

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

The following format for preparation of a voluntary report on the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity has been developed as required by paragraph 27 of Decision VI/22.

In order to assist with the review and synthesis of the information in the reports, respondents are asked to ensure that the further information provided is closely related to the preceding question and is as succinct as possible. There is no set limit in length, but it is anticipated that Parties will be able to provide adequate and useful information in a few pages.

The information provided by Contracting Parties will not be used to rank performance or to otherwise compare implementation between individual Contracting Parties.

An electronic version of this document is available on the website of the Convention at <http://www.biodiv.org>.

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| Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report: | |
| Date of submission: | November 2003 |

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

The present report was drawn up with the support from the "National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)" Secretariat, under the supervision of a Steering Committee, including representatives of Department of Administration and Planning, the Department of Environment, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Agricultural Jihad, Ministry of Oil, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, Biodiversity sub-committee of the National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD), University of Tehran and Environmentalists Association(NGO).

VOLUNTARY REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON
FOREST BIODIVERSITY

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

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| 1. Has your country identified priority goals, objectives and activities included in the expanded programme of work for implementation at the national level? | |
| a) no (please specify the reasons) | |
| b) yes (please provide a list of priorities identified) | ✓ |
| Further comments on identification of priority goals, objectives and activities | |
| <p><i>Nearly, but not completely due to lack of scientific and financial resources.</i></p> <p><i>List of national priority goals are as below:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) Determining of the situation of forestlands for preventing of forestlands conversion to other uses with a time limit of two years.</i> <i>2) Improvement of laws and regulations in the field of conservation and exploitation of northern forests with a time limit of 6 months.</i> <i>3) Deciding to establishment especial courts related to illegal forest occupation and exploitation.</i> <i>4) Public participation and involvement of military forces (Police) in the field of conservation and disseminating of information.</i> <i>5) Providing fuel and more facilities for villagers and nomads.</i> <i>6) Adding of 10% of the national forest areas to the protected areas network.</i> <i>7) Forestation development and urban forestry.</i> | |

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| 2. From the list of priorities, did some or all of them produce the expected impacts after their implementation (i.e. a success)? | |
| a) no (please specify the reasons) | |
| b) yes (please specify success stories) | ✓ |
| Further comments on impacts of implementation of priority activities | |
| <i>Recently by adding 10% of national forest area to the protected areas network.</i> | |
| 3. Were there any challenges/impediments to the implementation of priority activities that could have negatively affected their chance of success? | |
| a) yes (please specify the activities and the main challenges/impediments) | ✓ |
| b) no | |
| Further comments on challenges/impediments to implementation of priority activities | |
| <i>Public understanding of the values of forest biological diversity.</i> | |
| 4. Is your country collaborating with other Governments and regional and international organizations and processes to implement regional or international activities in the expanded programme of work? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes, limited collaboration (please provide details) | ✓ |
| c) yes, significant collaboration (please provide details) | |
| Further comments on collaboration with other Governments and regional and international organizations and processes to implement regional or international activities in the expanded programme of work | |
| <i>Some GEF projects and bilateral co operations with neighbouring countries.</i> | |

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

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| 5. Has your country developed practical methods, guidelines and/or indicators to apply the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management? | |
| a) no (please specify the reasons) | |
| b) relevant methods, guidelines and indicators under development | |
| c) some methods, guidelines and indicators developed (please provide details) | ✓ |
| d) a comprehensive set of methods, guidelines and indicators developed (please provide details) | |
| Further comments on the practical methods, guidelines and indicators to apply the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management | |
| <i>New forest management initiatives (from single-product utilization toward profiting of other values) have been started since five years ago. The national strategy is "sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity", but it needs more case studies and implementation feedbacks from pilot projects to refine and adjust our practical guidelines.</i> | |
| 6. Has your country taken any measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, and mitigate their negative impacts on forest biodiversity in accordance with international law? | |
| a) no | |
| b) relevant measures under development | |
| c) yes, some measures taken (please outline the measures) | ✓ |
| d) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please outline the measures) | |
| Further comments on the measures taken | |
| <i>Under CITES and Biosafety regulations.</i> | |

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| 7. Has your country taken any measures to mitigate the impact of pollution on forest biodiversity? | |
| a) no | |
| b) under consideration | |
| c) relevant measures under development | |
| d) yes, some measures taken (please provide details) | ✓ |
| e) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details) | |
| Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate the impact of pollution on forest biodiversity | |
| <i>Some academic studies conducted.</i> | |
| 8. Has your country taken any measures to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity? | |
| a) no | |
| b) relevant research and monitoring programmes under development | ✓ |
| c) some research and monitoring activities being undertaken but no measures taken | |
| d) yes, some measures taken (please outline the measures) | |
| e) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please outline the measures) | |
| Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity | |
| <i>A GEF project on Carbon Sequestration is under implementation.</i> | |
| 9. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression (where fire is a natural disturbance agent)? | |
| a) no | |
| b) relevant measures being considered | |
| c) relevant measures under development | |
| d) yes, some measures undertaken (please specify) | ✓ |
| e) yes, many measures being undertaken (please specify) | |

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| Further comments on the measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression | |
| <i>In some provinces by the Department of Environment and some by the municipalities for urban forest.</i> | |
| 10. Is your country mitigating effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur? | |
| a) no | ✓ |
| b) monitoring and assessment of effects ongoing | |
| c) potential measures identified | |
| d) yes, some adopted and being implemented (please provide details) | |
| e) yes, comprehensive measures adopted and being implemented (please provide further details) | |
| Further comments on measures adopted to mitigate effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur | |
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| 11. Is your country preventing and mitigating losses of forest biodiversity due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses? | |
| a) no | |
| b) potential measures identified | |
| c) yes, some measures undertaken | ✓ |
| b) yes, comprehensive measures undertaken | |
| 12. Is your country restoring forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes? | |
| a) no | |
| b) potential measures identified | |
| c) yes, some measures implemented in some areas (please provide details) | ✓ |
| d) yes, comprehensive measures implemented in major areas (please provide details) | |

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| Further comments on the measures to restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes | |
| <i>Some measures implemented in Northern provinces (Hyrcanean Forests) as well as Zagros Mountains in the west.</i> | |
| 13. Is your country promoting forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species? | |
| a) no | |
| b) relevant forest management practices under development | |
| c) yes, some practices adopted and promoted (please provide details) | ✓ |
| d) yes, some practices being implemented (please provide details) | |
| Further comments on the forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species | |
| <i>There are several initiatives to promote reforestation by or conservation of endemic species.</i> | |
| 14. Is your country ensuring adequate and effective protected forest area networks? | |
| a) no | |
| b) networks of protected areas being planned | |
| c) some protected areas established but networks not in place | |
| d) networks of protected areas taking shape | |
| e) major networks of protected areas established | ✓ |
| 15. Is your country promoting sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity? | |
| a) no | |
| b) relevant policy and programme under development | |
| c) yes, some policies and programmes in place (please provide details) | ✓ |
| d) yes, comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please provide details) | |

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| Further comments on the policies and programmes for promoting sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biodiversity | |
| <i>Northern Forest Preservation Plan and Zagros Project are two major national programmes in place.</i> | |
| 16. Is your country preventing losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources? | |
| a) no | |
| b) potential measures identified | |
| c) some measures undertaken (please provide details) | ✓ |
| d) comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details) | |
| Further comments on the measures to prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timbering forest resources | |
| <i>Replacing some of nature methods such as single cutting with other previous methods like clear cutting and shelter wood is one of these measures.</i> | |
| 17. Is your country taking any measure to enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity? | |
| a) no | |
| b) not applicable | |
| c) relevant policy and programme under development | ✓ |
| d) yes, some policies and programmes in place (please specify) | |
| Further comments on the policies and programmes to enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity | |
| <i>Relevant policies are under development in the Zagros Project.</i> | |

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| 18. Has your country developed effective and equitable information systems and strategies and promoted implementation of those strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity? | |
| a) no | |
| b) relevant information system and strategy under development | ✓ |
| c) relevant information system in place | |
| d) relevant strategies in place (please provide details) | |
| e) relevant information system and strategies in place (please provide details) | |
| Further comments on the strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity | |
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| 19. Is your country promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge? | |
| a) no | |
| b) relevant policies and programmes under development | ✓ |
| c) some policies and programmes in place (please specify) | |
| d) comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please specify) | |
| Further comments on the policies and programmes for promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge | |
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If your country wishes to provide additional information on implementation of this programme element, please do this in the following space.

For implementing the ecosystem approach to manage all types of our forests we need more experiences exchange and scientists cooperation to develop this concept and practical guidelines.

Programme Element 2: Institutional and Socio-economic Enabling Environment

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| 20. Is your country improving the understanding of the various causes of forest biodiversity losses? | |
| a) no | |
| b) a limited analysis being undertaken | |
| c) a thorough analysis being undertaken | |
| d) yes, some analyses completed and results available (please outline some findings from these analyses) | ✓ |
| e) yes, comprehensive analysis completed and results available (please provide some findings from these analyses) | |
| Further comments on the analysis of the various causes of forest biodiversity losses | |
| <i>Some analyses completed on tree and shrub plant species, particularly, but not on other biologic levels. Conversion of forestlands to other land uses, overgrazing and also some of unsuitable applied methods for exploitation of forest resources are the main causes of forest biodiversity losses.</i> | |

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| 21. Has your country integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes? | |
| a) no | |
| b) under consideration | |
| c) yes, integrated into policies and programmes in some sectors (please provide details) | ✓ |
| d) yes, integrated into policies and programmes in major sectors (please provide details) | |
| Further comments on the integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes | |
| <i>Some programs and projects are under implementation in different governmental organizations.</i> | |
| 22. Has your country developed good governance practices, reviewed and revised and implemented forest and forest-related laws, tenure and planning systems, to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity? | |
| a) no | |
| b) review under way | |
| c) review and revision completed | |
| d) some good governance practices and related laws developed and implemented (please provide details) | ✓ |
| e) a comprehensive set of practices and laws developed and implemented (please provide details) | |
| Further comments on the practices and laws developed and implemented to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity | |
| <i>Some of the national practices are: National Forests, Rangelands and Environment Regulations (new revisions); Establishment of specialized Environmental Courts; Five years national development Programmes; Master Plan for National Protected Area Network.</i> | |

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| 23. Is your country promoting forest law enforcement and addressing related trade? | |
| a) no | |
| b) review under way | |
| c) potential measures identified | |
| d) yes, some measures in place to strengthen law enforcement and address related trade | ✓ |
| e) yes, comprehensive measures in place to strengthen law enforcement and address related trade | |
| 24. Is your country mitigating the economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biodiversity? | |
| a) no | |
| b) review under way | ✓ |
| c) potential measures identified | |
| d) yes, some measures taken (please provide details) | |
| e) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details) | |
| Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biodiversity | |
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| 25. Is your country increasing public support and understanding of the value of forest biodiversity and its goods and services at all levels? | |
| a) no | |
| b) relevant programme under development | |
| c) yes, some programmes in place | ✓ |
| d) yes, comprehensive programmes in place | |

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

We have had satisfactory improvement in national forest laws (e.g. ratification of Northern Forest Conservation Plan in the Parliament).

Programme Element 3: Knowledge, Assessment and Monitoring

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| 26. Has your country reviewed and adopted a minimum forest classification system, based on harmonized and accepted forest definitions and addressing key forest biodiversity elements? | |
| a) no | ✓ |
| b) review under way | |
| c) review completed | |
| d) a forest classification system adopted | |
| 27. Has your country developed national forest ecosystem classification systems and maps that use agreed international standards and protocols? | |
| a) no | |
| b) early stages of development | ✓ |
| c) advanced stages of development | |
| d) yes, classification systems in place | |
| 28. Has your country developed specific forest ecosystems surveys in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity? | |
| a) no | |
| b) under consideration | |
| c) relevant surveys being planned | ✓ |
| d) relevant surveys completed (please provide details) | |
| e) results of relevant surveys available (please provide details) | |
| Further comments on the surveys of specific forest ecosystems in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity | |
| <i>Only for tree and shrub plant species of our forest ecosystems. Some surveys have been implemented.</i> | |

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| 29. Is your country advancing the development and implementation of international, regional and national criteria and indicators based on key regional, subregional and national measures within the framework of sustainable forest management? | |
| a) no | ✓ |
| b) relevant programme under development | |
| c) some criteria and indicators developed (please provide details) | |
| d) comprehensive indicators developed (please provide details) | |
| Further comments on the development and implementation of criteria and indicators | |
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| 30. Has your country conducted key research programmes on the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning? | |
| a) no | |
| b) research programs under development | |
| c) yes, some research programs conducted | ✓ |
| d) yes, comprehensive research programs conducted | |
| 31. Is your country enhancing and improving the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biodiversity, benefiting from the opportunities offered through the Clearing House Mechanism of CBD? | |
| a) no | |
| b) capacity building programme under development | ✓ |
| c) yes, some programmes in place (please provide details) | |
| d) yes, comprehensive programmes in place (please provide details) | |
| Further comments on the programmes to enhance and improve the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biodiversity | |
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If your country wishes to provide additional information on implementation of this programme element, please do this in the following space.

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