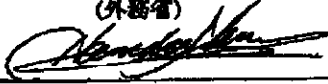


GM91897DK (平) P.03

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Thematic Report on Mountain Ecosystems

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

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Date of submission:	2 December 2002

4

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 draft was drawn out by the government consisting of nine Ministries involved with the Convention on Biological Diversity. And after taking procedure for public comments to the draft, this report was decided by the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee

Mountain Ecosystems

1. What is the relative priority your country accords to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?					
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. How does your country assess the resources available for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems, both domestic and international?					
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					d) Severely limiting
3. Has your country requested financial assistance from GEF for funding the activities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?					
a) no					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) yes, please provide details					

Assessment, Identification and Monitoring

4. Has your country undertaken any assessment of direct and underlying causes of degradation and loss of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, please specify major threats and their relative importance, as well as gaps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Changes in the shape of the terrain, construction of a new structure, overuse of mountain trail by climber and hiker, illegal picking of alpine plant
c) If yes, please specify the measures your country has taken to control the causes of loss of mountain biodiversity	Permissions based on the relevant laws
5. Has your country identified taxonomic needs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See the "further comments" column
b) yes, please specify	
6. Has your country made any assessment of the vulnerability or fragility of the mountains in your country?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, please specify the results and observed impacts on mountain biodiversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See the "further comments" column
7. Has your country made any assessment important for conservation of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels? (You may wish to use the Annex I of the	

Convention for categories of biodiversity important for conservation)	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, some assessments or monitoring undertaken (please specify)	X See the "further comments" column
c) yes, comprehensive assessments or monitoring programmes undertaken (please specify where results can be found, and opportunities and obstacles, if any)	

Regulatory and Information System and Action Plan

8. Has your country developed regulations, policies and programs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify sectors	X See the "further comments" column
9. Has your country applied the ecosystem approach (adopted at COP 5) in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide some cases or examples	X See the "further comments" column
10. Does your national biodiversity strategy and action plan cover mountain biological diversity?	
a) no, please specify why	
b) yes, please give some information on the strategy and plan, in particular on mountain biodiversity	X See the "further comments" column
11. Has your country disseminated the relevant information concerning management practices, plans and programmes for conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide details where information can be retrieved concerning management practices, plans and programmes	X Websites of relevant ministries etc.

Cooperation

12. Has your country undertaken any collaboration with other Parties for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems at the regional level or within a range of mountains?	
a) no	

GM91897DK (平) P. 07

b) yes, please specify the objectives of this collaboration and achievements	X See the "further comments" column
13. Has your country signed or ratified any regional or international treaty concerning mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify which treaty and provide as much as possible a report on the progress in the implementation of the treaties, including any major constraints in the implementation of the treaties	X Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

Relevant thematic areas and cross-cutting issues

14. Has your country taken account of mountain ecosystems while implementing thematic programmes of work on agricultural; inland waters; forest; and dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes -- but in only one or two thematic programmes of work	X
c) yes, included in all programmes of work	
d) if yes, please specify details	Taken into account in implementation of programmes of work on forest biological diversity
15. Has your country taken any measures to ensure that the tourism in mountains is sustainable?	
a) no, please specify why	
b) yes, but in early stages of development (please specify the reasons)	
c) in advanced stages of development (please specify the reasons)	X See the "further comments" column
d) relatively comprehensive measures being implemented (please specify the reasons)	
16. Has your country taken any measures to protect the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes, but in early stages of policy or programme development	
d) yes, in advanced stages of development	
e) some programmes being implemented	X
f) comprehensive programmes being implemented	
17. Has your country developed any programmes for the protection of natural and cultural heritages in the mountains?	

GM91897DK (平) P.08

8

a) no	
b) yes, please provide some information in the programs	X Japan has established the Shirakami-sanchi World Heritage Area Management Plan and the Yakushima World Heritage Area Management Plan in 1995
18. Has your country established protected areas in mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify the percentage of mountains under protected areas out of total mountain areas in your country	X Approx.20%
19. Has your country undertaken any activities to celebrate the International Year of Mountains and Eco-tourism?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify	X Some activities have undertaken by Japanese International Year of Mountain National Committee, Ministry of the Environment etc.

Case-studies

Please provide case-studies made by your country in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems.

Further comments

Q5 We have implemented the needs assessment in Asia region based on the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative which was endorsed by the decision of the 6th meeting of the Conference of the parties to CBD. But we have not been in the process of needs assessment for specific area yet.

Q6 Relevant studies and investigations such as the National Survey on the Natural Environment Based on the Nature Conservation Law have undertaken in order to assess ecosystems, including mountain ecosystems, in Japan. Based on the results of these studies The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan (revised in 2002) clearly specifies the vulnerability or fragility of the mountains, especially the high altitude area in Japan as following.

"Although many endemic and relic species exists, these region is usually fragile against the small impact made by human activities because of cold climates. In deed, there are many effects in these area in Japan caused by the impact of excessive foot traffic on the trails up mountains"

Q7

In National Forests, the Japanese government has established the "Protected Forests", which are classified into "Forest Biosphere Reserve", "Specific Animal Habitat Protected Forest" and "Forest Bio-genetic Resources Preservation Forest" etc. under the government' s mandate. These forests are appropriately managed for protection.

The Forest Tree Breeding Center has estimated genetic diversity in a species in natural forests by using "isoenzyme analysis." Species analyzed are forestry species such as Japanese black-pine (*Pinus Thundergii*), Japanese oak (*Quercus mongolica*) and Japanese beech (*Fagus crenata*) etc., and scarce species such as cherry-leaf Alder (*Alnus trabeculosa Hand-Mazz*) etc.

The Forest Tree Breeding Center has collected genetic resources including forestry species, Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) and Japanese cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*) from mountain ecosystems. It has analyzed their genetic attributes, such as growth rate and wood quality etc.

Q8 Japan has established the Nature Conservation Law, Natural Park Law, the Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Forest and Forestry basic Law, National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan, Forest and Forestry basic plan, etc.

Q9 The New National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan positions preventative and adaptive manner based on ecosystem approach as the basic manner for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Q10 Mountain ecosystem is very important for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in Japan because mountain region covers about three fourth of the national land. The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan points out the necessity of the reinforcement of conservation efforts, restoration of nature and works towards sustainable use as the directions for the future development of policy measures. With regard to mountain ecosystems, the Strategy points out the main theme such as the conservation of important areas and the connection of such areas in the ecological network, conservation and management of wild life (ex. works towards the conservation of raptors, invasive alien species issues) and specifies the relevant measures for these theme.

Q12 For example, Japan has conducted the following technical cooperation project through JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

- The Biodiversity Conservation Project in Indonesia

This project aims at conservation of biodiversity in Indonesia through establishment of system for information service and general survey on the environment, and technology transfer on the management plans of national parks.

- Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation Program in Sabah

This project aims at Natural Park management, conservation of natural habitat in Sabah that has great biodiversity richness and covers the Mt. Kinabalu, the highest mountain in South-East Asia

Q15 Some measures have been done based on relevant laws such as the Natural Parks Law. This year, the Natural Parks Law was revised in order to regulate capture of wild animals and to enforce the "Visitor Control Area" system, which regulate the number of visitors and the length of their stay in the area. This new policy will be enforced next year.