


Please provide to following details on the origin of this report

Contracting Party	Israel
<i>National Focal Point</i>	
Full name of the institution:	Ministry of the Environment
Name and title of contact officer:	Dr. Eliezer Frankenberg
Mailing address:	Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority Division of Science and Conservation 3 Am VeOlamo St. Givat Shaul 95463 Jerusalem, Israel
Telephone:	972-2-5005444
Fax:	972-2-6529232
E-mail:	eliezer.frankenberg@nature-parks.org.il
<i>Contact officer for national report (if different)</i>	
Name and title of contact officer:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	
<i>Submission</i>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	

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

Information from different stakeholders was compiled during the process of preparing this report. They included experts from the Ministry of the Environment, Nature and National Parks Protection Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and the Jewish National Fund. Interviews were conducted with members of these organizations and supplementary material was examined.

Decision IV/7 on Forest biological Diversity

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

3. Has your country assessed the status and trends of its forest biological diversity and identified options for its conservation and sustainable use? (Decision IV/7, paragraph 12)	
a) no	X
b) assessment underway (please give details below)	
c) assessment completed (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

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

4. Has your country requested assistance through the financial mechanism for projects that promote the implementation of the focused work programme on forest biological diversity? (Decision IV/7, paragraph 7)	
a) no	
b) yes (please give details below)	

Programme element 1: Holistic and inter-sectoral ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking account of social and cultural and economic considerations

5. Has your country identified methodologies for enhancing the integration of forest biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into an holistic approach to sustainable forest management at the national level? (Work Programme, paragraph 13)	
a) no	X
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	
6. Has your country developed methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest-related knowledge into sustainable forest management, in accordance with Article 8(j)? (Work Programme, paragraph 14)	
a) no	X

b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	
7. Has your country promoted cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological resources at all levels in accordance with Articles 5 and 16 of the Convention? (Work Programme, paragraph 15)	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	
8. Has your country promoted the sharing of relevant technical and scientific information on networks at all levels of protected forest areas and networking modalities in all types of forest ecosystems? (Work Programme, paragraph 17)	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	

Programme element 2: Comprehensive analysis of the ways in which human activities, in particular forest-management practices, influence biological diversity and assessment of ways to minimize or mitigate negative influences

9. Has your country promoted activities for an enhanced understanding of positive and negative human influences on forest ecosystems by land-use managers, policy makers, scientists and other relevant stakeholders) (Work Programme, paragraph 29)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
10. Has your country promoted activities to assemble management experiences and scientific, indigenous and local information at the national and local levels to provide for the sharing of approaches and tools that lead to improved forest practices with regard to forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 30)	
a) minimal activity	X
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
11. Has your country promoted activities with the aim of providing options to minimize or mitigate negative and to promote positive human influences on forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 31)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

12. Has your country promoted activities to minimize the impact of harmful alien species on forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 32)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
13. Has your country identified means and mechanisms to improve the identification and prioritisation of research activities related to influences of human activities, in particular forest management practices, on forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 33)	
a) minimal activity	X
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
14. Does your country hold research results and syntheses of reports of relevant scientific and traditional knowledge on key forest biological diversity issues and, if so, have these been disseminated as widely as possible? (Work Programme, paragraph 34)	
a) not relevant	
b) some relevant material, but not widely disseminated	X
c) significant material that could be more widely disseminated (please give details below)	
d) yes - already widely disseminated (please give details below)	
15. Has your country prepared case-studies on assessing impacts of fires and alien species on forest biological diversity and their influences on the management of forest ecosystems and savannahs? (Work Programme, paragraph 35)	
a) no – please indicate below whether this is due to a lack of available case-studies or for other reasons	
b) yes – please give below any views you may have on the usefulness of the preparation of case-studies for developing a better biological understanding of the problem and/or better management responses.	X

Programme element 3: Methodologies necessary to advance the elaboration and implementation of criteria and indicators for forest biological diversity

16. Has your country assessed experiences gained in national and regional processes, identifying common elements and gaps in existing initiatives and improving indicators for forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 43)	
a) minimal activity	X
b) yes – limited assessment made (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant assessment made (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
17. Has your country carried out taxonomic studies and inventories at the national level which provide for a basic assessment of forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 43)	
a) minimal activity	X
b) yes – limited assessment made (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant assessment made (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

If you have ticked any of the boxes in questions 5 to 17 above which invite you to provide further details, please do so here.

(Information can include descriptions of methodologies and of activities undertaken, reasons for success or failure, outcomes and lessons learned)

Activities to minimize the impact of harmful alien species on forest biological diversity have been initiated with regard to *Acacia saligna*. Preliminary case studies have been prepared on this subject as well.

Cooperation on forest biological diversity exists on the level of research among different institutions such as the Jewish National Fund and the Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University. Similarly, technical and scientific information is transferred and shared between different authorities, including pasture authorities, the Jewish National Fund, the Agricultural Research Organization (Volcani Center) and academic institutions.

Major research studies, with the participation of several research organizations, were conducted and disseminated in the aftermath of a massive fire in the Carmel Park and Nature Reserve, which broke out in September 1989. A specially appointed expert committee, composed of relevant stakeholders, studied issues related to the development and restoration of the forested park, the impacts of fires on forest biological diversity, etc. The results of the national project were subsequently used in preventing forest fires, minimizing the transfer of pests, and improving forestry management practices throughout the country.

Research was also carried out following a major fire which broke out in Sh'ar HaGai, adjacent to the highway leading to Jerusalem, in 1995. The results of these and other research fires are helping to establish guidelines for forestry management and treatment following fires.

Management plans for both planted and natural forests take account of the impacts of visitors. Human impact is taken into account in planning trails, parking areas, etc.