principles of the guidelines into relevant strategies	
c) Yes, a few principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	X
d) Yes, many principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	
Further information on the sectors where the principles of the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development are integrated.	
The National Concept and Action Program of Development of Tourism in Georgia were approved in 2003 by the Decree of the President of Georgia. This document focuses on the new directions in the	

field of tourism and the potential of Georgia, based on rich biological and landscape diversity of the country, favorable for the development of sustainable tourism. The support of the natural heritage preserved in the National Parks is viewed as an opportunity for diverse tourist products. The strategy envisages the enhancement of cooperation between the sector of tourism and conservation programs of corresponding organizations, identification of priority regions for the development of ecological tourism, development of agricultural tourism in the additional zones of the Protected Areas.


Box XLVIII.

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

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

In 2001-2005 numerous projects were implemented with the aim of support of sustainable tourism and the development of Protected Areas; many projects are still under way. The biological and landscape diversity of the country are viewed as major elements for potential tourism. The so-called "Discovery Tourism" based on the cultural and natural sights of the country, has been identified a unique tourist product of the country. Sectoral cooperation started between corresponding governmental agencies (The Departments of Protected Areas, Tourism and Resorts). The development of ecological tourism in the protected areas became one of the priority directions of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. Implementation of national programs started in this direction. Ecological tourism (visiting national parks, bird watching) is one of the growing segments of the tourism sector. Therefore, it is especially important to envisage the guidelines of the convention on the development of biodiversity and tourism. However, the major constraints in this regard are lack of knowledge and experience, lack of competent specialists in the field, absence of financial mechanisms for the investment of the income generated from tourist activities in conservation activities, as well as insufficiently developed infrastructure.

Article 11 - Incentive measures


83.  Has your country established programmes to identify and adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?

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

Further comments on the programmes to identify and adopt incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

84.  Has your country developed the mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation

of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas? (decisions III/18 and IV/10)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, review of impact of mechanisms available (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanism or approaches to incorporate market and non-market values of biodiversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes.	

85.  Has your country developed training and capacity-building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives? (decision III/18)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place	
d) Yes, many programmes are in place	

86. Does your country take into consideration the proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures as contained in Annex I to decision VI/15 when designing and implementing incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision VI/15)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the proposals considered when designing and implementing the incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	

87. Has your country made any progress in removing or mitigating policies or practices that generate perverse incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (decision VII/18)	
a) No	X
b) No, but identification of such policies and practices is under way	

c) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified but not entirely removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified and removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
Further information on perverse incentives identified and/or removed or mitigated.	

Box XLIX.

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

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

The legislation envisages certain tax benefits for the support of sustainable use of natural resources: according to the law "Fees on Natural Resources ", tax is reduced by 70% for those users of natural resources who implement scientific and cultural-educational activities regarding nature, also for those users of natural resources who implement recovery and reproduction of natural resources on their own (within the volume of the restored resource). To support the formation of hunting-farms, Georgian Tax Code states that the hunting-farms are exempt of the property tax. However, the efficiency of these instruments is too weak to stimulate environmental protection and sustainable use of biodiversity.

In the decision-making process, economic assessment of biodiversity and its value are not envisaged. However, methodological research in this direction was implemented in the Soviet period and within the framework of the World Bank project of forest development. When establishing the amount of tax for the use of natural resources or calculating the damage caused by the illegal harvesting of natural resources, the full economic value of biodiversity is not taken into consideration.

The problems of elaborate efficient economic tools and assessment of the economic value of biodiversity are caused by the lack of professional knowledge and experience in this field. The Western theories of environmental protection are not taught in schools of higher education, or only at a low level. The number of highly-qualified personnel is insufficient in the scientific and educational institutions that should work out the market economy instruments for environmental protection (biodiversity protection) and sustainable use.

The NBSAP defines as one of its priorities the support of favorable financial-economic environment for the conservation of biodiversity. One of the strategic directions of the NBSAP is the implementation of financial and economic programs aimed at the support of efficient conservation of biodiversity. The following activities are planned in this regard: achieving correspondence of the tax legislation with environmental legislation; implementation of the economic mechanisms mentioned in the law "On Environmental Protection"; elaborate a draft on the stimulation of environmental activities; creation of additional financial mechanisms of conservation of biodiversity; inclusion of the key aspects of the protection of biodiversity in the economic policy of the country; monetary evaluation of the biodiversity of the protected areas by means of modern methods; creation of economic mechanisms for the sustainable development and protection of biodiversity, economic stimulation of recycling industry to ensure rational use of biological resources; evaluation of the economic effects of the preservation of biodiversity (profit potential); and assessment of the full economic value of biodiversity.

Article 12 - Research and training

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

a) No

b) No, but programmes are under development

c) Yes, programmes are in place (please provide details below)

X

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

In 2004 essential reforms were launched in the educational system in accordance with the principles of the Bologna Protocol. This process was based on the adoption of the law "On Higher Education". In 2005 the Minister of Education and Science signed the Bergen communiqué which officially made Georgia part of the Bologna process. To meet the requirements of membership of European Higher Education, organizational and structural changes are implemented in the schools of higher education of Georgia: introduction of a three-step system of academic degrees, introduction of a system that will correspond to European credit transfer system in the educational programs, enhancement of research components in schools of higher education. The current reform supports the improvement of the level of teaching and professional preparation in the schools of higher education of Georgia.

From the current reform, several departments were united into the department of Exact and Natural Sciences at Tbilisi State University. The Department has BA programs in biology and geography. So far no MA programs have been elaborated in the field of research, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Department of Natural Sciences and Medicine of Rustaveli State University of Batumi has BA programs in biology, ecology, hydro-biology and geography and MA programs in botany, ecological biomorphology and hydrobiology. Tsereteli State University of Kutaisi has BA programs in biology, ecology and geography and MA programs in plant biology and ecology. Georgian Agricultural University provides specialists in general forestry, forest economy, taxation and timber-harvesting, geodesy and landscape planning.

Despite these BA and MA programs, the level of applied and fundamental research in the field of biology falls behind the modern level of the schools of higher education of developed countries. The educational programs of schools of higher education do not provide sufficient knowledge in the fields of environmental policy, environmental legislation, sustainable management of biological resources, and management of protected areas or environmental modelling. It is necessary to achieve modern standards of research and education. With this aim, it is planned to establish a department of Wildlife Sciences at the new State University which is formed from the confluence of several State Universities and scientific research institutes.

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

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

X

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

Fundamental and applied research in the field of biology is financed by the Georgian Academy of Sciences, the Department of Science and Technology of the Ministry of Economic Development and the Georgian Research Development Foundation (GRDF).

In 2001-2005 grants from the National Academy of Sciences financed 20 projects of the Institute of Botany, 12 projects of the Institute of Zoology, five projects at the State Museum of Georgia and six projects at the Institute of Forestry. These projects were implemented in research, assessment and

sustainable use of biodiversity.

Despite the increased financing of scientific research institutes, the existing resources are still insufficient for full-scale research. The major portion of research is financed by grants of donors and NGOs (WWF Caucasus, NACRES, GCCW, Association of Field Researchers CAMPESTER, and Georgian Union of Nature Researchers Orchis). In the last period the cooperation between the scientific research institutes and donor organizations has increased significantly; special mention should be made of CRDF, UNESCO, NATO Program "Science for Peace", SCOPE, USDA, UK Royal Society and British Petroleum.

Significant changes are being implemented regarding planning and financing scientific research. The scientific research institutes are autonomous units. The National Scientific Fund was established to identify the best scientific projects and manage the finances. Financed by the State, this Fund issues grants and scholarships on the basis of competitions.

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

a) No

x

b) Yes (please provide details below)

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

Box L.

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

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

In 2002-2005 State support of scientific research in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity increased significantly, the cooperation of scientific research institutes with donor organizations was enhanced. Foreign scientific circles became interested in the Caucasian ecoregion as one of the Hot Spots of biodiversity. Separate scientific institutes and individual scientists are involved in international scientific programs. Organizational and structural reforms were implemented in scientific research institutes and, generally, in the field of science. As a result, the needs and potential of the country regarding scientific research were identified. However, the involvement of young personnel still represents a problem. The lack of financial resources restricts the participation of scientists and students in international conferences and workshops. Hence, Georgian scientists and students are unable to obtain knowledge in the disciplines that have recently developed in the leading countries. International funds attach priority to social and political sciences in their academic and exchange programs.

Article 13 - Public education and awareness

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

a) No	
b) No, but a CEPA strategy is under development	
c) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a limited extent (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the implementation of a CEPA strategy and the promotion of public participation in support of the Convention.	
<p>One of the targets of the Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2005) is the increase of environmental awareness of the population and their involvement in the decision-making processes. The activities in this regard include contacts with mass media, support of informal education, increase of the environmental awareness of the local communities and preparation of educational and informational materials. CEPA activities are integrated in the conservation plan of the Caucasian ecoregion.</p> <p>Public awareness and involvement in the decision-making processes in the field of environment are defined by the following laws: "On the System of Protected Areas", "On Wildlife", "The Forest Code of Georgia", "On Environmental Permits", "On Ecological Examination" as well as the General Administrative Code. One of the key instruments in this direction is the Convention on the Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), joined by Georgia in 2001. In 2005 the Aarhus Center was established to support the following activities: providing information on the issues of environmental protection to the society at large, assisting the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources in the elaborate procedures for efficient involvement of the public in environmental activities and increasing public awareness and environmental education.</p>	

92. Is your country undertaking any activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness as contained in the annex to decision VI/19? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on CEPA.	
<p>The activities of the Global Initiative Work Plan are implemented on the national and regional (Caucasian ecoregion) levels regarding communication, education and public awareness (decision VI/19, Appendix). These activities imply the creation of a regional network and support of capacity building (for more details, see answer 95).</p>	

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

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the promotion of biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level.	
<p>Recently cooperation has been enhanced between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia and mass media in connection with biodiversity issues, especially regarding the Protected Areas. Information and popular publications were issued concerning various protected areas and their biodiversity. Activities were implemented for the purpose of promotion of Protected Areas: media tours to the protected areas, advertising on popular TV channels, regular meetings with media representatives, campaigns connected with international days of environmental protection.</p> <p>To arouse the interest of journalists in environmental issues and build their capacities the Regional Environmental Center of the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) carried out projects in this direction, as do the Caucasian NGO Network (CENN), WWF Caucasus, the Green Movement of Georgia and other organizations. They regularly organize trainings, workshops and seminars for journalists. Support for environmental journalism and increased public awareness were the aims of the regional project of REC-Caucasus "Mass Media and Public Involvement Technologies". The project assisted local journalists in capacity building and awareness of global and local environmental problems. A manual was published for the journalists interested in environmental issues. Regular articles are published on the biodiversity of the Caucasian ecoregion in the quarterly bilingual (English-Russian) journal of CENN "Caucasus Environment". The Association "Journalists and Society", supported by CEPF, implements a project aimed at the enhancement of cooperation between journalists and local municipalities.</p> <p>Despite these activities the interest of mass media in biodiversity problems is still insufficient, due to the fact that environmental protection is not a priority field and significant efforts are necessary for the qualified coverage of environmental issues.</p>	

94. Does your country promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further information on the efforts to promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level.	
<p>On the local level, public awareness is implemented by environmental protection centers, formed upon the initiative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and with support of donor organizations in several districts (Mameuli, Rustavi, Borjomi and Khashuri). In Lower Kartli (Bolnisi) and Samtskhe-Javakheti (Bakuriani) public centers for environmental protection were created with the support of CENN, SDC, USAID and EED. Various events are organized for the promotion of the issue of biodiversity (exhibitions of children's paintings, celebration of the days of the Earth and Environmental Protection, conferences, weekly events at schools). These events are initiated by regional agencies of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. The Government of Achara initiated events dedicated to the protection of the Black Sea Environment in 2004. In many schools of Achara "Green Post" are created. Protection of biodiversity is one of the main themes of children's educational and creative conferences.</p> <p>In recent time activities by NGOs and local community organizations have increased due to projects such as the small grants program of BP and its partners (BTC/SCP) (implemented by "Save the Chil-</p>	

dren" and NACRES). The program aims at the settlement of environmental problems on the territory along the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline by building the capacity of local environmental organizations. The program includes the districts of Gardabani, Tetrtskaro, Marneuli, Tsalka, Adigeni, Borjomi and Akhaltsikhe. One of the priority directions of this program is protection of biodiversity and sustainable use. Within the framework of the project, local NGOs and community organizations projects were financed to restore the degraded habitats, arrange nurseries, support the functioning of protected areas, evaluate the state of the natural monuments and restore these monuments.

With the aim of increasing public awareness in the adjacent territories of protected areas and to build capacity at the local level, special programs were implemented within the framework of the project of development of protected areas of Georgia, the project of integrated management of Georgian coastline and the program of Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park (for more details, see answer 98).

95. Is your country supporting national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness? (decision VI/19)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities supported (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many activities supported (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the support of national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness.

In 2002 the Decree of the President approved "The State Program of Ecological Education of the Population". This program includes activities aimed at capacity building (element 3 of the work program). One of the priorities of the program is the increase of the level of ecological education in secondary schools and schools of higher education with a pedagogical profile. The program also envisages the following activities NGO capacity building and informing local authorities, businesses, target groups and the society at large regarding ecological issues.

Within the current reform of primary and secondary education, attention is focused on the integration of environmental issues (including biodiversity conservation) in the curricula and manuals of certain subjects (biology, geography). This process is supported by the World Bank program of the reform and enhancement of the educational system, which has been implemented since 2001. Sustainable development and environmental protection are main themes of school conferences and other events. The number of schools where ecology is taught has increased. Clubs of ecologists and environmental protectionists are formed at schools. NGO "The Center for the Conservation of Georgian Wildlife" (GCCW) and the laboratory of biology of Tbilisi Institute of Teachers Training and Methodology elaborated educational modules in ecology and published corresponding manuals. High quality publications on environmental issues are increasingly published (encyclopedias, reference books, scientific-popular editions) for children. CEPA activities have been activated in the recent period both in secondary and schools of higher education. Environmental weekly events, conferences, tours and excursions are organized on the days of the Earth and Environmental Protection. In the Technical Institute of Georgia, the Ecological Education Coordination Council and the Republican Center of Ecological Training are established. At the Agricultural University a Department of Biospheric Reserves has been founded and lectures are delivered on the theme of protected areas. With the support of TEMPUS TACIS, a project was implemented for the purpose of improving the environmental education.

The achievement of the targets defined in the first element of the work program of the Global Initiative on public relations, education and public awareness is largely assisted by the electronic network of CENN which enables exchange of environmental information between the State and NGO sectors, private sectors, scientific circles and other interested parties of the three countries of South Caucasus. The electronic environmental network of CENN serves more than 12 thousand organizations and persons. The network spreads weekly digests and monthly bulletins concerning the important events in the field of environmental protection.

96. Has your country developed adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness?	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness.	
To support CEPA activities and the capacity building of various target groups (teachers, journalists, local authorities), with the financial assistance of donor organizations, Georgian NGOs regularly implement various events like trainings, workshops, publication of informational and educational materials. However, the capacities of organizations, especially in the State sector, need to be developed further regarding the planning and implementation of public awareness campaigns aimed at various target groups. In general, there are qualified specialists in the field in public relations, but their experience in the field of biodiversity is insufficient.	


97. Does your country promote cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness at the national, regional and international levels? (decisions IV /10 and VI/19)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the promotion of cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness, at the national, regional and international levels.	

98. Is your country undertaking some CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention?	
a) No (please specify reasons below)	
b) Yes, some activities undertaken for some issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, many activities undertaken for most issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for all issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention.	
All projects aimed at the implementation of the thematic programs and connected issues of the convention on the national level include the components of public awareness and education.	

Various publications are issued (brochures, leaflets, posters, calendars, guides, reference books). There are TV programs and photo exhibitions dedicated to the protected areas of Georgia. Web-sites and logos have been elaborated for the protected areas of Kolkheti, Borjomi, Tusheti, Lagodekhi and Vashlovani. The administrations of protected areas cooperate with local NGOs and schools in the field of public awareness. At the first stage of the implementation of Small Grants Program of the project of Development of the System of Protected Areas in Georgia, the projects of local communities and NGOs were supported (summer ecological camps for children, publications etc.). These projects will support the promotion of Tusheti, Vashlovani and Lagodekhi national parks and spreading of information on the natural and cultural values of these parks. With the support of the project of integrated management of Georgian coastline, video clips and a documentary film were shot concerning the Kolkheti National Park. Trainings were held for teachers and pupils of schools, competitions of children's paintings on the environmental theme were also organized. Ecological literature was provided for school libraries.

The Association of Biological Farms Elkana issues regular publications (articles, brochures, leaflets) to promote the agricultural biodiversity and to increase public awareness on the importance of its protection and preservation. Elkana organizes meetings with local farmers and workshops in various districts of Georgia. The issue of agricultural biodiversity is included in the course of organic agriculture, elaborated by Elkana.

With the support of the Project of Development of Georgian Forest Sector, publications were issued on the theme of forest diversity. In the pilot area of the project (5 administrative districts of the Central Caucasus) meetings and workshops were organized for the local population on the issues of sustainable forestry.

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

a) No	x
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

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

With the aim of increasing public awareness in the field of biodiversity, NGO sector implements major activities with the support of donor organizations. In addition to these examples, that NGOs have implemented the following activities: Center for the Conservation of Georgian Wildlife (GCCW) implements informational-educational campaigns "Birds Around Us"; "The Bird of the Year". The Green Movement of Georgia regularly holds ecological workshops for schoolchildren, farmers and community groups. It also organizes regular public lectures and school conferences on the issue of biological safety. CEPF supports the implementation of several small-scale projects aimed at issuance of publications and organization of workshops on the issue of biodiversity. The activities of local NGOs are enhanced in this direction.

The role of the private sector should be underlined. Since 2002 BP and its partner organizations have been organizing annual small grants competitions on biodiversity issues. The implemented projects result in popular and educational publications, as well as workshops and meetings aimed at informing the society on biodiversity issues.

100. Is your country communicating the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and establishing appropriate linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in the

implementation of your national CEPA programmes and activities? (decision VII/24)	
a) No	x
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes developed and activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes developed and many activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the communication of the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and the establishment of linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.	
<p>Georgian Ministry of Education and Science started a competition "Education for Sustainable Development" in 2005 within the framework of "The Program of National and International Educational Competitions". This competition has great feedback from all regions of Georgia. The projects in this direction are based on the main issues of sustainable development and support the development of environmental skills of pupils. Project themes include the issues of rational use of biodiversity and protection of the environment. So far there is no cooperation between this project and the agencies involved in biodiversity activities; hence, the theme of the competition and the presented projects do not envisage the targets of 2010.</p>	

Box LI.

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

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

Public awareness and education on the environmental issues is a component of all projects implemented with the aim of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Many activities are implemented in this regard: popular and educational publications (printed and electronic versions), workshops, conferences and trainings of target groups. However, no special research has been implemented to assess public awareness of biodiversity issues. In general, it can be concluded that the society at large is aware of the environmental problems in the country and considers that the protection of water and forest resources is of key importance. Yet, the society and the decision-makers are not aware of the importance of conservation of separate species of flora and fauna.

There is a corresponding legal and conceptual basis for continuing environmental education, however, practical activities are not implemented due to a lack of funding. The program of development and reform of the educational system, supported by the World Bank, supported the development of planning and improvement of the quality of manuals of primary and secondary schools. Environmental issues were integrated in the corresponding disciplines. Yet, biodiversity issues (global and local) need to be better reflected in the educational programs. The number of qualified teachers in this field is too small and there is a lack of methodological manuals for teachers. The majority of BA and MA programs do not envisage obligatory teaching of environmental protection, especially in private schools. Environmental education in schools of higher education is inconsequential and it is not integrated in general university education.

Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

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

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

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

The issues of environmental impact assessment and the environmental impact permits are regulated by the following laws : "On Environmental Permits (1997), "On State Ecological Examination" (1997), "On Licenses and Permits" (2005), also the provision "On Environmental Impact Assessment" (approved by the order of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, #59, 16.05.2002 which superceded the preceding provision), Provision "On the Rules of State Ecological Examination" (2003), "On the Rules of Issuance of Environmental Impact Permits" (approved by the decree of the government of Georgia, #154 (01.09.05)). This decree restricted the list of activities subject to the environmental impact permit , assessment of the impact on the environment and State ecological examination (earlier 318 types of activities were subject to these procedures, now the number of such activities is 21). All other activities are subject to the environmental technical regulations which are currently being elaborated.

In 2005 the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources started to elaborate new drafts in connection with the assessment of the impact on the environment and environmental permits.

The drawbacks of the system of assessment of the impact on the environment were identified and necessary recommendations were worked out by Caucasian Network of Environmental NGOs (CENN) in 2003-2004 when this organization was implementing a project "The Study of the Efficiency of the Assessment of the Impact on the Environment in South Caucasus". The project was financially supported by the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection of the Netherlands and with the participation of experts of the Dutch Committee of Environmental Impact Assessment. In 2005, with the support of the World Bank and Bank-Netherlands Partnership Program (BNPP), CENN launched a project "Improvement of the Environmental Impact Assessment System (EIA /SEA) in South Caucasus". The targets of this project are: Improvement of the environmental impact assessment legislation in Georgia, elaborate sectoral instructions for the environmental impact assessment in three most important sectors (road network and railway, ports and terminals, landing fields), increasing public awareness on the national and regional levels. Within the framework of the project a public library was created where all reports on environmental impact assessment since 1997 are accessible.

Public participation in environmental impact assessment and decision-making processes are monitored by Aarhus Center, recently founded.

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

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	X
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	

d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanisms developed to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity.	
In May 2003 Georgia signed the protocol of the Convention on "Strategic Environmental Assessment" for the environmental impact assessment in transboundary context. However, Georgian legislation does not envisage strategic environmental assessment.	
With the aim of initiating the SEA (strategic environmental assessment) the following projects were launched in 2005: "Support of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Capacity Building" (UNDP, Regional Environmental Center of Central and Eastern Europe) and "Implementation of Strategic Environmental Assessment in Georgia" (The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection of the Netherlands). From these projects, the preconditions for the implementation of strategic environmental assessment were defined, the national guidelines of the implementation of SEA were elaborated, as well as the draft of a corresponding law; pilot strategic environmental assessment of the draft law on the waste management was implemented.	

103. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Article 14.1(c), is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction?	
a) No	X
b) No, but assessment of options is in progress	
c) Yes, some completed, others in progress (please provide details below)	
d) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biodiversity outside your country's jurisdiction.	

104. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Article 14.1(d), has your country put mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your territory to biological diversity in the territory of other Parties or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction?	
a) No	X
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place based on current scientific knowledge	

105. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Article 14.1(e), has your country established national mechanisms for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	

d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	X
Further information on national mechanisms for emergency response to the activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biodiversity.	
There are no mechanisms for immediate reaction to the serious threats to biodiversity. There are only the regular mechanisms for reaction to emergency situations.	
The contingency plans for oil spills have been approved for Baku-Supsa and Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipelines, Poti and Batumi Sea-ports and Kulevi oil terminal.	
In 2003, with the support of German Federal Ministry of Environmental Protection and Safety of Nuclear Reactors, a project was launched called "Elaboration and Implementation of Activities Aimed at the Development of Transboundary Cooperation for Emergency Situations in the Kura Basin". The project involves Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Within the project, the enterprises that implement dangerous activities from the ecological viewpoint were registered, risks were defined and corresponding recommendations are currently being worked out.	

106. Is your country applying the Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environment-Impact-Assessment Legislation or Processes and in Strategic Impact Assessment as contained in the annex to decision VI/7 in the context of the implementation of paragraph 1 of Article 14? (decision VI/7)	
a) No	X
b) No, but application of the guidelines under consideration	
c) Yes, some aspects being applied (please specify below)	
d) Yes, major aspects being applied (please specify below)	
Further comments on application of the guidelines.	
The legislation on the environmental impact assessment needs to be reviewed envisaging the recommendations given in the instructions. There is a defined list of activities that are subject to the environmental impact assessment. Other activities, without regard of their location and possible negative impact on biodiversity, are not subject to such assessment.	

107. On Article 14 (2), has your country put in place national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity? (decision VI/11)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please specify the measures)	X
Further comments on national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity.	
After the 2004 political changes in the country the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia began reforms of the system of State control in the field of environmental protection. The first step in this direction was to unite the functions scattered among various agencies under one organization – The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. In 2005 a law "On the State Control of Environmental Protection" was adopted. Based on this law, the Inspection of Environmental Protection was established and granted corresponding controlling and inspection rights.	
The administrative and criminal codes define penalties and fines for the breach of law in the environmental field (e.g. illegal hunting, fishing, timber harvesting, violation of the regime of	

protected areas, violation of the rules of harvesting natural resources, destruction of species under the Red List etc.). Besides, the violator is obliged to repair the damage.

108. Has your country put in place any measures to prevent damage to biological diversity?

a) No

b) No, but some measures are being developed

c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)

X

d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)

Further information on the measures in place to prevent damage to biological diversity.

The following mechanisms are elaborated to prevent damage to biodiversity:

- Strict restriction or prohibition of the use of resources in the protected areas of various categories;
- The rules of use of biological resources, which are defined by different normative acts, licenses and permits;
- Environmental Impact Assessment and environmental permits for various activities;
- State control of environmental protection, which includes monitoring of implementation of environmental laws, control of fulfillment of the terms of licenses and rules of harvesting of natural resources, identification and prevention of breaches of law in the field;
- The system of recuperation of damage to biodiversity and corresponding responsibilities.

109. Is your country cooperating with other Parties to strengthen capacities at the national level for the prevention of damage to biodiversity, establishment and implementation of national legislative regimes, policy and administrative measures on liability and redress? (decision VI/11)

a) No

b) No, but cooperation is under consideration

c) No, but cooperative programmes are under development

d) Yes, some cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)

X

e) Yes, comprehensive cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)

Further comments on cooperation with other Parties to strengthen capacities for the prevention of damage to biodiversity.

Georgian Environmental Protection Inspection takes part in annual meetings and trainings of the Environmental Protection Regulatory Network of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (REPIN). This network is the key mechanism of exchange of information and dialogue in the field of law enforcement in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). However, the network chiefly focuses on the issues of environmental pollution and pays less attention to the protection of biodiversity. Georgian Environmental Protection Inspection is interested in enhancing the work of the network in this direction.

In 2005, with the support of the governments of the Netherlands and Norway, as well as OECD/EAP, a project "Creation of a System to Ensure the Implementation of the Requirements of the Environmental Legislation in Georgia" was launched to support the efficient functioning of the Environmental Protection Inspection in Georgia. The representatives of the Inspection took part in

the conference of EU States Environmental Network Organizations (IMPEL) in Riga (Latvia). While in Riga, the representatives of the Inspection shared the experience of one of the regional environmental protection inspections of Latvia.

Box LII.


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

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

The procedures of environmental impact assessment and ecological examination correspond to international practices in these fields. However, significant efforts are necessary for the implementation of the requirements of this Article. There are no legislative requirements for strategic environmental assessment and there is no requirement to carry out a transboundary impact assessment of planned activities. There is little monitoring for the efficiency of activities as defined by the EIA process for prevention/mitigation of the impact on biodiversity.

Through the reform of State control of environmental protection, the opportunities for the implementation of the environmental legislation have grown significantly as compared to the previous years. Georgia made important steps to reduce the most serious threat – illegal cuts and illegal trade by products of the forest. This is one of the functions of the newly-established Environmental Protection Inspection. However, the capacities of the Inspection are still poor regarding the identification and prevention of breaches of law in the field of biodiversity. Capacity-building of the Inspection in this direction is considered one of the priority tasks.

Article 15 - Access to genetic resources

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

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

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

The collections of scientific research institutes are available freely and without restriction. However, Georgia has not elaborated the procedures of harvesting genetic resources and transferring them to other parties.

Recently several projects have been implemented regarding the research and conservation of genetic resources. Copies of the samples of the materials obtained during the research under these projects were provided to the genetic banks of various countries and organizations, namely, the collection of the cultural plants obtained jointly by the scientists of Georgia and Germany, was provided to the genetic bank of the Institute of Genetics and Cultural Plants (Gatersleben, Germany). Samples of granular and leguminous plants, obtained from expeditions to various districts of Georgia in 2001 and 2005 by ICARDA and Australian International Foundation of Agriculture, are kept at the genetic bank of ICARDA and Australian genetic bank of autumn cultures. With the support of ICARDA and USDA, samples of wheat, maize, leguminous and herb plants and beans were collected. Copies of these samples will be provided to the genetic bank of Fort Collins (USA). The International Program of Agricultural research service of USDA cooperates with the Institute of Botany on the implementation of the project "Research and Exchange of Plants in Georgia". This project obtains samples of indigenous plant cultures to provide them to the US National System of Plant Germ Plasm. The project includes the collection of seeds of wild fruit, decorative plants, leguminous plants, cereal and vegetables and provision of these to the USDA store-house where they are available for scientists in America and worldwide. An agreement on the provision of materials was signed between ARS and the Institute of Botany.

Information concerning the specialists of genetic resources, genetic banks, institutes, projects and their participants is provided on the web-site <http://www.cac-biodiversity.org> created in 2004 by ICARDA. Information on the genetic resources of plants can be found at <http://eurisco.ecpgr.org>.

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

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

Further information on the measures to 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.


Prior to beginning joint projects of collection and research of plant resources, the terms of access to the research results are defined specifically for each concrete case between all the scientific organizations participating in the research projects. State agencies do not take part in this process, due to the absence of corresponding legislative basis. In general, such projects ensure equitable distribution of the collected materials between the genetic banks of the countries involved in the project. The projects also ensure equal copyrights on publications and long-term maintenance of genetic plasmas in the duplicate collections.

Georgian scientific research institutes and individual experts are involved in all international or bilateral projects regarding the research, collection and conservation of genetic resources in Georgia.

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

a) No	X
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b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the type of measures taken.	
In legislation there are significant drawbacks regarding the equitable sharing of benefits obtained by means of use of genetic resources. Overcoming these drawbacks would protect Georgian financial interests and intellectual property in case of export of Georgian genetic resources for commercial purposes.	

113.  In developing national measures to address access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, has your country taken into account the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on national measures taken which consider the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing as set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.	

114. Is your country using the Bonn Guidelines when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and/or when negotiating contracts and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for access and benefit-sharing? (decision VII/19A)	
a) No	
b) No, but steps being taken to do so (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Please provide details and specify successes and constraints in the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines.	
See answer to question 111.	

115. Has your country adopted national policies or measures, including legislation, which address the role of intellectual property rights in access and benefit-sharing arrangements (i.e. the issue of disclosure of origin/source/legal provenance of genetic resources in applications for intellectual property rights where the subject matter of the application concerns, or makes use of, genetic resources in its development)?
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a) No	X
b) No, but potential policies or measures have been identified (please specify below)	
c) No, but relevant policies or measures are under development (please specify below)	
d) Yes, some policies or measures are in place (please specify below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive policies or measures adopted (please specify below)	
Further information on policies or measures that address the role of IPR in access and benefit-sharing arrangements.	
<p>Issues of intellectual property are regulated by the following laws: "On Copyright and Related Issues" (1999), "The Law on Patent" (1999), "On Transboundary Measures in Connection with Intellectual Property" (1999), "On Achievements of Selection" (1996). The law on the achievements of selection defines the terms and procedures for inventorying the findings of selection regarding plant and animal species. This law does not require the mentioning of the origin of a genetic resource in the statement on the intellectual rights (Since 2006 these issues have been regulated by the laws "On the Protection of New Species of Plants" and "On the Protection of New Species of Animals").</p>	

116. Has your country been involved in capacity-building activities related to access and benefit-sharing?	
a) Yes (please provide details below)	X
b) No	
Please provide further information on capacity-building activities (your involvement as donor or recipient, key actors involved, target audience, time period, goals and objectives of the capacity-building activities, main capacity-building areas covered, nature of activities). Please also specify whether these activities took into account the Action Plan on capacity-building for access and benefit-sharing adopted at COP VII and available in annex to decision VII/19F.	
<p>Georgian specialists are actively involved in the European cooperation programs on genetic resources of plants (ECPGR). Recently they have taken part in the work of the following international teams: medicinal and aromatic plants, beets, food cultures, leguminous cultures, grain, apple and pear, vine, vegetables, potatoes and on-farm conservation. Regarding the research of genetic resources of plants, database creation, management and access, Georgian specialists have been trained in international research centers of Germany, Italy, Australia, India, Syria, Czech Republic, Peru, USA and Russia.</p> <p>Active and fruitful cooperation is implemented with the Agricultural Research Consulting group (CGIAR), especially with CIMMYT and ICARDA. CGIAR centers have organized numerous workshops and training courses, which enabled Georgian scientists to master the maintenance and renewal of genetic resources, elaborate documents and database.</p>	

Box LIII.

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

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

In 2002-2005, through activities implemented with the support of international organizations, the access to the genetic resources of cultivated and wild plants was improved. The resources in genetic banks are well-documented and included in the database, materials are provided for the collections of different countries. The number of samples of genetic resources of cultivated and wild plants has increased in the collections of the institutes of botany, agriculture, vine-growing, horticulture and wine-production. Due to the exchange programs copies of these samples are kept in the genetic banks of various countries. These activities contribute to Target 3 of 2010 – conservation of genetic resources. Implementation of certain activities, defined by the NBSAP has started, namely, renewal and enrichment of the existing collections, ensuring of the precondition for the formation of State genetic bank. However, no activities have been carried out yet regarding the description of the features of endemic and indigenous species, compilation of subsequent documentation and declaration of these species as State property, development of mechanisms for the control of export and import of the genetic resources.

So far there is no national legislation concerning the accessibility of genetic resources and equitable distribution of profit in this field. Georgia is a member of the international agreement "On the Genetic Resources of Plants, Food and Agriculture". Conservation of the genetic resources of plants is hampered due to the lack of financial and human resources, the material technical base needs to be updated. The absence of a complex system of conservation, management and use of genetic resources of plants represents a threat to the rich diversity of cultivated and wild plants and to the development and agriculture in general.

Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology

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

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.	

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

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

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

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and measures are in place (please provide	

details below)	
e) Not applicable	X
Further information on the measures taken.	

Box LIV.

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

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

Georgia is a country of economy in transition which needs the introduction and development of technologies for biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and the use of genetic resources. The technologies are usually introduced within the framework of international cooperation in various directions, where representatives of different scientific research institutions and NGOs are involved. In the last period new technologies were introduced at the Institute of Botany regarding long-term maintenance of plant seed collections. With the support of ICARDA, the genetic bank of the Institute was provided with equipment and technology for medium-term and short-term maintenance of seeds (identification of humidity in the seeds, drying, definition of germination capacity, short-term and medium-term maintenance at low temperature). The manager of the genetic bank of ICARDA delivers annual trainings for the employees of the Institute of Agriculture. In cooperation with CARE and Mercy-Corps, the Center of Biotechnology worked out the technology of production of tissues of virus free potatoes. Technologies for the production of seeds of virus free potatoes are also worked out. New technologies for the research of the genetic resources of vine and for the production of planting materials are introduced at the Institute of Horticulture, Vine-growing and Wine-Production in cooperation with FAO and the World Bank project "Agricultural Research, Implementation, Training and Consultancy" (ARET). The Institute of Molecular Biology and Biological Physics cooperates with international organizations and authoritative laboratories of Europe on the research of methods of detection of genetically modified organisms. In cooperation with foreign organizations, new technologies are introduced (radiometric and satellite telemetrics) for the research and monitoring of populations of certain species (birds of prey, brown bear, Eurasian otter, bats), (NGOs NACRES, GCCW, CAMPESTER). The project of development of Georgian forest sector and the system of protected areas largely contribute to the introduction of modern technologies in the planning and management of forestries and protected areas.

Programme of Work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation

120. Has your country provided financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation? (decision VII/29)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In cooperation with Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB), research was carried out for the purpose of evaluation of the selection and biotechnological potential of the country. Selection programs of various scientific research institutes were evaluated regarding the use of biotechnological methods. Within the framework of the project "Development of the National System of Biological Safety in Georgia" (GEF/UNEP, 2003-2005), the capacities of Georgian scientific research institutions of biotechnological profile (institutes, centers, laboratories) were studied regarding biotechnological research and assessment of risks associated with genetically modified organisms obtained by modern biological technology.

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

a) No	X
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies.	

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

a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place and being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation.	

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

a) No	X
b) No, but a few measures being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please specify below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please specify below)	
Further comments on the measures taken as a preparatory phase to the development and implementation of national institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation as well as access to and adaptation of technologies of relevance to the Convention.	

Box LV.

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

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

Through international cooperation Georgia develops and introduces modern technologies regarding the management of protected areas and forestry, the monitoring of biodiversity, research of genetic resources and conservation. However, the issue of introduction, adaptation and development of innovative, ecologically acceptable technologies is still significant.

Within the framework of the project "National Capacity Needs, Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management" (2003-2005), Georgian capacities for the implementation of three global conventions of the UN were evaluated. These conventions are: the Convention on the Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention To Combat Desertification. According to this research, currently Georgia has no adequate policy, legislative or institutional system that would support the introduction of modern technologies. This is caused by the following: inadequate request for new technologies, absence of economic incentives, weak institutional and informational system concerning the ecologically-acceptable technologies, limited capacities of small and medium-scale organizations to select, adopt and manage innovative technologies.

Article 17 - Exchange of information

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

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

The following question (127) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

127. On Article 17(1), do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries and include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?

a) No	
b) Yes, but they do not include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	
c) Yes, and they include categories of information listed in Article 17 (2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	

Box LVI.

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

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

Recently the availability of electronic information has increased significantly. The web-site of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources was created (www.moe.gov.ge), where biodiversity information and annual national reports on the state of the environment are provided. Detailed information on the Protected Areas of Georgia can be found on the web-site of the Department of Protected Areas and those of individual reserves: www.dpa.gov.ge; www.knp.ge; www.knr.ge; www.borjomi-kharagauli-np.ge; www.tushetipa.ge; www.vashlovanipa.ge; www.lagodekhipa.ge

Information on the biodiversity of Georgia is also found on the web-sites of NGOs: www.nacres.org; www.gccw.org; www.panda.org/caucasus

Javakhishvili State University is creating a database of Georgian biodiversity: www.biodiversity-georgia.net. The exchange of environmental information is supported by the electronic network of CENN (www.cenn.org). Publications from scientific research institutes include *Georgian Flora*, *Papers of the Institute of Zoology* and scientific papers in various journals.

Georgia will request the support of GEF for the creation of Clearing House Mechanism (CHM). Project proposal is currently being elaborated and in the nearest future will be submitted to the Regional Office of UNDP. The absence of the above mechanism hampers the systematization of the existing information and the creation of a unified database on biodiversity.

Article 18 - Technical and scientific cooperation

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

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

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

Nearly all scientific research institutes of Georgia have contacts with related foreign institutes. After the recent reforms of the system of the Academy of Sciences, scientific research institutions have become autonomous. This will support the enhancement of their cooperation with donors. Georgian scientists regularly take part in the international conferences, attend training courses abroad and cooperate with scientific research institutions of other countries.


The Ketskhoveri Institute of Botany carries out joint research with the institutes of Austria, Germany, Switzerland, USA and other countries. The Institute has participated in the compilation of the map of plants of Europe. It has also cooperated with Kew Gardens (UK) on the creation of Millennium Seed bank. Jointly with GLORIA Europe the Institute elaborated a system of long-term preservation of highland biodiversity in a context of global climate change. The employees of the Institute of Botany and the Botanical Gardens of Tbilisi have attended trainings on *ex-situ* conservation and herbarium management in various botanical institutions. The Institute hosted a number of international symposiums. Foreign scientists have access to the Institute's bases. The capacity building of local botanists regarding plant conservation, evaluation and monitoring, as well as the use of modern international methodology in these fields, is envisaged by the project "Evaluation of Plants for the "Red List" of the Caucasian Ecoregion", which will be launched in the nearest future with the support of CEPF and in cooperation with Missouri Botanical Gardens (USA).

The Institute of Zoology has scientific links with the Institute of Nematology and Vertebrate Animals of Munster (Germany), The Institute of Zoology and Museum of Bonn, Demirel University of Ispart, Canadian Center of Agricultural Research, Koltsov Institute of Development Biology of Moscow; also with the following institutes of Russian Academy of Sciences: of parasitology, genetics, evolution and ecological problems, physiology and evolution, biochemistry; Lomonosov University, as well as the Institutes of Zoology of Armenia and Azerbaijan. Bilateral cooperation and donor financing enables the personnel of the Institute of Zoology to get training and internship at The Free University of Berlin, Demirel University (Turkey), Pushkino (Russia) Forestry Institute, Hungarian University of Central Europe, UK Natural History Museum, Saint-Petersburg Institute of Zoology of Russian Academy of Sciences.

Lomouri Institute of Agriculture, Horticulture, Vine-Growing and Wine-production implements joint projects in the field of conservation of the genetic resources of vine and field cultures with the following organizations: ICARDA, USDA, Australian International Agricultural Foundation (ACIAR), FAO, Biodiversity International. The personnel of the Institute takes part in trainings in various countries. The institutes have been granted technical equipment. CGIAR Centres organize workshops and training courses to increase the qualifications of Georgian scientists in the maintenance and renewal of genetic resources, elaborate documentation and work with databases.

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

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant methods are under development	
c) Yes, methods are in place	

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

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

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

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

a) No	X
b) No, but coordination with relevant NGOs, private sector and other institutions under way	
c) Yes, links established with relevant NGOs, private sector and institutions	

The following question (132) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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

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

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


133. Has your country used CHM to make information available more useful for researchers and decision-makers? (decision V/14)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant initiatives under consideration	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on development of relevant initiatives.	

134. Has your country developed, provided and shared services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of the CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions? (decision V/14)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please specify services and tools below)	
Further comments on services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions.	


Box LVII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation. 	
<p>The reorganization of the system of the Academy of Sciences has to a certain extent hampered the cooperation of Georgian scientists with scientific research institutes and donors of other countries. However, the Academy's scientific research institutes have developed into autonomous organizations. This enables them to become independent partners of other scientific programs. This also offers more availability of databases of these institutes to the international scientific community. Although State financing of scientific activities has grown significantly the financial capacities of scientific research institutions are still too limited to enable the participation of their employees in international meetings and competitions. This is mostly possible with the support of international and bilateral donors.</p>	

Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

135.  On Article 19(1), has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research?	
a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	

c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation are in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy and subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place	

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

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

Box LVIII.

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

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

There is no national legislative or administrative basis to regulate the field of biotechnology and biological safety. No prevention measures are elaborated regarding the spreading of genetically modified organisms. There is no official information on the import of such organisms so transboundary movement and use of these organisms is not controlled. The capacities of the country regarding the management of risks in connection with genetically modified organisms are limited. The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2005) identifies the key problems of biosafety, and the protection of Georgian biodiversity from threats arising from genetically modified organisms is considered as one of the strategic targets. In 2003-2005 a UNEP/GEF project - "Development of the National System of Biosafety" was implemented, aimed at the elaborate the framework of the national system of biosafety in accordance with the principles and requirement of Cartagena Protocol. However, this Protocol is not yet ratified by Georgia. The project elaborated a draft of the law on genetically modified organisms, assessed the capacities of the research institutions of biotechnological profile, activities were implemented for the purpose of increasing public awareness and dissemination of information on biosafety issues.

Currently, genetically modified organisms are not produced; selection programs use local genetic resources or materials provided by public institutions of developed countries. Due to a lack of funding most biotechnological research has stopped. Recently FAO implemented research to assess the needs in the fields of biotechnology and biosafety. In November 2003 a workshop was organized to elaborate recommendations for the development of these fields. The recommendations include the following: development of research and education, elaborate legislation regarding biosafety and intellectual property, research on national scientific and technical potential and increased public awareness on biotechnological issues. It was stated that additional financing is necessary to create a more favorable environment for biotechnological research and to introduce modern technologies for agricultural development and implementation of agricultural reforms. Within the framework of the technical assistance project of FAO, a project proposal is currently being elaborated for capacity building of Georgia, Armenia and Moldova in the fields of biotechnology and biosafety. The project will support the

modernization of university and post-graduate programs in the fields of biotechnology and biosafety. Training will be organized for the following decision-makers, scientists and teachers.

Article 20 – Financial resources

Box LIX.

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

a) Budgetary allocations by national and local Governments as well as different sectoral ministries	Direction	according to years (thousand USD)					
	The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources (hunting and fishing administration, programs)	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
		No data	8,28	9,52	10,05	5,87	6,47
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
		7,12	6,81	14,43	10,84	10,60	30,50
	Protected Areas (administration, programs)	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
		No data	No data	No data	239,23	117,03	128,95
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
		141,41	185,7	146,1	165,65	235,77	637,54
	Forestry (administration, programs)	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
			1626,56	4193,9	4345,15	1988,77	789,90
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
b) Extra-budgetary resources (identified by donor agencies)							
c) Bilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	Name of project and donor	implementation years	Cost				
	Foundation of Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, BMZ/KFW	1998	2,5 million Euro				
	Development of Borjomi-Kharagauli National park	2005-2009	400 thousand Euro				
	The project of Social Welfare of Kolkheti Lowland Population, Japanese Social Development Foundation	2004-2006	1379875 USD				
d) Regional channels (identified by donor agencies)							
e) Multilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	Name of project and donor	implementation years	cost (thousand USD)				
	The study of Georgian biodiversity, GEF/UNEP	1994-1995	96				
	Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and National Report, GEF/WB	1996-1999	120				
	Conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in the Caucasus, GEF/UNDP	1999-2002	750				
	Integrated Coastal Management, component 2: Foundation of Kolkheti National park, GEF/WB	1998-2006	1300				
	Development of Georgian Protected Areas, GEF/WB	2001-2008	9050				
	Restoration, conservation and sustainable use of Georgian agricultural biodiversity, GEF/UNDP	2004-2009	987,4				
	Development of the national system of biosafety in	2002-	165,9				

	Development of Georgian forest sector, WB	2002-2008	20700, out of the 15700 credit
f) Private sources (identified by donor agencies)			
g) Resources generated through financial instruments, such as charges for use of biodiversity			

Box LX.

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

Unlike many countries of Central and Eastern Europe, in Georgia there are no non-budgetary environmental funds functioning on the central and regional levels. WWF, Conservation International, German Ministry of Economic development and Cooperation (BMZ) and German Bank for International Development (KfW) have established a trust fund to ensure long-term financial stability of protected areas of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. This is vital for the preservation of the results achieved in the recent period by means of projects supported by donor organizations. The Fund will be established in 2006, at the Conference of Ministers in Berlin.

Environmental projects, including those in the field of biodiversity protection and sustainable use, are financed mostly from external sources. The major portion of the external financing comes from GEF.

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

a) No	
b) Yes, incentives only (please provide a list of such incentives below)	
c) Yes, financial support only	X
d) Yes, financial support and incentives (please provide details below)	

Further comments on financial support and incentives provided.

Despite the fact that the State budget increased significantly in the years 2004-2005 as compared to the previous period (in 2004 the total budgetary income had increased by \$473,740,000 compared to 2003), the income of the State budget is still insufficient for funding environmental activities, and State financing of biodiversity protection is too little to ensure tangible results and changes in the field. In 1994-2005 only one project was implemented with State financing - "Restocking Sturgeon in the Black Sea Coastline and the Study of Natural Reproduction" (2002-2004, approximately \$25,000).

In the recent period State financing of protected areas has increased. In 2005 it was \$637,540. To implement the activities of protection of forest resources, the State allocated \$3,254,470. The financing for State control of environmental protection also increased; the budget of the Inspection of Environmental Protection was \$177,260.

These amounts do not include funding from organizations and reflected in the State budget.

The next question (138) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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

a) No

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

Further comments on new and additional financial resources provided.

The next question (139) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

139. On Article 20(2), has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable it to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?

a) No

b) Yes

X

140. Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector? (decision V/11)

a) No

b) No, but procedures being established

c) Yes (please provide details below)

X

Further comments on processes to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector.

141. Has your country considered any measures like tax exemptions in national taxation systems to encourage financial support to biodiversity? (decision V/11)

a) No

b) No, but exemptions are under development (please provide details below)

X

c) Yes, exemptions are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on tax exemptions for biodiversity-related donations.	

142. Has your country reviewed national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance allocated to biodiversity, with particular attention paid to positive incentives and their performance as well as perverse incentives and ways and means for their removal or mitigation? (decision VI/16)

a) No	X
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes (please provide results of review below)	
Further comments on review of national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance.	

143. Is your country taking concrete actions to review and further integrate biodiversity considerations in the development and implementation of major international development initiatives, as well as in national sustainable development plans and relevant sectoral policies and plans? (decisions VI/16 and VII/21)

a) No	X
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, in some initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	
Further comments on review and integration of biodiversity considerations in relevant initiatives, policies and plans.	

144. Is your country enhancing the integration of biological diversity into the sectoral development and assistance programmes? (decision VII/21)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, into some sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, into major sectoral development and assistance programmes	

(please provide details below)	
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity into sectoral development and assistance programmes	

The next question (145) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

145. Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which area your country has provided financial support to developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.	
A r e a s	Support provided
a) Undertaking national or regional assessments within the framework of MEA (decision VI/8)	
b) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)	
c) Enhance national capacity to establish and maintain the mechanisms to protect traditional knowledge (decision VI/10)	
d) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation (decision V/26)	
e) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)	
f) Implementation of the Bonn Guidelines (decision VI/24)	
g) Implementation of programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (decision V/5)	
h) Preparation of first report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources (decision VI/17)	
i) Support to work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and development of regional and sub regional networks or processes (decision VI/27)	
j) Development of partnerships and other means to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the programme of work on dry and subhumid lands biological diversity (decision VII/2)	
k) Financial support for the operations of the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VII/9)	
l) Support to the implementation of the Action Plan on Capacity Building as contained in the annex to decision VII/19 (decision VII/19)	
m) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity (decision VII/27)	
n) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas (decision VII/28)	
o) Support to the development of national indicators (decision VII/30)	

p) Others (please specify)	
Further information on financial support provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.	

The next question (146) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

146. Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which areas your country has applied for funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), from developed countries and/or from other sources. The same area may have more than one source of financial support. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.

A r e a s	Applied for funds from		
	GEF	Bilateral	Other
a) Preparation of national biodiversity strategies or action plans	X		
b) National capacity self-assessment for implementation of Convention (decision VI/27)	X		
c) Priority actions to implement the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision V/9)			
d) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)	X	X	
e) Development of national strategies or action plans to deal with alien species (decision VI/23)			
f) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation, establishment and maintenance of <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation facilities (decision V/26)			X
g) Projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 (Education and Public Awareness) (decision VI/19)			
h) Preparation of national reports (decisions III/9, V/19 and VI/25)	X		
i) Projects for conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity (decision IV/4)	X	X	
j) Activities for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity (decision V/5)	X		X

k) Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision VI/26)	X		
l) Implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative			
m) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity			
n) Others (please specify)			
Further information on application for financial support.			
Information on the bilateral and multilateral sources of funding in the field of biodiversity is provided in Box XXXIV.			

Box LXI.

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

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

D. THEMATIC AREAS

147. Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the thematic programmes of work of the Convention (marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands and mountain biodiversity).

3 = High Challenge	1 = Low Challenge
2 = Medium Challenge	0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome
N/A = Not applicable	

Challenges	Programme of Work					
	Agricultural	Forest	Marine and coastal	Inland water ecosystem	Dry and subhumid lands	Mountain
(a) Lack of political will and support	1	2	2	2	2	1
(b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	1	3	2	2	2	2
(c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	3	3	3	3	3	3
(d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	N/A	3	3	2	2	2
(e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	3	3	3	3	3	3
(f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	1	1	1	1	1	1
(g) Loss of traditional knowledge	3	2	N/A	N/A	2	3

(h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	1	1	2	2	1	1
(i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	1	1	1	1	1	1
(j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	1	1	2	2	2	1
(k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	2	1	1	1	2	2
(l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	3	3	3	3	3	3
(m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	1	1	2	3	1	1
(n) Lack of economic incentive measures	3	3	3	3	3	3
(o) Lack of benefit-sharing	1	2	1	2	1	1
(p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	1	2	1	1	1	1
(q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	1	3	3	3	3	2
(r) Lack of effective partnerships	1	3	3	3	2	2
(s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	1	3	2	2	1	1
(t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	3	3	1	3	3	3

(u) Poverty	N/A	3	3	3	1	2
(v) Population pressure	N/A	3	2	3	3	3
(w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	2	3	3	3	3	3
(x) Lack of capacities for local communities	2	3	2	2	2	2
(y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	N/A	3	3	3	3	3
(z) Weak law enforcement capacity	N/A	2	2	2	2	2
(aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	N/A	1	1	N/A	3	2
(bb) Others (please specify)						

Inland water ecosystems

148. Has your country incorporated the objectives and relevant activities of the programme of work into the following and implemented them? (decision VII/4)				
Strategies, policies, plans and activities	No	Yes, partially, integrated but not implemented	Yes, fully integrated and implemented	N/A
a) Your biodiversity strategies and action plans		X		
b) Wetland policies and strategies	X			
c) Integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans being developed in line with paragraph 25 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development	X			
d) Enhanced coordination and cooperation between national actors responsible for inland water ecosystems and biological diversity	X			
Further comments on incorporation of the objectives and activities of the programme of work				
<p>The Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2005) defines activities aimed at conservation and sustainable use of the inland waters of Georgia, which established a protected area on Javakheti Plateau. Here wetland ecosystems are of vital importance activities included an inventory of wetlands and the identification of priority territories for their inclusion in the list of internationally important wetlands, elaborate the State strategy on wetlands, elaborate a plan for conservation of waterbirds, the creation of the center for ringing migratory birds and improvement of hunting management for migratory birds.</p> <p>WWF Caucasus coordinated activities for the identification of priority conservation freshwater ecosystems, which was eventually reflected in the Caucasian Ecoregion Conservation Plan (ECP). The plan defines long-term (2025) and 10-year (2015) targets of protection and sustainable use of freshwater ecosystems in the region, as well as urgent measures that should be taken for the purpose of conservation, management and restoration of these ecosystems: establishment of new protected areas, improvement of management of the existing protected areas, trainings of water resource managers, legislative amendments for the improvement of management of fishing and water resources, implementation of pilot projects of rehabilitation of inland water ecosystems. The following freshwater ecosystems are considered priority for Georgia: Javakheti Plateau, The Rioni juncture and Kolkheti marshes, the Mtkvari River and the Lake Jandara, transboundary areas of the Iori and Alazani rivers.</p> <p>Certain activities defined by the NBSAP and ECP are already being implemented: within the framework of South Caucasian Initiative of the Government of Germany, a project was elaborated to support the establishment of protected areas on Javakheti Plateau, including lakes Khanchala, Madatafa and Bugdasheni. The project is implemented with the support of German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and German Reconstruction Credit Bank (KfW). The lakes and marshes of Javakheti Plateau are rich in biodiversity and of high conservation value;</p>				

hence, they fully correspond to the criteria of RAMSAR Convention on internationally important wetlands (NACRES, RAMSAR Convention Small Grants Program 2000). WWF Caucasus, supported by the Government of Norway, implements a project for the prevention of degradation of Tugai-type flood plain forests of the Iori banks. This ecosystem was threatened by the construction of an artificial water reservoir in the upper part of the Iori flow. The project aims at defining the activities that will support the restoration of the natural hydrological regime of the Iori River.

A number of projects implemented support the development of integrated management of river basins. UNDP initiated a project of prevention of degradation of the Kura and Araksi basins. One of the project components financed by GEF includes transboundary diagnostic analysis and strategic action plan. Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) supports the institutional and legislative changes aimed at integrated management of the Kura and Araksi basins and elaborate thematic reports for transboundary diagnostic analysis, elaborate institutional models of integrated management and development of national action plans. USAID program "Of South Caucasian Water" (2005-2008) supports the introduction of basin management of water resources by means of the following activities: elaboration and development of institutional and legislative mechanisms, enhancement of scientific and analytical capacities for science-based management, enhancement of public involvement. Eurasia Foundation supported the implementation of a small grants program aimed at the enhancement of the civil society and public involvement in the management of water resources; local environmental information centres were established. This donor also supports the project of environmental capacity building of the local population and public participation in integrated management of water resources. However, in some of these projects biodiversity issues are envisaged to a small extent.

149. Has your country identified priorities for each activity in the programme of work, including timescales, in relation to outcome oriented targets? (decision VII/4)

a) No	X
b) Outcome oriented targets developed but priority activities not developed	
c) Priority activities developed but not outcome oriented targets	
d) Yes, comprehensive outcome oriented targets and priority activities developed	
Further comments on the adoption of outcome oriented targets and priorities for activities, including providing a list of targets (if developed).	

150. Is your country promoting synergies between this programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level? (decision VII/4)

a) Not applicable (not Party to Ramsar Convention)	
b) No	
c) No, but potential measures were identified for synergy and joint implementation	
d) Yes, some measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	X

e) Yes, comprehensive measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	
Further comments on the promotion of synergies between the programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level.	
The implementation of the requirements of the Convention of Biological Diversity and Ramsar convention is coordinated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. This forms basis for the synergism of the work program and Ramsar Convention activities.	
The priority activities aimed at implementation of Ramsar Convention are reflected in the NBSAP.	

151. Has your country taken steps to improve national data on: (decision VII/4)			
Issues	Yes	No	No, but development is under way
a) Goods and services provided by inland water ecosystems?		X	
b) The uses and related socioeconomic variables of such goods and services?		X	
c) Basic hydrological aspects of water supply as they relate to maintaining ecosystem function?		X	
d) Species and all taxonomic levels?		X	
e) On threats to which inland water ecosystems are subjected?		X	
Further comments on the development of data sets, in particular a list of data sets developed in case you have replied "YES" above.			
Within the framework of the project "Prevention of Degradation of the Kura and Araksi Basins" (UNDP/SIDA, 2003-2005), a report was worked out on the state of informational systems and monitoring of water resources. According to this report, currently there is no unified database on water resources. There are no modern computer systems of collection, maintenance, analysis and monitoring of the data. The agencies for monitoring of water resources do not exchange statistic data and the data are inaccessible for the community. To respond to these problems, the Program of Water in South Caucasus (USAID, 2005-2008) started to elaborate a technical design of the national informational system of water cadastre.			
The same project prepared thematic reports on the state of biodiversity, water pollution, the sources of pollution, irrigation, drainage and floods in the Kura Basin.			

152. Has your country promoted the application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems? (decision VII/4)	
a) No, the guidelines have not been reviewed	X

b) No, the guidelines have been reviewed and found inappropriate	
c) Yes, the guidelines have been reviewed and application/promotion is pending	
d) Yes, the guidelines promoted and applied	
Further comments on the promotion and application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.	

Box LXII.

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

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

A study has been made of priority freshwater ecosystems regarding conservation. However, there is no unified database of inland water biodiversity and information is scattered throughout various reports, research and publications. The activities defined by the NBSAP have been launched for the purpose of creation of protected areas that will preserve the lakes and adjacent wetlands of Javakheti Plateau. Documentation is being created to include these territories in the RAMSAR List. To protect Paliastomi Lake and the Kolkheti peat marshes, Kolkheti National park is being established.

Despite the activities under the work program, the program itself was not discussed at the national level, priorities were not identified and no national implementation plan was worked out. When taking decisions concerning the management of water resources, the issue of the biodiversity of inland waters is not given sufficient attention. During the past period little attention was paid to the research of biodiversity of inland waters and thus existing data need to be updated.

**Marine and coastal biological diversity
General**

153. Do your country's strategies and action plans include the following? Please use an "X" to indicate your response. (decisions II/10 and IV/15)	
a) Developing new marine and coastal protected areas	X
b) Improving the management of existing marine and coastal protected areas	X

c) Building capacity within the country for management of marine and coastal resources, including through educational programmes and targeted research initiatives (if yes, please elaborate on types of initiatives in the box below)	
d) Instituting improved integrated marine and coastal area management (including catchments management) in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loads into the marine environment	X
e) Protection of areas important for reproduction, such as spawning and nursery areas	
f) Improving sewage and other waste treatment	X
g) Controlling excessive fishing and destructive fishing practices	X
h) Developing a comprehensive oceans policy (if yes, please indicate current stage of development in the box below)	
i) Incorporation of local and traditional knowledge into management of marine and coastal resources (if yes, please elaborate on types of management arrangements in the box below)	
j) Others (please specify below)	
k) Not applicable	
Please elaborate on the above activities and list any other priority actions relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.	
<p>The NBSAP does not include issues of protection of the Black Sea biodiversity. A separate document has been created concerning the project of "Georgian Strategic Action Plan of Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea", however it has not been approved.</p> <p>The activities aimed at the protection of the Black Sea from pollution, sustainable use and conservation of the Black Sea biodiversity are reflected in the Georgian National Action Program of Environmental Protection (2000-2004). This document addresses development of the sewerage system of towns on the Black Sea coast and on the banks of the rivers flowing into the Sea (Kutaisi, Khobi, Poti, Batumi, Zugdidi); improvement of ballast water control in Batumi and Poti seaports; training employees of the Convention Inspection; preparation for the program of integrated management of the Rioni River Basin; development of an integrated management plan for the coastline zone; development of marine culture and establishment of reserves for the gene pool of endangered fish species; development of Kolkheti Protected Areas; creation of the system for monitoring the coastline and water quality; and developing contingency plans for managing oil spills. Certain activities under this plan are implemented within the project of Integrated Coastal Management (The World Bank, GEF, Government of the Netherlands). However, the majority are not implemented at all, for lack of funding.</p>	

Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

154. Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?

a) No	
b) Early stages of development	
c) Advanced stages of development	X
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management.	
<p>The introduction of principles of integrated management of the coastline zone and the development of an institutional framework are the components of the project of Integrated Coastal Management. This project is initiated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia within the framework of the Black Sea Environmental Protection Program, financed by the credit of International Development Association (IDA) and GEF grant, as well as the grant of the Government of the Netherlands, implementation years - 1999-2006. Based on analytical research within the project framework, a concept of integrated management of the coastline zone was elaborated; a draft of law was also elaborated on "Integrated Coastal Management ". This draft is currently being considered by the relevant agencies.</p>	

155. Has your country implemented ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal resources, for example through integration of coastal management and watershed management, or through integrated multidisciplinary coastal and ocean management?	
a) No	X
b) Early stages of development	
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of application of the ecosystem to management of marine and coastal resources.	

Marine and Coastal Living Resources

156. Has your country identified components of your marine and coastal ecosystems, which are critical for their functioning, as well as key threats to those ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) Plans for a comprehensive assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
c) A comprehensive assessment is currently in progress	
d) Critical ecosystem components have been identified, and management plans for them are being developed (please provide details below)	X
e) Management plans for important components of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	

f) Not applicable

Further comments on the current status of assessment, monitoring and research relating to marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as key threats to them

Georgia takes part in the work of the Biodiversity Advisory Group of the Istanbul Committee of the Convention of Bucharest, which compiles the list of important species of the Black Sea, the harvesting of which should be regulated or prohibited. The Group also deals with the issues inventory of important habitats for the conservation of the Sea and coastline and preparation of corresponding maps. The Protocol of the Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Black Sea (2002) is appended by a list of important species of the Black Sea (rare and endangered); the obligations of the parties for the protection of these species are defined. However, Georgia has not signed this Protocol. In 2002-2004 the Center for the Protection of Biodiversity implemented a pilot project of the Red Book of coastline habitats (TACIS technical assistance project), during which, based on EU NIS, Georgian coastline habitats were classified, characterized and mapped. Maps were compiled for the spreading of certain species defined by the Black Sea Biodiversity Protocol, the status of their habitats was assessed and species important for conservation were identified. Earlier, within the program of the Black Sea Environmental Protection (BSEP, 1993-2000) the Regional Centre of Black Sea Biodiversity prepared a national report on Black Sea biodiversity and in 1998 the same centre published the regional Red Book of the Black Sea.

The following causes for the loss of marine and coastal biodiversity were identified in order to create a concept and strategy for integrated management of the coastline: drainage, destruction of forests, peat extraction, excessive fishing, pollution with solid and liquid waste, and urban growth due to the pressure of development. One acute problem is illegal fishing for endangered species of sturgeon.

The marine and coastal ecosystems within Kolkheti Protected Areas (sea waters, peat marshes and Kolkheti forests) were evaluated and studied to plan the management of the Protected Areas. Research was implemented to identify and assess the existing threats. A separate study was implemented to identify the resources of the National Park by local populations and the accompanying threats to biodiversity. According to the management plans of the Kolkheti National Park, the key threats to the ecosystems are: disorderly and inadequate development of the coastline, tree-felling, excessive and illegal fishing and hunting.

The Institute of Botany of the University of Greisfald, Germany, the NGO Chaobi ("marsh"), Kobuleti Administration of Protected Areas and Batumi Botanical Gardens implemented detailed research of the peat marshes of Ispani within the protected area of Kobuleti. The study included plants, key habitats, hydrology, and the history of development of plants and peat marshes as well as invasive species. Similar research has started in the Imnati marshland situated in Kolkheti National Park.

157. Is your country undertaking the following activities to implement the Convention's work plan on coral reefs? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.

Activities	Not implemented nor a priority	Not implemented but a priority	Currently implemented	Not applicable
a) Ecological assessment and monitoring of reefs				X
b) Socio-economic assessment and monitoring of communities and stakeholders				X
c) Management, particularly through application of integrated coastal management and marine and coastal protected areas in coral reef environments				X

d) Identification and implementation of additional and alternative measures for securing livelihoods of people who directly depend on coral reef services				X
e) Stakeholder partnerships, community participation programmes and public education campaigns				X
f) Provision of training and career opportunities for marine taxonomists and ecologists				X
g) Development of early warning systems of coral bleaching				X
h) Development of a rapid response capability to document coral bleaching and mortality				X
i) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded coral reef habitats				X
j) Others (please specify below)				X
Please elaborate on ongoing activities.				

Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

158. Which of the following statements can best describe the current status of marine and coastal protected areas in your country? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.	
a) Marine and coastal protected areas have been declared and gazetted (please indicate below how many)	X
b) Management plans for these marine and coastal protected areas have been developed with involvement of all stakeholders	X
c) Effective management with enforcement and monitoring has been put in place	X
d) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas is under development	
e) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas has been put in place	

f) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas managed for purpose of sustainable use, which may allow extractive activities	X
g) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas which exclude extractive uses	X
h) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas is surrounded by sustainable management practices over the wider marine and coastal environment.	
i) Other (please describe below)	
j) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of marine and coastal protected areas.

The adoption of the law "On the Formation and Management of Kolkheti Protected Areas" in 1999 led to the creation of Kolkheti National Park (IUCN category II, 45 447.4 hectares), Kobuleti Strict Nature Reserve (IUCN category I, 331.25 hectares) and Kobuleti Managed Nature Reserve (IUCN category IV, 438.75 hectares). The National Park of Kolkheti includes coastal wetlands – Churia, Nabada and Imnati peat marshes, marshy forests, dunes and the Paliastomi Lake. The territory of the land is 29,704.4 hectares and seawater areas are 15,743 hectares. The Kobuleti Strict Nature Reserve and Managed Nature Reserve include coastal peat marshes. In 1997 these territories were included in the list of internationally important wetlands of the Ramsar Convention.

The management plans of Kolkheti National Park, Kobuleti Strict Nature Reserve and Managed Nature Reserve were supported by the project of integrated coastal management of Georgia (these management plans were approved by the Order of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia in 2006). With the support of the Integrated Coastal Management Plan, the following activities were carried out: demarcation of Kolkheti Protected Areas, elaborate the program of biodiversity of Kolkheti National Park, evaluation of fishing management on the Paliastomi lake, preparation of the program of fishing monitoring on the Paliastomi Lake and Pichora River, research on resource use on the territory of Kolkheti National Park, equipment of the administration of Kolkheti National Park, implementation of an interpretation program, and development of administrative and tourist infrastructures for the Protected Areas. In 2003 and 2005 winter registration of birds was implemented in accordance with the Wetlands International Format. The peat marshes of Kobuleti Strict Nature Reserve and Imnati Marsh in the National Park were thoroughly studied by the employees of the Institute of Botany of Greifswald University (Germany).

Taking into account the interests of the population of Kolkheti National Park, a zone of traditional use was identified, where fishing, wood-collection and grazing is permitted. In the zones of strict protection and management of the Park, including sea water areas, it is prohibited to obtain resources. In the Kobuleti Strict Nature Reserve only monitoring and scientific activities are permitted. In the Kobuleti Managed Nature Reserve medicinal plants and berries can be collected in controlled quantities and apicultural activities implemented.

Mariculture

159. Is your country applying the following techniques aimed at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity? Please check all that apply.

a)	Application of environmental impact assessments for mariculture developments	
b)	Development and application of effective site selection methods in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management	
c)	Development of effective methods for effluent and waste control	
d)	Development of appropriate genetic resource management plans at the hatchery level	
e)	Development of controlled hatchery and genetically sound reproduction methods in order to avoid seed collection from nature.	
f)	If seed collection from nature cannot be avoided, development of environmentally sound practices for spat collecting operations, including use of selective fishing gear to avoid by-catch	
g)	Use of native species and subspecies in mariculture	
h)	Implementation of effective measures to prevent the inadvertent release of mariculture species and fertile polypoids.	
i)	Use of proper methods of breeding and proper places of releasing in order to protect genetic diversity	
j)	Minimizing the use of antibiotics through better husbandry techniques	
k)	Use of selective methods in commercial fishing to avoid or minimize by-catch	X
l)	Considering traditional knowledge, where applicable, as a source to develop sustainable mariculture techniques	
m)	Not applicable	
Further comments on techniques that aim at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.		
<p>Until 2005, according to the law On Environmental Permits fish-farming in natural reservoirs and creation of farms of marine culture and aquaculture were subject to permissions. Fish-farming in natural reservoirs also required evaluation of the impact on the environment. Later these requirements were abolished. In the current legislation there are certain shortcomings regarding these issues.</p> <p>To reduce by-catch, fishing rules define the minimum mesh size for and the minimum length of fish caught, as well as the maximum amount of by-catch in the case of commercial fishing.</p>		

Alien Species and Genotypes

160. Has your country put in place mechanisms to control pathways of introduction of alien species in the marine and coastal environment? Please check all that apply and elaborate on types of measures in the space below.	
a) No	
b) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from ballast water have been put in place (please provide details below)	X
c) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from hull fouling have been put in place (please provide details below)	
d) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from aquaculture have been put in place (please provide details below)	X
e) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from accidental releases, such as aquarium releases, have been put in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of activities relating to prevention of introductions of alien species in the marine and coastal environment, as well as any eradication activities.	
<p>The preventive measures of the penetration of dangerous and pathogenic organisms into the Black Sea waters via ballast are reflected in the Presidential Decree #227, 09.06.01 "On the Control of Ballast Waters of Ships" and the Provision "On the Procedures of Management of Ballast Waters in Georgia", approved by the joint order of the Ministers of Environmental Protection and Transport and Communications of Georgia #83-#53, 2001. According to these normative acts, tankers arriving in Georgian waters must change the ballast waters in the open sea prior to entering the second sanitary zone of Georgia (50-mile zone), at minimum 25 sea miles' distance from the nearest shore and at least a depth of 100 meters. Otherwise, they must inform the Convention Inspection Office of the Black Sea and the Port Captain Service of the existence of isolated ballast waters on the ship. All tankers must have a ballast management plan. Normative acts also define other detailed rules and procedures of prevention of penetration of dangerous and pathogenic organisms via ballast waters.</p> <p>According to the "Law on Wildlife" introduction of alien species is prohibited. However, in fish-farms the introduction of alien fish species still continues (through the import of fish eggs and fingerling of various fish species).</p>	

Box LXIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.


In 2001-2005 institutional and legislative frameworks were elaborated for the development of integrated management of the coastline. Kolkheti National Park, Kobuleti Strict Nature Reserve and Managed Nature Reserve started to function. This will ensure the protection of the habitats of the unique, rare and endangered species of Georgian coastline. Due to amendments in environmental legislation, illegal fishing and harvesting of fish products has significantly decreased. These activities contribute to the achievement of targets of 2010: protection of important areas from the biodiversity viewpoint (target 1, objectives 1.1 and 1.2), support of conservation of species (Target 2) and sustainable use (Target 3).

The National Strategy and Action Plan of protection of Black Sea have not been elaborated. The issues of protection of coastal biodiversity are not reflected in the NBSAP. The Protocol on the biological and landscape diversity of the Black Sea is not signed; hence, the requirements of the protocol are not obligatory for Georgia.

The existing management of the living marine resources does not ensure their sustainable use. There is lack of qualified staff regarding the research and assessment of sea resources. There are no measures implemented for monitoring, protection or restocking of endangered sea species.

The most valuable habitats of the sea and coastline are located in Kolkheti National Park (IUCN category II), Kobuleti Strict Nature Reserve and Managed Nature Reserve (IUCN categories I and IV) and are under a strict protection regime. However, outside these territories there are also valuable habitats, but that are not subject to the strict protection regime.


Agricultural biological diversity

161.  Has your country developed national strategies, programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components? (decisions III/11 and IV/6)

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

Further comments on agrobiodiversity components in national strategies, programmes and plans.

Conservation of Georgian agricultural biodiversity through the elaborate a framework of sustainable use and support of *ex-situ* and *in-situ* activities is one of the strategic targets of the NBSAP. It defines 22 activities aimed at these targets. Important ones include the development of a legislative framework, institutional, administrative and scientific capacity building, inventory and creation of a database, creation of a genetic bank, and educational and public awareness activities.

162.  Has your country identified 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? (decision V/5)

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	

c) Yes, some measures identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures identified (please provide details below)	
Further information on ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>In-situ</i> and <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.	

Annex to decision V/5 - Programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

Programme element 1 – Assessment	
163. Has your country undertaken specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity such as on plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are in progress (please specify components below)	
c) Yes, assessments completed (please specify components and results of assessments below)	X
Further comments on specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity.	
<p>FAO supported the elaborate the National Report on the Genetic Resources of Animals (Georgian National Association of Animal Husbandry, 2004-2005) and publication of the catalogue of genetic animal resources. The Report includes 15 species of domestic cattle, five birds and three local populations of bees, as well as the description and evaluation of the conservation and use of genetic resources of animals.</p> <p>From long research by the Institute of Botany, the systemic content of Georgian cultural flora has been identified; endemic species and indigenous plants have been defined. The obtained information has been used as a basis for the checklists of cereal, leguminous and cultural plants and other cultural flora of Georgia. Collections of genetic resources of plants are created. However, the genetic plant resources have been evaluated only in a few districts of Georgia, namely, in 2001-2003, with the support of GEF/UNDP, three regions were studied (Racha-Lechkhumi, Svaneti, Samtskhe-Javakheti). Evaluations included the state of fruit species, field cultures and medicinal plants, and target species were identified: forgotten species the conservation and restoration of which are very important for the protection of agricultural biodiversity and development of the economy.</p>	

164. Is your country undertaking assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity referred to in Annex I of the Convention (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance)?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments completed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments completed (please provide details below)	

Further comments on assessment of biodiversity components (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance).

165. Has your country carried out an assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for food production and food security?

a) No

X

b) Yes, assessment is under way

c) Yes, assessment completed (please specify where information can be retrieved below)

Further comments on assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities.

166. Has your country been monitoring an overall degradation, status quo or restoration/rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity since 1993 when the Convention entered into force?

a) No

X

b) Yes, no change found (status quo)

c) Yes, overall degradation found (please provide details below)

d) Yes, overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below)

Further comments on observations.

Programme element 2 - Adaptive management

167. Has your country identified management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive, and mitigate the negative, impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods?

a) No

b) No, but potential practices, technologies and policies being identified

c) Yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)

X

d) Yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)

Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies.

One of the priorities defined by the NBSAP is to support the development of traditional and organic agriculture, especially in the buffer zones of protected areas and in highland regions. The development of organic agriculture started in the 1990s but its share of agriculture is still insignificant. Cur-

rently about 1000 small farms have developed practices based on biofarming principles. More than 5000 farmers have attended training courses in the ecological agricultural practices. The development of organic farming is largely supported by the Association Elkana, which provides consultancy services to farmers and implements projects with donor support.

Besides these, Georgian laws "On Soil Protection", "On the Conservation of Soil and Restoration and Improvement of Fertility", "On Water", "On the Protection of Plants from Dangerous Organisms", "On Pesticides and Agricultural Chemicals" and the normative acts under these laws define the requirements aimed at the reduction of the negative impact of agricultural production on the environment.

To support sustainable development of agriculture, in 2000 GEF and the World Bank supported a project called "Agricultural Research, Implementation, Consultancy and Training". Within the framework of this project, activities are implemented to improve the environmental practices in farms, namely, safe maintenance of fertilizers, introduction of the utilization of biogas energy by way of demonstrating technologies, and the elimination of the institutional, financial, marketing barriers. The grants scheme of the project will assist research, share technology and implement environmental agricultural practices to mitigate the impact on the quality of soil and water.

The aim of the Program of Development of Agriculture in the highland and mountainous regions (IFAD) is to improve agricultural production means and technologies, 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 of villages.

Programme element 3 - Capacity-building

168. Has your country increased the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainable agricultural biodiversity and to develop strategies and methodologies for *In-situ* conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biological diversity?

a) No

b) Yes (please specify area/component and target groups with increased capacity)

X

Further comments on increased capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders.

One of the objectives of the GEF/UNDP project "Restoration, Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Agricultural Biodiversity of Georgia" is the enhancement of local capacities in the field of management of important genetic resources of agricultural plants and on-farm conservation. The project supports not only the conservation of target cultures, but also their introduction in farms. With this aim, Elkana facilitated the formation of the local farmers' association "Farezi", which is actively involved in the production and dissemination of seeds. Within the framework of the project, Elkana organized consultations and workshops for local farmers. Students of local schools of higher education were involved in on-farm conservation activities.

The Elkana training centre organizes regular courses on biological agricultural production, which includes the issues of conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity. These issues are also included in the workshops and trainings within the project of support of the development of agriculture.

169. Has your country put in place operational mechanisms for participation by a wide range of stakeholder groups to develop genuine partnerships contributing to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential mechanisms being identified	
c) No, but mechanisms are under development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place	

170. Has your country improved the policy environment, including benefit-sharing arrangements and incentive measures, to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some measures and arrangements being identified	
c) No, but measures and arrangements are under development	X
d) Yes, measures and arrangements are being implemented (please specify below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to improve the policy environment.

One of the objectives of the project "Restoration, Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Agricultural Biodiversity of Georgia" is to advocate and publicize the sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity. In this regard, the project envisages research of local species and the potential of their use, selection of strategic niche products out of the traditional species, elaborate technological standards, promotion of the new products on markets and tasting events/workshops.

Programme element 4 – Mainstreaming

171. Is your country mainstreaming or integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes?

a) No	X
b) No, but review is under way	
c) No, but potential frameworks and mechanisms are being identified	
d) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed and integrated into some sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed into major sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on mainstreaming and integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes.

172. Is your country supporting the institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans, and its integration into wider strategies and action plans for biodiversity?

a) No	X
b) Yes, by supporting institutions in undertaking relevant assessments	

c) Yes, by developing policy and planning guidelines	
d) Yes, by developing training material	
e) Yes, by supporting capacity-building at policy, technical and local levels	
f) Yes, by promoting synergy in the implementation of agreed plans of action and between ongoing assessment and intergovernmental processes.	
Further comments on support for institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms.	

173. In the case of centers of origin in your country, is your country promoting activities for the conservation, on farm, *In-situ*, and *Ex-situ*, of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including their wild relatives?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on of the conservation of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture in their center of origin.

Georgia is considered part of the Middle Eastern center of origin of cultural plants. In the recent period special attention is paid to *ex-situ* conservation of agricultural species and their wild ancestors. With the financing of Global Crop Diversity Trust and in cooperation with ICARDA (Agricultural Center for Dry Regions), a genetic bank was created on the base of the Institute of Agriculture, which gathered the collections that used to be scattered throughout various places. With the support of Australian International Agricultural Foundation (ACIAR) and USDA, ICARDA implemented expeditions to various districts to collect samples of cereal and leguminous cultural plants and enrich the collection of these. Currently about 2500 samples of field cultures and vegetables are kept at the genetic bank of the Institute of Agriculture.

In the countries of the Caucasus and the North of the Black Sea region, Bioversity International implements a project of conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of vine. The project was launched in 2002 and Georgia also takes part in the implementation (The Institute of Vine-Growing, Horticulture and Wine-Production). This project supported the creation of the collection of local species of vine, about 300 species in all. This collection is currently being studied by the University of Milan. With the support of FAO project "Hortvar", the Institute of Vine-Growing, Horticulture and Wine-Production is compiling a database of local genetic resources of perennial cultures.

Within the framework of the project "Restoration, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Georgian Agricultural Biodiversity", on farm conservation of selected target cultures is implemented in Samtskhe-Javakheti region, where in local farms wheat, cereals and leguminous plants of local origin are sown. As for perennial plants, 22 local species of apple have been reproduced in the testing plot of Elkana and transferred to farmers. The project also plans to assess the status of wild relatives of the cultural plants of the region.

Box LXIV.

Please provide information concerning the actions taken by your country to implement the Plan of Action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.

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Box LXV.

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

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

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**Forest Biological Diversity
General**

174. Has your country incorporated relevant parts of the work programme into your national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes?

a) No	
b) Yes, please describe the process used	X
c) Yes, please describe constraints/obstacles encountered in the process	
d) Yes, please describe lessons learned	
e) Yes, please describe targets for priority actions in the programme of work	

Further comments on the incorporation of relevant parts of the work programme into your NBSAP and forest programmes

The issues of forest biodiversity and sustainable forestry are reflected in the Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (approved by the decree of the Government on 19.02.2005, #27) only to a certain extent. A general overview of the situation in the forest sector is given and key problems are identified. The document defines its strategic target as "To conserve forest biodiversity through sustainable forest management", with objectives regarding the target. These objectives correspond to separate elements of the work program of the Convention. The NBSAP does not include an action plan regarding the forest sector, as currently a document is being elaborated on the national forest policy and strategy. This document is elaborated by the World Bank project of development of Georgian forest sector, with the grant of UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), (2004).

The NBSAP action plan defines a number of activities aimed at the implementation of the "Forest Work Program" (although the program itself is not mentioned), namely:

- Expansion of the Protected Areas, up-grading of the existing reserves, creation/initiation of the new protected areas (including transboundary ones);
- Compilation of the updated "Red List";
- Assessment of the impact of invasive species and definition of corresponding strategy;
- Identification of important biodiversity sites outside the protected areas and definition of the conservation strategy;
- Elaborate the State program of protection and restoration of flood plain forests;
- Increasing public awareness and their involvement in the decision-making process.

Box LXVI.

Please indicate what recently applied tools (policy, planning, management, assessment and measurement) and measures, if any, your country is using to implement and assess the programme of work. Please indicate what tools and measures would assist the implementation.

No practical actions have been taken regarding the implementation of the Work Program.

Box LXVII.

Please indicate to what extent and how your country has involved indigenous and local communities, and respected their rights and interests, in implementing the programme of work.

No practical steps have been made in this regard. Within the framework of the World Bank project "Development of the Forest Sector in Georgia" a draft of a Provision was elaborated "The Rights of Local Authorities and Self-Governing Bodies in the Field of Management of the Forest Fund of Local Importance; On the Rules of Separation of Local Forest Fund from the State Forest Fund".

The Forest Code defines the competences of local governing bodies in the field of forest management. Their competences include: support of activities aimed at forest maintenance, protection, restoration and prevention of fire; elaborate programs of forest maintenance, restoration and protection in agreement with the authorized State agencies; Support of implementation of these programs; Participation in the financing of forest maintenance, protection and restoration and control of the corresponding spending; Issuance of forest use tickets; Submission of proposals concerning restriction and termination of forest use to the authorized State agencies; participation in the urgent measures in case of natural disasters; ensuring of ecological education of the population; submission of proposals on the changes of the borders of the territories of State Forest Fund to the authorized State agencies.

Box LXVIII.

Please indicate what efforts your country has made towards capacity building in human and capital resources for the implementation of the programme of work.

The implementation of the work program of forest biodiversity is currently supported by two projects: Development of Georgian Forest Sector (The World Bank Credit 15 million USD) and Development of protected areas in Georgia (GEF grant, 9.050 USD). The targets and objectives of these projects coincide with the work program of forest biodiversity. Both projects focus on capacity building regarding human resources in the fields of biodiversity conservation and development of sustainable forestry. The objectives of the project of the development of forest sector are: improvement of the management of the forest sector by way of legal, structural and financial reforms; improvement of forest planning and management in the pilot area of the Central Caucasus – the so-called "Laboratory Zone"; forest protection and restoration in the selected priority territories. The "Georgian Protected Areas Development Project" will support biodiversity conservation in Georgia through improving the ecological and social sustainability of the protected

areas and their buffer zones. The project also supports the development of protected area management planning of the Central Caucasus protected areas, raising public awareness on biodiversity conservation issues in eastern Georgia and capacity building for the Department of Protected Areas in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Box LXIX.

Please indicate how your country has collaborated and cooperated (e.g., south-south, north-south, south-north, north-north) with other governments, regional or international organizations in implementing the programme of work. Please also indicate what are the constraints and/or needs identified.

The French Development Agency (Agence Francaise de Developpement ADF) has allocated financing for the German Reconstruction Bank (KFW) for the implementation of pilot projects on community forests in Kharagauli district. Currently the preparatory phase of this project is under way.

In 2002, within the alliance of the World Bank and WWF, a conference was held dedicated to the issues of conservation and sustainable use of forests in the Caucasus.

In 2003 the World Bank and WWF elaborated a concept of "Caucasian Forests of High Conservation Value". The project implies the implementation of the concept in the transboundary territory with Kolkheti-type forests (North-East Turkey – South East Georgia). The criteria for the identification of forests of high conservation value in the region are worked out, maps have been compiled. The pilot territory includes 58,000 hectares of forests on the territory and 25,000 hectares of forests in Turkey (the newly-established Jamil National Park). The formation of a national park on the Georgian territory is in the preparatory stage.

WWF Caucasus launched a transboundary project in 2005 (Georgia-Azerbaijan) aimed at the protection and restoration of the endangered flood plain forests of Iori.

In 2005 WWF Caucasus cooperated with the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund to elaborate South Caucasian Forest Strategy, which implies forest conservation in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and North-East Turkey.

Expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity

Programme element 1 – Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing	
175. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?	
a) No (please provide reasons below)	
b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impact on forest management, constraints, needs, tools, and targets).	
Currently forest management is not based on ecosystem approach. The NBSAP defines this issue as a drawback of forest management and states that in the nearest future one of the key strategic objectives of the country will be the elaborate forest resource and forestry management strategies	

based on ecosystem approach.

176. Has your country undertaken measures to reduce the threats to, and mitigate its impacts on forest biodiversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to reduce threats to, and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

Work Program Objective 1.2.1: There is no national legislation on the alien species. The forest development rules worked out in the Soviet period do not restrict the use of alien species. For the years 2006-2009 The NBSAP has defined the elaborate the strategy on invasive species.

Work program Objective 1.2.2: The impact of pollution on forest ecosystems is not studied.

Work Program Objective 1.2.3: The impact of climate change on forest ecosystems is not studied.

Work Program Objective 1.2.4: Due to the lack of financing, fire-prevention measures are not taken in forests.

Work Program Objective 1.2.5: There are no methods of management that would mitigate the impact of fires, hurricanes and floods.

Work Program Objective 1.2.6: There is no practice of support to private reserves or other private conservation measures. The practice of cost-benefit analysis of development projects is unsatisfactory.

The need for the conservation of ecological corridors is underlined in The NBSAP, which defines the following activities in this regard: assessment of the Surami and Gombori ranges as biological corridors, elaborate the management plan for the sustainable use of these territories; elaborate the State program of conservation and protection of flood plain forests. With the aim of achieving sustainable management of the Alazani flood plain forests, practical activities are implemented within the World Bank project of Protected Areas.

Within the framework of the project "Conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in the Caucasus" (UNDP/GEF, NACRES) the "Management Plan of Arid and Ecosystems" was elaborated and approved by the Government. Alongside with other recommendations, this plan includes conservation of the forests of East Georgia as biological corridors.

Conservation of the ecological corridors is an important part of the plan of conservation of the Caucasian ecoregion. The document identifies priority conservation corridors in the ecoregion.

177. Is your country undertaking any measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
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a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
<p>Work Program Objective 1.3.1: There are practically no activities implemented regarding forest restoration, due to the lack of State financing and absence of own income. However, the World Bank project of development of the forest sector and WWF project of Iori flood plain forests include the components of restoration.</p> <p>Work Program Objective 1.3.2: one of the activities defined by The NBSAP is the elaboration and implementation of the strategy of protection of rare and endangered species.</p> <p>Work Program Objective 1.3.3: The formation of the network of modern protected areas is under way. Several projects of protected areas are at different stages of implementation (planning, development, infrastructure development, capacity building). The new protected areas are created based on IUCN criteria.</p>		

178. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the promotion of the sustainable use of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
<p>No practical actions have been taken. The process of forest reform is under way. Structural and legislative reforms are planned to be developed further. Short-term (one year) license will be replaced by long-term licenses. Certification rules will be adopted. Local forest fund will gain independence. Regulations have to be identified regarding the harvesting of non-timber resources. There is no legislation regarding the harvesting of herbaceous species.</p>		

179. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 5 and describe measures undertaken
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the promotion of access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources. (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets)		
<p>According to Georgian legislation, the use of natural resources is payable and it is subject to licensing. License fee taxes and the amounts paid for the auctions on issuing licenses (royalty) become part of the central budget, whereas the payment for the use of natural resources becomes part of the local budget i.e. the budget of the municipality in which the resource has been harvested. This amount is disposed based on the needs and decisions of the local self-governance bodies.</p> <p>Trade by forest genetic resources includes international trade by cones of <i>Abies nordmanniana</i>. Earlier the payments for the harvesting of the cones were part of the local budget. However, in 2005 the law on "Licenses and Permits" was adopted, according to which the mechanism of licensing on the harvesting of this resource was abolished and currently amendments have to be made in the given law.</p> <p>The information of State agencies, including the information on environmental research, results of inventory etc. is public; hence, it can be freely obtained by any interested citizen or legal entity.</p>		

Programme element 2 – Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment		
180. Is your country undertaking any measures to enhance the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities

		<p>Work Program Objective 2.1.1: Within the framework of the World Bank project of the development of the forest sector, the reasons of forest degradation were analyzed and corresponding recommendations were elaborated. Similar research was carried out by Gulisashvili Institute of Forestry (http://www.wrm.org.uy/deforestation/CIS/Georgia.html).</p> <p>Work Program Objective 2.1.2: "The Program of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction" (2003) states the role of the forest sector in the reduction of poverty. Since 2004 the independent agencies in the forest sector, earlier subject to the President of Georgia, joined the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources. The idea of this change was to improve coordination between various agencies in the forest sector (State Department of Forestry, The State Department of Strict Nature Reserves, Protected Areas and Hunting farms, etc.).</p> <p>Work Program Objective 2.1.3: Activities are continued in the direction of elaborate forest policy and strategy, continuation of institutional and legislative reforms.</p> <p>Work Program Objective 2.1.4: In 2004 a short-term moratorium on timber production was declared to arrange the documentation regarding illegal cuts, timber production and transportation.</p> <p>Under a special law, an Inspection of Environmental Protection was established. One of its key objectives is to fight against illegal cuts in forests.</p>
b) No		Please provide reasons below
<p>Further comments on the enhancement of the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).</p>		
<p>The analysis of causes of forest degradation and subsequent recommendations need to be developed further, namely, the role of corruption in the field of illegal cuts is not sufficiently analyzed.</p> <p>The structural and organizational changes in the agencies of management of the forest sector are not sufficient for overcoming the problems in the forest sector and successful implementation of the work program in the given field. It is necessary to plan the process of reform of the forest sector and support the implementation of the NBSAP. It is also urgent to enhance the capacities of the law enforcement agencies (Environmental Protection Inspection, Customs Department).</p>		

<p>181. Is your country undertaking any measures to address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity?</p>		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities

b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide reasons below
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The forest sector is for reformation. It is defined that for elaborate the national forest policy, strategy and action plan attention will be focused on the issues in question.
Further comments on review of socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

182. Is your country undertaking any measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
The programs of public awareness and ecological education are included in the projects of forest sector and biodiversity conservation (State-implemented projects financed by the World Bank, NGO projects). The issues of public awareness and ecological education are reflected in a separate chapter of the NBSAP, which states that the activities implemented so far are insufficient and non-systematic.		

Programme element 3 – Knowledge, assessment and monitoring		
183. Is your country undertaking any measures to characterize forest ecosystems at various scales in order to improve the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities

b) No	X	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on characterization of forest ecosystems at various scales (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
The existing system of forest classification, provided in the current Forest Code of Georgia, does not correspond to modern requirements and does not reflect ecosystem approach. This system is more similar to the Soviet one. According to the legislation, forest management should be updated every 10 years, but on the major part of the country's territory the forest management is outdated. However, forest activities are still implemented (timber harvesting). Within the framework of the World Bank Project of the Development of the Forest Sector, it is planned to carry out inventory in various districts of the country and to compile maps using modern technology (GIS, landscape ecological carcass).		

184. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve knowledge on, and methods for, the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
		Within the framework of the World Bank project, methods for total economic forest assessment were elaborated.
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on improvement of knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

185. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?

Options	X	Details

a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
		Several scientific research institutes are working on these issues (Gulisashvili Institute of Forestry, The Institute of Plant Protection, The Institute of Botany and The Agricultural University).
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the improvement of the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
Due to the lack of financing and qualified personnel, these activities are inefficient.		

186. Is your country undertaking any measures at national level to improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biodiversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below
		This cannot be implemented until the end of the structural reform of the forest sector.
Further comments on the improvement of the infrastructure for data and information management (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

Box LXX.

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

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

a) Activities in connection with forest work program, as it was mentioned above, are connected with projects at the stage of implementation. Thus, it is too early to carry out the evaluation of the results.

b) Recent tendencies point to a decrease of illegal harvesting, but the pressure on the environment has grown, especially regarding pollution, mining and timber harvesting. As a result, in a context of the global climate change, this anthropogenic influence may cause gradual degradation, if mitigation measures are not taken.

If we compare the state of the forests and the population prior to the implementation of the work program and after it, the picture is as follows. Some positive steps have been taken:

- The NBSAP have been approved;
- The Document of National Forest Policy is being elaborated;
- The territory of reserves has expanded , the number of protected areas has increased, including total area of protected forests.

However:

- No changes have been made regarding forest ownership, the forms and types of forest use.
- The ecological state of forests has not improved. For example, the use of forest resources has increased; the impact of forest degradation factors (illegal cuts, fires, parasites and diseases) has increased; mitigation measures (forest planting, prevention of parasites and fires) have decreased;
- Public involvement in the decision-making process has weakened.

Thus, overall, CBD/PoW on Forest implementation is unsatisfactory. As a result, the forest biodiversity status is alarming.

c) In 2006 a conference will be held regarding the targets of 2010. At this stage, the implementation plan has not been discussed.

d) The NBSAP gained force in 2005 but it is too early to evaluate its progress.

e) Millennium Development Goals dedicates separate sections to the forest sector, biodiversity protection and Protected Areas. In connection with forests, it is stated that forests have exceptional value regarding environmental, economic, cultural, scientific and recreational resources. In the recent past, forests were degraded from illegal cuts, local industrial activities and uncontrolled grazing. Inefficient legislative basis and restricted monitoring make it impossible to carry out an exact assessment of the state of forests. The document mentions that national forest policy is to be worked out in accordance with the international principles of sustainable development. It is intended to decrease illegal activities, implement structural and financial reorganization of forest management, establish market principles, develop sustainable use of forests, recover and protect forests, develop reserves on selected territories. It is stated that by 2003 the protected areas included 4.1% of the country's territory, whereas by the end of 2004 their territories grew to 6.1%. Out of these, 75% are covered with forests.

In the 2005 report on the progress of Millennium Development Goals it is stated that Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans have been approved and work is in progress concerning the document of State forest policy. The report mentioned Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability, and corresponding Target 14: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources and its indicators. Some of these indicators relate to the forest work program: the proportion between the entire territory of the country and the territories covered with forests; the territory of protected areas; and the volume of emission of carbon monoxide per person.

f) Until 2004 the agencies of forest sector management were independent and subject directly to the President. Hence, their activities were overlapping, duplicated and not coordinated. Despite the fact that these agencies are currently united under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, their coordination in forest sector management is still not adequate and reforms are ongoing. There is a lack of personnel trained with modern methods and knowledge. Unfortunately, conservation of biodiversity has never been a priority for the country so funding was insufficient and the issues of protection of biodiversity were always in the background. Another negative factor was the absence of a national forest policy at the stage of implementation of reforms in the field. The implementation of the targets of the work program was hampered by the delay in the elaborate the NBSAP. The high level of corruption in the forest sector was a major obstacle.

The work program was not discussed on the national level, and the priorities of implementation of this program have not been defined. No plans have been made and the implementation has not been evaluated. The projects of development of Georgian forest sector and protected areas support the implementation of the decisions taken within the framework of the work program and the convention.

However, there are no strictly defined conceptual links between these projects and the implementation of the Convention on the national level.

Other obstacles include the lack of financing; Soviet-style management and staff attitudes; absence of inventory and monitoring.

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

187. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work? (decisions V/23 and VII/2)

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

X

Further comments on scientific, technical and financial support, at the national and regional levels, to the activities identified in the programme of work.

Activities defined by the work program are implemented within the framework of the projects financed by GEF:

- Conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in the Caucasus (UNDP, NACRES, 1999-2002);
- The project of development of Georgian Protected Areas (The World Bank, 2002-2007), which supports the creation of a national park in the South-East part of Georgia and creation of a protected landscape on the Iori Plateau, with the aim of protecting the arid and semi-arid ecosystems.

These projects support the obtaining of information on the state of arid and semi-arid ecosystems, identification of priority sites for conservation, the study of the impact factors and their assessment, creation of new protected areas, identification of the traditional methods of sustainable use of resources, which, in its turn, corresponds to the activities envisaged by the work program.

188. Has your country integrated actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

X

Further comments on actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands integrated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD.

Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2005) envisages activities of conservation of arid and semi-arid ecosystems and corresponding species (*Gazella subgutturosa*, *Pantera pardus*, *hyena hyena*).

The Georgian National Program to Combat Desertification (2003) includes detailed description and ecosystem assessment of arid and semi-arid regions, as one of the most vulnerable territories regarding desertification. The factors that cause desertification are analysed. The planned activities correspond to the Convention work program. Namely, it is planned to implement scientific research activities including those aimed at biodiversity conservation, public awareness, monitoring of desertification processes, cooperation with the agricultural sector etc.

189. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD process and other processes under related environmental conventions? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)	
a) No	
b) Yes, some linkages established (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, extensive linkages established (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to ensure the synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD processes and other processes under related environmental conventions.	
<p>The activities planned by the work program are integrated in various environmental documents, including Georgian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2005), The National Plan to Combat Desertification (2003), The Management Plan of Conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems, The Plan of Integrated Management of the Khrami and Alazani River basins (2002). However, due to a weak political will, lack of funding and other resources, the majority of the planned activities are not yet implemented.</p> <p>In the Georgia's First National Communication to the Convention on the Climate Change (1995) the issue of desertification is reviewed in general, the action plan does not define concrete activities. In the preparation of the Georgia's Second National communication more attention will be focused on the planning of concrete activities aimed at the prevention of desertification.</p> <p>Regional cooperation within the framework of the project of conservation of arid and semi-arid ecosystems was largely supported by a conference organized in Tbilisi in 2002 by REC Caucasus. The conference was dedicated to the issues of droughts and desertification in the South Caucasus. The aim of the conference was to inform the governmental, NGO, scientific and business sectors about the current legislation, initiatives and programs and to identify priority directions. The participants adopted a resolution on regional cooperation.</p>	

Programme Part A: Assessment	
190. Has your country assessed and analyzed information on the state of dryland biological diversity and the pressures on it, disseminated existing knowledge and best practices, and filled knowledge gaps in order to determine adequate activities? (Decision V/23, Part A: Assessment, Operational objective, activities 1 to 6)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessment is ongoing	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessment undertaken (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the relevant information on assessments of the status and trends and dissemination of existing knowledge and best practices.	
<p>Within the framework of the project "Conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in the Caucasus" complex research of these ecosystems was carried out, the social-economic factors were analysed in this regard. Conservation activities and alternative ways of land use were defined. A collection of scientific papers was issued "Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in South Caucasus" (2003).</p> <p>In 2003-2004 the research of the biodiversity of Vashlovani National Park was implemented, key habitats and phytocoenoses were identified and mapped; the flora was researched and key plant species were selected for monitoring. The number of key species was identified, as well as other pa-</p>	

rameters of the populations; maps were compiled regarding spatial distribution, concentration sites and frequency of encounters. Key threats to species and habitats were identified and the general state of the ecosystems was assessed. The most vulnerable territories were identified in Vashlovani Reserve and National Park. Information was collected also on other species (an inventory of birds was also carried out).

In order to plan a protected landscape on the Iori Plateau, the territory is being studied in detail, research is implemented to study the diversity of flora and fauna and evaluate their status; key threats are identified, historical, cultural and economic environment is studied and assessed.

Programme Part B: Targeted Actions

191. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences? (part B of annex I of decision V/23, activities 7 to 9)

a) No

b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)

X

c) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)

Further comments on the measures taken to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences.

With the aim to conserve rare and unique arid and semi-arid ecosystems, in 2003 Vashlovani National Park was established (24,610 hectares) and Vashlovani Strict Nature Reserve was enlarged (10,143 hectares). With the support of the project of development of protected areas in Georgia, the infrastructure of the park is being developed, equipped and trainings are offered to staff, as well as educational and interpretation programs being implemented.

To preserve the unique biological and cultural values of the Iori Plateau, Davit Gareji protected landscape is planned (IUCN category V, 173 000 hectares) and a draft has been elaborated. Documentation is being prepared to present Davit Gareji for inclusion in the UNESCO list of the world's natural and cultural heritage.

In 2005 WWF initiated a project of protection and restoration of the Tugai flood plain forests on the Iori banks. This unique forest was endangered by the construction of an artificial water reservoir and uncontrolled grazing. The project studies the opportunities of restoring the natural regime of water and a management plan has been created; the capacities of the administration of Chachuna Managed Nature Reserve have been developed.

UNDP/GEF project "Conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Ecosystems in the Caucasus" supported the formation of a hunting-farm "Dalis Mta" (Dali's Mountain) to ensure sustainable use of species that inhabit the Iori Plateau.

192. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work?

a) No

X

b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)

c) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, all identified capacity needs met (please provide details below)	
Further comments on measures taken to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work.	

Box LXXI.

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

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

From these activities, the biodiversity of arid and semi-arid ecosystems is thoroughly studied; databases are prepared based on geo-informational system. Activities are implemented regarding the conservation of individual habitats and species. All this corresponds to 2010 targets 1.1, 1.2, 2.1.

Activities under the NBSAP are being implemented which include a State gazelle recovery program and a management plan to conserve the leopard, *Pantera pardus*, in the Caucasian ecoregion.

However, a number of urgent measures have not yet been taken: elaborate a sustainable management regime for pasturelands, as excessive grazing is one of the key threats to arid and semi-arid ecosystems. No activities are implemented to recover the degraded ecosystems; the formation of the protected landscape of Davit Gareji is hampered. The latter is a pressing task in a context of rapid privatization and the high priority of economic development projects.

Mountain Biodiversity

Programme Element 1. Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing	
193. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity	
The territory of Georgia is mostly mountainous. To the North, the country is bordered by Major Caucasus, to the South – Minor Caucasus. According to the Georgian law “On the Social-Economic and Cultural Development of Mountainous Regions”, all territories are considered mountainous if they are located above 1500 meters from the Sea Level. Based on various parameters, the lower boundary of the mountainous regions in the highlands of Achara and Guria on the Southern slope of the Caucasus is reduced to 1000 meters. High mountain ecosystems are chiefly located at 2200 meters above the sea level and they are extremely rich in flora and fauna species. More than half of the endemic Cau-	

casian plants are found in the coenoses of high mountain plants. The majority of pasturelands are located in high mountain ecosystems.

The key threats to highland ecosystems are grazing, tree-felling, poaching. Excessive grazing has caused significant change of the flora, decrease of productivity and degradation of the upper layer of soil, which causes erosion and landslides. In certain places highland ecosystems are under the pressure of winter ski resorts.

Georgian laws "On Soil Protection" and "On the Conservation of Soils and Improvement of Their Fertility" define prohibitions as well as activities aimed to prevent excessive grazing in the highlands of Georgia. These laws prohibit grazing above specific altitudes. According to the laws to prevent erosive processes in the highland regions practices of vertical grazing should be obeyed and a schedule to rotate pastureland should be compiled.

One of the aims of the law on soil protection is to preserve the flora of mountainous regions by protecting Alpine and Sub-Alpine meadows. For this purpose, the law prohibits obtaining of *Rhododendron caucasica* and other endangered Alpine and Sub-Alpine species of plants. The same law states that the damage caused by mining and the deterioration of water in the highland regions should be repaired.

However, in reality these legal requirements are not fulfilled because the relative regulatory acts have not been elaborated. There are no official documents on migration routes of domestic cattle. No document defines the norms of pressure on pasturelands. Therefore, The NBSAP defines the inventory of pasturelands, their zoning by permitted norms and restoration of degraded pastures.

194. Has your country taken any measures to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity?

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

Further comments on the measures taken to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity

With the aim to protect mountain ecosystems, in 2003 Tusheti, Batsara-Babaneuri and Lagodekhi protected areas were established, including four reserves (IUCN category I), 2 managed nature reserves (IUCN category IV), one national park (IUCN category II) and one protected landscape (IUCN category V). Formation of the protected areas of Racha and Svaneti in the Central Caucasus is currently planned.

In the nearest future protected areas will be established to protect the mountain ecosystems of Javakheti.

195. Has your country taken any measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems?

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

Further comments on the measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems

Since 2001 Georgia has been implementing the program of development of agriculture in highland regions. The program is supported by International Foundation of Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project supports the improved access of small farms of four highland regions to agricultural

equipment and technology, financial resources, social service, skills, processing lines and market. All these activities will assist the restoration and protection of natural resources of villages.

REC Caucasus implements "a project of sustainable development of the highland regions of the Caucasus – local agenda for XXI century". The project is financed by the Governments of Germany and Liechtenstein. The project is implemented in two mountainous villages – Chiora and Shatili. In the first phase a local agenda for these villages was elaborated. The document analyses issues in relation to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and sets activities to be implemented in this respect. At the next stage of the project, these activities will be implemented based on grants allocated to these villages to achieve the short-term objectives defined by the document.

Support of the sustainable use of biodiversity resources is one of the objectives of the small grants program of the project of development of Protected Areas in Georgia (GEF/the World Bank). Within the program, financing is allocated to projects that support the development of ecological tourism, restoration of traditional agricultural methods and local agricultural species (vine, Kakhetian swine) in the villages adjacent to the protected area of Tusheti.

196. Has your country taken any measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources, including preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge?

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

Further comments on the measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources

Programme Element 2. Means of implementation for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing

197. Has your country developed any legal, policy and institutional framework for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing this programme of work?

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

Further comments on the legal, policy and institutional frameworks for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing the programme of work on mountain biodiversity.

Article 31 of the Constitution defines the priority of sustainable development of mountain regions of Georgia. In accordance with this Article, in 1999 a law was adopted "On the Social-Economic and Cultural Development of Highland Regions of Georgia". The law defines the territories that belong to high mountainous regions. The law defines obligations that should be fulfilled in these regions to create favorable social and economic conditions. According to the law, the use of natural resources in these regions should be based on the Charter of the Alpine Convention. The State budget should annually envisage beneficial credit-investment measures that should support the development of various fields in the mountainous regions, including the development of Protected Areas.

198. Has your country been involved in regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some cooperation frameworks are being considered	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity	
<p>For several years now the process of elaborate the Caucasian Convention has been initiated. UNEP/ROE and WWF Local Office supported the elaborate a legal mechanism for the conservation of Caucasian mountain ecosystems in 2000-2001. Within this project, the current legislative and institutional frameworks were analyzed, key problems and risks were identified in connection with the adoption of the regional legal instrument. Two regional meetings were held with the participation of a wide range of interested sides in Yerevan and Tbilisi. As a result, a resolution was adopted on the elaborate this legal instrument. The frame and the structure of the Convention were defined and the first draft of the text of the Convention was elaborated. After this, the process was stopped. In 2003 through the initiative of Caucasian Regional Environmental Center (REC Caucasus), the conference on sustainable development of the Caucasian mountainous regions was held. The conference was supported by the German Ministry of Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and Liechtenstein Ministry of Environmental Protection, Agriculture and Forestry. This was the first step of cooperation between the Caucasian and the Alpine countries. Based on the results of the Conference, REC Caucasus elaborated a project "Sustainable Development of Caucasian Mountainous Regions – Local Agenda for the XXI Century", aimed at the elaboration and adoption of the Caucasian Convention. The project supports the development of alliance between the mountain communities of the Caucasus.</p>	
Programme Element 3. Supporting actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing	
199. Has your country taken any measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biodiversity	
<p>The study of the flora of the mountainous regions has been implemented at the Institute of Botany since the 1980s. The comparative study of the flora of the mountain systems of the Caucasus and Europe has been carried out. The systems of classification of plants of mountainous countries are elaborated. Issues of endemism of Caucasian mountain flora are analysed. The diversity of orophytes is described, as well as the most sensitive phytocoenoses of the Central Caucasus: Alpine and sub-nival nanocoenoses, sub-Alpine trees and bushes, high herbs. The features of structural and functional organization of plants and coenoses of the mountains are defined. The anthropogenic influence on the mountain ecosystems is analyzed. The negative impact of grazing on the plants is studied. These research activities are aimed at the elaborate activities of restoration of the damaged ecosystems of the highlands.</p> <p>Within the framework of the project of development of the Protected Areas (GEF/the World Bank), basic biodiversity study has been carried out on the protected areas of Eastern Georgia, which include mountain ecosystems. Based on this research, the database of flora and fauna was compiled, the existing threats were identified and assessed, the number of key species was identified and the status of their populations was assessed, an inventory of birds was carried out and a monitoring plan</p>	

created. Within the framework of the same project, basic research is carried out in the Central Caucasus (Racha-Lechkhumi, Svaneti) aimed at the formation of Protected Areas.

200. Has your country taken any measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

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

Further comments on the measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

Regarding the study of the flora of high mountains, the Institute of Botany established close cooperation with the Institute of Botany of Innsbruck University (Austria) and other scientific research institutions around the world.

The Institute of Botany cooperates with the project of the 5th frame program of the EU GLORIA EUROPE (Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments) to study and monitor the impact of the change of climate on the ecosystems of high mountains.

Within the framework of the Protected Areas Development Project (GEF/the World Bank), trainings and workshops are held for the administrations of the Protected Areas of Eastern Georgia aimed at the improvement of management and protection of these territories; study tours are organized in various countries of the world.

201. Has your country taken any measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems?

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

Further comments on the measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems

Box LXXII.

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

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

Priority conservation highland ecosystems are identified. One part of these (East Caucasus) is already included by the protected areas. In accordance with The NBSAP, the planning of Protected Areas is implemented for the Central Caucasus and in the nearest future similar activities will start with respect to Javakheti highlands. This contributes to targets of 2010 by way of supporting important biodiversity sites and conservation of endangered species.

The work program of mountain biodiversity has not been discussed on the national level. Thus, the priority activities are not identified and their implementation plan is not drafted.

The law "On the Social-Economic and Cultural Development of Mountainous Regions" does not correspond to the tax code, budget requirements and other legal instruments. There is no national strategy and action plan in this regard.

E. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

202. Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention? (decision V/20)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the regional and subregional activities in which your country has been involved.	
Georgia takes part in the meetings of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS). The representative of Georgia is a member of PEBLDS Bureau. Georgia also takes part in the meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and in other working meetings conducted under the aegis of Biodiversity Convention.	

203. Is your country strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, enhancing integration and promoting synergies with relevant regional and subregional processes? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on regional and subregional cooperation and processes.	

The following question (204) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

204. Is your country supporting the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, included in existing cooperation frameworks (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities ongoing (please provide details below)	
Further comments on support for the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes.	

205. Is your country working with other Parties to strengthen the existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	X

b) Yes	
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206. Has your country contributed to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	X
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b) Yes (please provide details below)	
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Further comments on contribution to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms.

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Box LXXIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of the above decisions specifically focusing on:

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

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F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT

Box LXXIV.

Please provide below recommendations on how to improve this reporting format.

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