Second National Report

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

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

The preparation of the Second National Report on Bio-diversity consisted of the following stages:

1. The preparation of the work plan on how to write the report is based on the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the decisions issued from the meetings of the involved parties, directives given by the Secretariat of the Convention, the methodology of writing reports and the contents of the questionnaire results.

2. The necessary data which was needed for preparation of this report was collected from all types of information sources such as legal and Government policies on protection, sustainable use and restoration of bio-diversity, State of Environment Report, First National Report on Biological Diversity in Mongolia, international and national project reports, research work and relevant publications.

3. The questionnaires given by the Secretariat of the Convention were filled in by the members of the National Committee on Implementation of Convention on Biodiversity (NCICBD), policy-makers of the Ministry for Nature and Environment (MNE), officials from the Protected Area Administrations, relevant experts, researchers, scientists, members of the National Commission on Protection of Rare Animals, representatives from non-governmental organizations, representatives of local authorities and local communities.

4. The results of the questionnaires filled in by the different stakeholders were discussed and analyzed.

5. The draft of the Second National Report on the Biological Diversity of Mongolia was prepared based on analysis of the questionnaire results and the data collected.

6. The advice and opinions of the members of the NCICBD were incorporated into the draft of the report and then the final version was written.

7. The Second National Report on the Biological Diversity of Mongolia was discussed and approved at a meeting of the NCICBD.

The MNE and the NCICBD supervised and monitored the production of this report.

We express our deep gratitude to the officials of the Ministry for Nature and Environment, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, researchers from the Academy of Science's institutes of Biology, Botany, Geo-ecology and Bio-technology as well as international organizations such the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP and the World Bank for providing support and assistance in writing this national report.

Following publications were referenced during the compilation of this report:

1. Government of Mongolia, *Medium-term economic and social development strategy* 1999-2002. Ulaanbaatar, 1999

2. Ministry for Nature and Environment, *National Environmental Action Plan,* Ulaanbaatar, 1998

3. Government of Mongolia, *Mongolian action Plan for 21st Century*, Ulaanbaatar, 1998

4. Ministry for Nature and Environment, National Committee to Combat Desertification *National Plan of Action to Combating Desertification in Mongolia*, Ulaanbaatar,1997

5. Ministry for Nature and Environment, National Committee to Combat Desertification
National Report on UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Ulaanbaatar, 2000

6. Ministry for Nature and Environment, *Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan for Mongolia,* Ulaanbaatar, 1996

7. Ministry for Nature and Environment, *Biological Diversity of Mongolia, First National Report on Biological Diversity*, Ulaanbaatar, 1998

8. UNOPS/UNDP/GEF, *Independent Evaluation Report of Mongolian Biodiversity Project*, Ulaanbaatar, 1996

9. James R. Wingard, *Compendium of Environmental Law and Practice in Mongolia*, Ulaanbaatar, 2001

10. Hijaba Ykhanbai, *Economics of Environment and Sustainable Development*, Ulaanbaatar, 2001

11. Ministry for Nature and Environment, UNDP, *Environmental Public Awareness Handbook (Case studies and lessons learned in Mongolia)*

12. Government of Mongolia, UNDP, *Human Development Report of Mongolia - 2000,*Ulaanbaatar, 2000

13. National Agency for Meteorology and Hydrology and Environmental Monitoring *Mongolia's Initial National Communication,* Ulaanbaatar, 2001

14. Ch. Avdai, *Mongolian Science and Technology Policy and its implementation,* Ulaanbaatar, 2001

15. Ministry for Nature and Environment *Handbook on International Convention*, Ulaanbaatar, 1998

16. Proceedings of International Workshop on Wetland Conservation in Mongolia and North-East Asia, Ulaanbaatar, 1998

17. Ministry for Nature and Environment, UNEP/ EAP-AP, *"Draft review" Seminar on State of the Environment Report, Mongolia.* Ulaanbaatar, 2001

18. Ministry for Nature and Environment, *State of the Environment of Mongolia in 2000*, Ulaanbaatar, 2001

19. Ministry of Food and Agriculture, *Handbook on laws related to agriculture development*, Ulaanbaatar, 2000

20. Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity, *Handbook of the Convention on Biological Diversity*, 2001

21. UNDP/ GEF- Tumen River Strategic Action Program, Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, Ulaanbaatar, 2002

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

Mongolia is in a transition period from a centrally planned to a market oriented economy, because of this the national financial resources are limited for implementing activities on the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use.

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

Marine and coastal biological diversity

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

Agricultural biological diversity

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

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

Forest biological diversity

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

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

The Government recognises that the conservation and sustainable use of the water resources and wetland ecosystems are of primary importance to the long-term development of the economy.

The Law on Water, which was enacted in 1995, forms an important basis for the management of the nations water resources. The Mongolian Government approved the National Water Policy Program in 1999, and it defines the strategic objectives on water conservation and its sustainable use.

Some of Mongolia's wetland ecosystems were registered in 1999 under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Currently wetlands of the Mongol Daguur Protected Area, and the lakes Ogiin Nuur, Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur, Orog Nuur, Boon Tsagaan Nuur, Adgiin Tsagaan Nuur and Tsaatsiin Tsagaan Nuur and Har Us Nuur are included on the list. Management plans have been written for some of these sites.

Agricultural development is a major cause of the loss of biological diversity and so it is included in the National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (NBCAP) as a crucial component. The Government of Mongolia pays special importance to livestock and agricultural production, and improvement of the food supply to its people. A legal framework and several national programs have been developed to conserve agricultural biodiversity.

Within the framework of the agricultural development policy, goals such as increasing the production of cultivated food and fodder plants, cultivation of drought-resistant plants and the renovation of agricultural technology have been put forward. However, the development of agricultural biodiversity conservation still remains at a medium level of implementation due to insufficient financial and technical resources.

Forests play a vital ecological role by creating favorable climatic conditions, serving as a habitat for a variety of flora and fauna, regulating natural water resources and preventing soil erosion. The Government of Mongolia implemented a national program in 1998 for the protection and proper use of forest reserves. In 2001 the program was renewed. One objective is to reforest 10 thousand hectares of land annually. A total of 9030 hectares were reforested in 2000.

A legal foundation for forest protection was created through the establishment of the "Law on Forests" in 1995 and the law on "Protection from Forest and Steppe Fires" in 1996. Furthermore, the enforcement of the law on "Fees on the Harvest of Timber and

Fuel wood”(1995) strengthened the implementation of these two laws by creating an economic incentive for the conservation of forest resources. According to this law, no less than 70% of income from timber harvesting will be allocated for the protection and restoration of forests, as well as for the prevention of forest fires and for controlling insect pests. In 1995 new forestry policy was adopted through Government resolution No 125 on use of forest land by contract. The National Forestry Policy was approved in 1998 and focuses on the maintenance of the ecological balance and prevention of desertification and deforestation. Also, through the National Forestry Policy a National Forest Master Plan has been developed.

A joint project between the Mongolian Government and UNDP known as “The Management of Forest Restoration and Natural Disaster Reduction” is concerned with developing a national program to reduce the danger of natural disasters. As part of this Project 2.4 million seedlings have been used to reforest 350 Ha of burnt land in Selenge and Arkhangai provinces.

As part of a project “Studies of Forest Reserves”, Japanese and Mongolian forest experts have carried out a remote sensing study using Landsat data covering 4,028 million Ha in Selenge province.

41.3% of the total territory of Mongolia belongs to the Gobi Desert Zone. 84.7% is at an elevation of above 1000 meters and 4.6% of its ecosystems are dominated by light chestnut and desert grey sandy soils. The protection of drylands and combating desertification are priority areas of Government Policy.

In 1996 Mongolia ratified the Convention of Combating Desertification. The government approved a National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and its implementation has begun. The main policy direction of this plan is to give more emphasis to finding root causes of desertification, rather than mitigating ecosystem degradation and consequences of desertification. The Plan clearly sets short and long term objectives such as strengthening national capacity to combat desertification, creating suitable conditions for sustainable use of land resources and conservation, introducing adequate pasture management, increasing public awareness and enhancing theoretical and applied scientific study. Several projects were implemented in order to carry out practical activities to combat desertification; including preventing sand free movement and rehabilitating degraded areas. The GTZ funded “Integrated management to combat desertification” project is promoting community based natural resource conservation and sustainable

use approaches, and is producing some promising results.

Based on land reform policies, several land related laws such as Law on Land, Law on Land Ownership, Law on Land Fee, Law on Cadastral Mapping and Land Cadastre have been adopted which are important for the creation of the legal mechanism for land management in the dry zone. However, implementing all the programs related to land management is slow due to the financial capacity being weak at national level and it will be necessary to seek more assistance from developed countries and other international communities.

Article 5 Cooperation

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

The Government of Mongolia places great importance on and is active in bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental cooperation in environmental protection, especially in the field of biological diversity. In 1995, the Government of Mongolia adopted the National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan and it was developed according to international principles and with support of the UNDP and the GEF.

Since 1993, Mongolia's international cooperation on environmental issues has reached a high level; it has been jointly implementing projects with international organizations like GEF, UNDP, UNEP and WWF, and countries such as Germany, the Netherlands, Japan and the USA. As a developing country, Mongolia is unable to provide sufficient funding from the state budget required for the efficient conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Therefore, it is necessary to seek further funding from international sources.

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

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

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

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

15. Has your country developed management practices for transboundary-protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

Decision V/21. Co-operation with other bodies

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Government of Mongolia has carried out effective international cooperation in the field of biological conservation and sustainable utilization and is actively participating in regional and sub-regional actions.

Active participation in the implementation and negotiation of relevant international conventions

Within the framework of its international cooperation on the protection of environmental and natural resources, Mongolia is a signatory to five international conventions. These are the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1993, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in 1996, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in 1996, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat in 1997 and the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals in 1999. Various activities

have been conducted aimed at implementing the obligations of these Conventions.

At present, Mongolia is preparing to join the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Multilateral cooperation

At present 7 inter-governmental agreements, which within them include 30 bilateral cooperation agreements, with foreign countries were established between 1990 and 2000. These agreements serve as vitally important consensus documents that have great significance for the protection of the biological diversity of the whole territory of the country, especially in border areas.

With a view to fostering regional cooperation and cooperation with neighboring countries, provisions on the joint proper use of biological reserves have been incorporated in several agreements such as “Cooperation agreement in the environmental sector between the Governments of Mongolia and the People’s Republic of China” (1991), “Cooperation agreement in the environmental sector between the Governments of Mongolia and Kyrgizstan” (1993), “Cooperation agreement in the environmental sector between the Governments of Mongolia and Russian Federation” (1994), “Mongolia-China Inter-Governmental Agreement on Protection of Transboundary Waters” (1994) and the “Mongolia-Russia Inter-Governmental Agreement on Protection of Transboundary Waters” (1995).

Implementation of Joint Projects on Biodiversity Conservation

In 1994, a trilateral agreement on establishing a joint protected area between Mongolia, China and Russia was concluded by the Ministry for Nature and Environment of Mongolia, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Reserves of the Russian Federation and the Agency for Environmental protection of the Peoples Republic of China. According to the agreement, the parties agreed to protect biological diversity in the border areas of the three countries, especially migratory birds, and to conduct joint research works and monitoring. The joint protected area is composed of Mongol Daghuur Protected Area in Dornod province in Mongolia, Daghuur Protected Area in Chita province in Russia, and Dalai Lake Protected Area of Inner Mongolia in China.

The Memorandum of Understanding on the protection of the Wild Camel (Camelus bactrianus ferus) was signed by the Ministry of Nature and Environment and Agency for Environmental Protection of Peoples Republic of China.

In June 2001, Mongolia arranged a national forum on Combating Desertification and Promoting the “Synergistic Implementation of Inter Linked Multilaterial Environmental Conventions”, with the financial support from the Secretariat of Desertification Combat. The forum addressed the important environmental issues effecting Mongolia, defined ways and possibilities of solving them within the framework of international conventions and proposed valuable recommendations and advice.

It participates actively in the Altai Sayan regional project funded by WWF, a joint project between the Russian Federation, the People’s Republic of China and Kazakhstan, and in the TumenNet River Project which is being carried out by five North Asian countries.

It can occur that, due to limited financial resources, obligations undertaken under agreements cannot be fulfilled. There is therefore a need to coordinate and harmonize the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level with the related UN and other international conventions and agreements. The above conventions are aimed at the conservation of complementary and interdependent parts of ecosystems, so the need to foster cooperation between conventions arises as an urgent issue. National coordinators should especially jointly plan and harmonize their works and cooperate and exchange information.

The GEF has provided a 7 million USD grant for implementing biological diversity projects like the Eastern Mongolian Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood Options Project.

With assistance from other countries and international organizations activities on promoting conservation and sustainable use for wetlands biodiversity, protection of rare animal and plant species, special protected areas management, strengthening local capacity and public educational training were carried out.

With financial assistance from the Government of Germany through GTZ, a 12-year project on Nature Conservation and Buffer Zone Development has been implemented.

The New Zealand Official Development Assistance Programme is funding a Poverty Alleviation and Park Management project in the Altai Tavan Bogd National Park in Bayan Olgii province. From 2001, the “Strengthening Capacity Building in Prevention from Forest Fire” project has been implemented with collaboration of the UN FAO.

Article 6 General measures for conservation and sustainable use

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Mongolia is situated at the crossroads of South Siberia and Central Asia, far from open oceans, and its ecosystems have a limited capacity to rehabilitate themselves naturally. It is especially vulnerable to the negative effects of human activities due to its landlocked position and ultra-continental climate. Considering the issue of conservation and sustainable use of biological species as an integral part of the Sustainable Development Policy of the State, the Mongolian Government has adopted and implemented a number of strategic documents in this respect. The Government has also implemented measures to enforce respective acts and laws on conservation of biological diversity. However, due to financial constraints, caused by the economic transition to a market economy, the implementation of these laws and regulations is believed to be unsatisfactory.

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

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

a) some articles only	
b) most articles	X
c) all articles	

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

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

24. Is action being taken to exchange information and share experience on the national action planning process with other Contracting Parties?	
a) little or no action	
b) sharing of strategies, plans and/or case-studies	
c) regional meetings	X
25. Do all of your country's strategies and action plans include an international cooperation component?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
26. Are your country's strategies and action plans coordinated with those of neighbouring countries?	
a) no	
b) bilateral/multilateral discussions under way	X
c) coordinated in some areas/themes	
d) fully coordinated	
e) not applicable	
27. Has your country set measurable targets within its strategies and action plans?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	X
If a developing country Party or a Party with economy in transition 28. Has your country received support from the financial mechanism for the preparation of its national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, which was the Implementing Agency (UNDP/UNEP/World Bank)?	UNDP

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Mongolia has formulated and implemented a series of environmental laws, regulations, plans and programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Laws and regulations on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

The Constitution declares that “every citizen has the right to live in a healthy, secure environment and has the right to be protected from enivornmental pollution and natural destruction”.

Over the past 5 years Mongolia’s parliament has passed several biodiversity related laws, such as the Law on “Environmental Protection”, Law on “Natural Plants”, Law on “Natural Plants Use Fees”, Law on “Hunting” and Law on “Hunting Permission and Payment” for ensuring the protection of biological resources and their sustainable utilization.

The main goal of these biodiversity laws and regulations is the restoration and conservation of biological diversity and the creation of safe and healthy conditions in which to live.

Action plans for protection of biological diversity

The Ministry for Nature and Envrironment is the lead goverment agency for the Biodiversity Action Plan. The Action Plan is funded by the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Development Program and the detailed planning, including preparation of the action plan outline and schedule, were completed in 1995. Diverse groups have participated in the Biodiversity Action Plan preparation, from the Parliament, local Government, National Development Board, National Academy of Science, and Minstries for Nature and Environment, Infrastructure Development, Labor and Population Policy, Food and Agriculture, Education and Science, Energy and Geology and Mining, universities, NGO’s, private businesses and foreign consultants.

This Biodiversity Action Plan critically examines the status of biodiversity in Mongolia, the threats to the country’s biodiversity, and sets down the aims by which to implement long-

term objectives on conservation and the restoration and proper use of biological resources of the country. In order to reach the goal, we set up 221 substantial objectives and 85 actions. In addition, the plan evaluates legal, financial, and institutional measures to ensure the implementation of the specific actions.

The National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan was adopted by the Resolution #169 of the Government of Mongolia in 1996. In order to ensure sustainable development of the country, this Program aims to achieve the following: eliminate the possible threats to the biodiversity of Mongolia; rehabilitate degraded areas; create the right conditions for ecosystem management, which will secure protection and proper use of flora and fauna, cooperate effectively with foreign countries; secure more public participation in developing and securing activities aimed at broadening and protecting areas of special protection.

The proposed actions are also important for biodiversity conservation in Central Asia, and will have a positive impact on global biodiversity conservation.

Strategies on conservation of biodiversity are reflected in documents such as “Ecological part of Mongolian National Security Concepts” (1994), “Environmental Part of Mongolian Development Concepts” (1995), “State Policy on Environment” (1997), “National Program on Special Protected Areas” (1998), “Action Plan of the Government for 2001-2004”. However, there are problems with enacting biodiversity conservation activities in the programs and plans of other sectors that use natural resources. This means that the implementation of Provision B of Article 6 is unsatisfactory.

National Committees for each of the International Conventions have been set up to ensure their implementation. The National Project Coordinators are working closely together in order to elaborate plans and ensure exchange of information, and avoid duplication. As the National Coordinators offices are concentrated in the Ministry for Nature and Environment, it is easy for them to collaborate on different matters. It is now necessary to intensify international cooperation in order to implement Decisions of the Convention.

Article 7 Identification and monitoring

30. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
31. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
The Mongolian Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan highlights the need for establishing wildlife inventories and monitoring them. There are laws in place that make this a legal responsibility of Central Government and the provinces. At present there are insufficient funds available to fully achieve this objective.					

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

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

Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment

41. Has your country identified national indicators of biodiversity?	
a) no	X
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	

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

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

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

a) no	X
b) providing training	
c) providing direct support	
d) sharing experience	
e) other (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Assessment and monitoring of Mongolian bio-diversity is a key goal of the National Program of the Mongolian Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan. Issues on constant observation, control and analyzing of ecosystem components and providing a database on nature have been legalized in the law on "Environmental Protection", law on "Wildlife", law on " Natural Plants", law on "Environmental Impact Assessment" and the law on "Protected Areas". With financial support from the State budget, the assessment of resources and an inventory program were implemented at rare and endangered species level. For example, a programme was implemented to assess the status of some animals which are recorded in the Red Book, such as wild mountain sheep (Ovis ammon), wild goat (Capra siberica), Gobi bear (Ursus arctos gobiensis), snow leopard (Uncia uncia), Przewalski's Horse (Equus przewalski) and the Bactrian camel (Camelus bactrianus ferus.

Also at the national level an inventory of falcon and deer was carried out. With the support of foreign donors, the Protected Area Administration together with scientific institutions has organized research, study and monitoring activities in Protected Areas. For example under the Eastern Steppe Biodiversity Project fifteen research projects were implemented to study the ecology and biology of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and the impact of pastoral monitoring methodologies and climate changes on biological diversity. The Information and Computer Center of the Ministry for Nature and Environment is using software and GIS equipment for processing and analyzing biodiversity data. For instance, maps based on the NOAA satellite data on forest and steppe fires, as well as snow and grass cover, have been produced. However, common problems such as unsatisfactory information on biological resources, lack of developed and integrated methodologies of monitoring and lack of qualified professionals still exist.

Since 1992, under the Reintroduction of the Przewalski's Horse Project with the financial support of the Dutch Government, a scientific based programme of nature resource monitoring in the Hustain Nuruu National Park has been successfully implemented.

Furthermore, we need to introduce up-to-date biodiversity monitoring techniques and technology, enhance the economic base, develop a control-analyzing programme, identify integrated methodologies, standards and norms and train specialists in this area.

In order to fulfill the Convention's obligations on identification and monitoring Mongolia must co-operate with and receive financial support from the international community and other organizations.

Actions needed to be carried out

- Set up comprehensive monitoring and research plans and programs at the national level.
- Extend and automate the program of meteorological stations, carry out observation and surveys, including on the overall climatic system, and studies of land resources, erosion and degradation, vegetation cover, plant animal diseases, insect infestations, surface and underground water
- Create a system for the biological and chemical monitoring of air, water and soil, conduct monitoring of agro chemistry, hydrobiology and the distribution of germs on cellular level
- Create a reliable system of monitoring natural disasters.
- Prevent biological disasters, strengthen system of quarantine on plants and food, conduct monitoring of diseases and harmful insects
- Increase regional cooperation in field of monitoring and of biological diversity.

Decisions on Taxonomy

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

50. Has your country carried out a national taxonomic needs assessment, and/or held workshops to determine national taxonomic priorities?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of assessment	
c) advanced stages of assessment	
d) assessment completed	
51. Has your country developed a national taxonomic action plan?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) action plan in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
52. Is your country making available appropriate resources to enhance the availability of taxonomic information?	
a) no	X
b) yes, but this does not cover all known needs adequately	
c) yes, covering all known needs	
53. Is your country encouraging bilateral and multilateral training and employment opportunities for taxonomists, particularly those dealing with poorly known organisms?	
a) no	
b) some opportunities	X
c) significant opportunities	
54. Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections?	
a) no	
b) some investment	X
c) significant investment	
55. Is your country encouraging partnerships between taxonomic institutions in developed and developing countries?	
a) no	
b) yes – stated policy	X
c) yes – systematic national programme	
56. Has your country adopted any international agreed levels of collection housing?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) being implemented by some collections	
d) being implemented by all major collections	

57. Has your country provided training programmes in taxonomy?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	
58. Has your country reported on measures adopted to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy, to designate national reference centres, and to make information housed in collections available to countries of origin?	
a) no	X
b) yes – in the previous national report	
c) yes – via the clearing-house mechanism	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
59. Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes for some institutions	X
d) yes for all major institutions	
60. Has your country assisted taxonomic institutions to establish consortia to conduct regional projects?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes – limited extent	
d) yes – significant extent	
61. Has your country given special attention to international funding of fellowships for specialist training abroad or for attracting international experts to national or regional courses?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
62. Has your country provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

As a result of a comprehensive exploration of Mongolia's flora and fauna, the majority of species inhabiting the various ecosystems of Mongolia have been described. As for microorganisms, lower plants and soil fauna, most of these species have not been discovered and taxonomically identified. Among the research institutes of Mongolia, most taxonomic studies have been carried out at the Institutes of Biology and Botany of Mongolian Academy of Sciences. At present they maintain and preserve in their collections and herbariums more than 100,000 plants, 5,000 mammals, 10,000 birds, 2,000 fish and 50,000 insects and about 800 cultures of microorganisms collected from different ecosystems of the country. These collections include rare specimens of animals and plants of Central Asia and Mongolia and many holotypes and paratypes of insects. However, due to inadequate preservation conditions, absence of premises equipped with appropriate storage facilities and chemicals required, most of them are in a poor state. These research institutes should be identified as national focal points for taxonomy.

Since 1990, due to the transition period to the free-market economy and the difficult economic situation, the Government of Mongolia has not been able to provide sufficient financial support to research institutions to carry out the taxonomic studies to the required modern level. Hence, laboratory facilities and the level of knowledge of taxonomists and technicians dealing with the identification of living organisms, their maintenance and the preservation of collections and herbariums are in an inadequate condition. They need upgrading and renovating.

As for the level of taxonomic studies, they are mostly based on anatomy and morphology. There are no facilities or sophisticated techniques for carrying out studies at the cell, tissue and molecular levels. For instance, there is no electron microscope in any research institute of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. Besides, there is a shortage of highly-qualified taxonomists who can carry out modern taxonomic studies.

In spite of the wide spread provision of INTERNET services in Mongolia, research institutes of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences where the majority of taxonomic works are carried out don't have a sufficient number of computers and financial support to use INTERNET information. Regarding expertise, almost all of them are based on classic old methods. Due to a shortage of financial support, there is no possibility to send specialists to international training courses and invite experienced foreign taxonomists to make visits or send specimens for chemical and molecular analyses to laboratories of developed countries.

As it can be seen from the above, there is an urgent need for capacity building in Mongolia to solve the problems of inadequate taxonomic services. In this case the assistance (both financial and in training) derived from the financial mechanisms of the CBD and Global Taxonomy Initiative and international, regional cooperation and research grants for scientists, will play a crucial role in the development of taxonomy and making a reliable inventory of the unique biodiversity of Mongolia.

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

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

In situ conservation is the most effective method for achieving the conservation of biological resources. Mongolia places great importance on *in situ* conservation because the protection of precious landscapes, wildlife and other biological diversity has enormous importance. They contribute to the ecological balance of Mongolia, support important ecological processes and provide a homeland for numerous threatened and endangered animal and plant species that represent different ecosystems. It also helps us to preserve our rich natural heritage and unspoilt habitats for the next generation.

Mongolia has taken certain steps to establish a system of Protected Areas and ensure their management recognizes the great importance of Protected Areas which balance the virginity of nature, support the main ecological processes, represent rare and endemic species and preserve and protect historical and cultural property. Scientists consider that a country which has nature, climate and territory features like Mongolia has to take under the protection no less than 30% of its territory, and by carrying out economic activity effectively it can ensure its ecological balance. Although the budget for this from the State is increasing from year to year it is insufficient to protect effectively the biological diversity in conformity with its environment.

72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?	
a) system under development	
b) national review of protected areas coverage available	
c) national protected area systems plan in place	
d) relatively complete system in place	X

73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	
b) no, under development	
c) yes	X
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	

74. Does your country regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use (8c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Mongolia has prepared and is implementing measures for *in situ* conservation of its biological diversity.

Mongolia has defined its strategy for *in-situ* biodiversity conservation, protection of rare and vanishing species and plants, and created a strong legal framework.

Policy and Legal Framework

Legal documents and plans of action, including the law on “Environmental Protection”, law on “Special Protected Areas”, law on ‘Buffer Zones of Protected Areas”, law on “ Wildlife”, law on “Protection of Plants”, National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan and National Program on Protected Areas have been approved by the Parliament and the Government of Mongolia. Legal acts and regulations related to the conservation of flora and fauna have been introduced and enforced. The List of Rare Plants was adopted by the Decree # 153 of the Minister of the Environment in 1995, List of Widespread Plants was adopted by the Decree #138 of the same Minister in 1995, List of Chemicals used against plant diseases, rodents and insects was adopted by the Decree #108/A/252 of the Minister of the Environment and Health in 1997, Regime of Areas of Protection and their borderlines were approved by the Governments Resolution #169 in 1995. In accordance with “Regulation on Protection of Areas by Local Authorities” adopted by the Decree # 7 of the Minister of the Environment in 2000, a number of measures have been taken to create a network of Areas of Special Protection in the provinces.

Areas of Special Protection

At present, 50 areas with a total territory of 20.6 million hectares in 127 soums (counties) of 19 provinces comprise the network of Areas of Special Protection of Mongolia. This means that 13.2% of the total territory of the country is under state protection. Also 3.0 million hectares of territory in 22 provinces is protected under the control of local authorities.

There are 12 Strictly Protected Areas, which make up 50.4% of the total protected area, 16 National Parks, which make up 40.3%, 16 Nature Reserves, which make up 8.9% and 6 Natural Monuments 0.4%. Efforts aimed at including some areas, which have direct impact on the eco-balance of the global biosphere into the list of Worlds Biosphere Reserves and the World Heritage sites have been made together with measures to elaborate relative documents and secure their implementation. For example, the Gobi Strictly Protected Area, The Bogd Uul Strictly Protected Ares, Uvs Nuur Strictly Protected Area and Khustai National Park are already on the list of World Biosphere Reserves. There are plans to include into the above list the following areas: Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park, Area “A” of the Great Gobi Strictly Protected Area, Hovsgol Lake National Park (including the area inhabited by the Tsaten Reindeer indigenous group) Altai Tavan Bogd National Park and the Ancient Ritual Mountain Areas such as Otgontegri and Burkhan Khaldun.

The Appendix of the Ramsar Convention covers the following areas of Mongolia: Mongol Daghuur National Park (1997), the basins of Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake, Uguu Lake and Lakes of the Gobi Desert(1998), Khar Us Lake National Park and Airag Lake (1999). Mongol Daguur National Park was enlisted into the North East Asian International Crane Conservation Network in 1997. Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake and Ugii Lake were enlisted into the North East Asian International Goose and Duck Conservation Network in 1999.

The total territory of the protected area increased by 25.8%, from 16.3 million Ha in 1996, to 20.5 million Ha in 2002 and now covers 13.1 percent of the country's territory. Total territory of areas protected by local authorities has increased by 1 million Ha in the last 4 years. Respective

authorities responsible for the protection of these areas prepare their management plans and submit them to the Ministry of Nature and Environment. These plans provide “step-by-step” measures as to how to effectively use and preserve the natural resources of the area, which are undertaken in conformity with regional sustainable development plans.

Protection of endangered species

The Red Book of Mongolia, published in 1997, indicates that there are two categories of endangered species in Mongolia: rare and endangered species. This includes 30 mammal species. Endangered animals, which are listed in the Red Book include the Bactrian Camel, Gobi Bear, Przewalski's Horse, Saiga Antelope), Shiber and Murun Elk, Wild Boar and the Asian Beaver; 70 percent of the areas in which Snow leopard, Wild Ass, River Otter, Musk Deer, Ibex and Wild Sheep live are now under state protection. The Red Book contains a list of 30 species of endangered birds. Inclusion of some parts of Hovsgol Lake, Uvs Lake, Khar Us Lake, Khorgon, Terkhiin Tsagaan, Dayan lakes and rivers gives the positive effect of conserving areas where these birds live. 6 rare fish species are listed in the Red Book of Mongolia. With Hovsgol, Uvs, Terkhiin Tsagaan, Dayan, Khoton and Khar Us lakes being protected by the state, a favorable environment has been secured for conservation and sustainable use of fish.

Moreover, the use of 133 species of endangered plants has been legally abolished, as 128 species of higher and lower plants were registered in the Red Book, providing sound conditions for their natural rehabilitation. 40 percent of the total area for growing over 400 species of endangered plants has been taken under state protection. A program of transplantation and acclimatization works for 20 species has been done.

Cooperation in Protected Areas

International cooperation in the field of Protected Areas management is expanding every year. Mongolia has been implementing several projects in its Protected Areas collaborating with foreign countries and international organizations.

Mongolia has been implementing, since 1997, a 7 year Eastern Mongolian Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood Options Project, with the financial support of organizations such as UNDP and GEF. As the East Mongolian ecosystem is included in the list of Worlds 200 eco-regions (the Daurian Steppe zone) this project aims to build a strong management capacity, develop sound planning systems, train professional staff and raise public awareness of all the issues.

Large projects are being successfully implemented together with other countries in fields such as “Nature Conservation and Bufferzone Development” funded by GTZ. The objective of the project is to establish a natural resource database of specially protected areas and their bufferzones, and improve the management of conservation and sustainable utilization. At present a total of 15 small projects have been developed and implemented. Under the assistance of the Dutch Government “Hustain Nuruu- Natural Resource Project” and “Improvement of Management of Khovsgul National Park” with financial assistance from USAID and WWF has been focusing its activity on the area of the Altai Sayan mountain range, which has been included in the network of 200 eco-regions of the world. It has been conducting research to include more areas into the protected areas network, studying rare wildlife species and financing nature conservation activities. There are further plans for launching long-term projects with international organizations.

With financial support of UNOPS, UNDP and GEF Mongolia is implementing the TumenNet River Project in conjunction with 4 other North East Asian countries (China, DPR Korea, RO Korea and the Russian Federation). The main project

objective is to conserve transboundary biological diversity and international water conservation. The TumenNet project in Mongolia is working in 3 provinces in the east of the country (Khentii, Sukhbaatar and Dornod).

Between 1997 and 2000 GTZ funded an "Integrated Fire Management Project in the Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area". It aimed to safeguard the forest ecosystem through the prevention and suppression of wildfires.

Improving *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity

Despite considerable achievements in setting up the network of Protected Areas and creating a strong legal framework, Mongolia still needs to do more in some management areas:

- Strengthening the security authorities of Protected Areas with regard to their economic and personnel policy
- Ensuring their coordinated management planning with regional development planning
- Securing the enforcement of laws and regulations related to the Protected Areas
- Improving biodiversity monitoring activities and scientific research in these areas
- Raising public awareness and involving local communities in the management of Protected Areas
- Taking practical measures to rehabilitate degraded environments
- Strengthening international cooperation in protected area management, and seeking more technical and financial assistance from international organisations.

Article 8h Alien species

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
Mongolia is rich in biological resources that are representative of its different natural zones. The Mongolian fauna and flora includes many species which are common in the Siberian Taiga, European Forest or West Asian and Turanian deserts. However there are also species that are endemic to the steppe and deserts of Central and East Asia, and are common in Mongolia. Some alien species can be beneficial to the Mongolian economy but some may also result in damage to its biodiversity and great losses to its economy. Therefore, the potential impact of introducing alien species is extensive. As the market economy develops in Mongolia there are more possibilities for alien species introductions. The Mongolian Government places great importance on prevention, control and eradication of any alien species threatening its ecosystems.

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

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

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

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

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

98. Is your country giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
99. Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
100. Has your country developed effective education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) some initiatives	X
c) many initiatives	
101. Is your country making available the information which it holds on alien species through the CHM?	
a) no	
b) some information	X
c) all available information	
d) information available through other channels (please specify)	
102. Is your country providing support to enable the Global Invasive Species Programme to fulfil the tasks outlined in the decision and its annexes?	
a) no	
b) limited support	X
c) substantial support	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Mongolian parliament and responsible Ministries have adopted some fundamental laws and regulations to try to prevent introduction of alien species.

Laws and regulations related to the prevention and control of alien species

Laws and regulations have been adopted on the import and export of alien species across the country's borders. The Parliament of Mongolia passed the law on "Protection of Plants" (1993), the law on "Food provisions" (1993), the law on "Protecting Livestock Gene Pools and Health" (2001), the law on "Licenses and special permissions" (2001). Also, by resolution of the Minister of Food and Agriculture, the regulation on "Quality monitoring of imported and exported goods and products" and temporary regulation on "Quarantine for the importing of domesticated and wild animals, all kinds of plants and their raw materials" (2001) were passed.

The purpose of the first regulation is to ensure the food security of Mongolia by preventing or limiting the spread of the possible adverse impacts on human and livestock health from plant and livestock diseases and harmful insects that might enter the country through international trade.

The purpose of the second regulation is to enable the Government to enforce

strict quarantine regulations in the event of an outbreak of a plant or animal disease.

The Ministry has produced the following list of harmful species. **Plant disease**: Sinchitrium endobioti-cum, tilletia pancicii Bud et Ran, corinebacterium michi-ganesis, **Insects**: Grapholitha molesta Busck, leptinotarsa decemlineata Say, callosobruchus maculates Fabr, ephestia kuhniella Zell. **Weeds**: amborosia, Cenchrus tribuloides Benth, Striga Sp.Sp, and Aveng fatua,L.

As a member of the OIC, Mongolia has prepared a list of international animal deseases that occur in the country. For example, foot and mouth, vesicular stomatities, rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and classical swine fewer. Of the above diseases, foot and mouth has had a huge effect on the national economy. For example, in 2001 an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in several provinces caused a loss of 1.3 billion MNT. These resources were spent on providing anti virus vaccines for livestock and expenses incurred in reducing the spread of the disease. Besides the economic loss, there is an uncalculable loss to the livelihood of the local herders. Their livestock may be destroyed and they will then have no means of generating income.

Research throughout country on the registration and assessment of alien species has not been completed, and it is therefore difficult to monitor the alien species. Especially lacking is information about microorganisms, harmful insects and rodents. The transfer and penetration of many kinds of diseases from these alien species has a negative impact on countries development. Even though quarantine units at the country’s border are monitoring these kinds of alien species, its capacity is weak and needs improvement in laboratories and other necessary resources.
The harsh climatic conditions and negative human impacts cause favourable conditions for insects to mass-multiply and destroy resources, which can consequently reduce the natural regeneration ability of many ecosystems.
There are more than 300 species of pest insects in our country. Of these, including 14 genera, 35 families and 40 orders of forest pest insects are distributed in more than 400 thousand ha of forest. Forest pest insects can increase in masses and damage trees very quickly in dry years, with insufficient moisture (precipitation). In 2000, research into forest pest insects and forest diseases was organized in 300 thousand ha of forested area by the Ministry of Nature and Environment, according to the provisions of forest. The study results showed the following species of foliage and needle pest insects: Erinnis jacobsoni (Errannis Jacobsoni Diak), Siberian Silkworn(Dendrolimus sibiricus TSchw), Gypsy moth (Ocneria dispar L), Schlehen spinner (Orgyia antiqua L), Pappel Spinner (Stilpnotia salicis L), Larch Bud Moth (Zeiraphera diniana Gn). These species were distributed in the forest, with a 40-50% increase in numbers, arising in outbreak and damage to the forest. Also pest insects have been impacting negatively in agriculture production. However, over the last 30 years, 1 billion MNT were spent on the control of pest insects and rodents from the central budget, although results for the controlling mechanisms are not so good. Scientific institutes are now studying and experimenting for environmentally friendly methods of pest control.

Actions needed to be taken

- Improve the legislation system to intensify management on alien invasive

species and develop a national strategy and methodolgy.

- Improve and strengthen inspection laboratories for investigating, monitoring and reducing the potential risks.
- Improve public awareness on alien species and give a broad understanding through the media.
- Strengthen technical capacity and train personnel.
- Conduct national assesments of alien invasive species to identify species, numbers, distribution and functions of alien invasive species and establsih a data base.
- Strengthen international cooperation related to alien species.

Article 8j Traditional knowledge and related provisions

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Mongolia has a long history of good practice towards conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It has accumulated a wealth of traditional knowledge over thousands of years of nomadic animal husbandry culture.

The Government places great importance on maintaining the practice of this traditional knowledge in everyday life as a way of better utilizing the natural resources of the country and reducing the negative impacts of development.

However, as the country is in a period of transition from a centrally planned economy to a market economy some of the traditional knowledge and practices on conservation and sustainable use of biological resources are being lost.

105. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure that the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are respected, preserved and maintained?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

106. Is your country working to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	

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

107. Has your country developed national legislation and corresponding strategies for the implementation of Article 8(j)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	

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

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

112. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in the annex to the decision, and identified how to implement those tasks appropriate to national circumstances?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes (please provide details)	
113. Is your country integrating such tasks into its ongoing programmes, taking into account the identified collaboration opportunities?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes – to a limited extent	
d) yes – to a significant extent	
114. Is your country taking full account of existing instruments, guidelines, codes and other relevant activities in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes – to a limited extent	
d) yes – to a significant extent	

115. Has your country provided appropriate financial support for the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes – to a limited extent	
d) yes – to a significant extent	
116. Has your country fully incorporated women and women's organizations in the activities undertaken to implement the programme of work contained in the annex to the decision and other relevant activities under the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	
117. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes – to a limited extent	
d) yes – to a significant extent	
118. Has your country provided case studies on methods and approaches concerning the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge, and the control of that information by indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes – sent to the Secretariat	
d) yes – through the national CHM	
e) yes – available through other means (please specify)	
119. Does your country exchange information and share experiences regarding national legislation and other measures for the protection of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes – through the CHM	
d) yes – with specific countries	
e) yes – available through other means (please specify)	
120. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and maintenance of knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) some measures	
d) extensive measures	

121. Has your country supported the development of registers of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, in collaboration with these communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) development in progress	
d) register fully developed	
122. Have representatives of indigenous and local community organizations participated in your official delegation to meetings held under the Convention on Biological Diversity?	
a) not relevant	
b) not appropriate	
c) yes	
123. Is your country assisting the Secretariat to fully utilize the clearing-house mechanism to co-operate closely with indigenous and local communities to explore ways that enable them to make informed decisions concerning release of their traditional knowledge?	
a) no	
b) awaiting information on how to proceed	
c) yes	
124. Has your country identified resources for funding the activities identified in the decision?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) partly	
d) fully	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Relevant policies and regulations on promoting traditional knowledge

The tradition of environmental protection has a long history in Mongolia. Marco Polo wrote about closed seasons for hunting, and in 1709 Khalkh Juram Law (the legal documents used during the 17th century) set aside 16 mountains that were to be protected from hunting, cultivation and timber felling.

The “Mongolian National Security Concept”, law on “Environmental Protection” fully respects local community traditional practices on the use of biological resources. The Mongolian Action Plan 21 clearly outlines the importance of maintaining traditional knowledge and strongly encourages participation of all communities in the conservation of biological resources.

The State Program on Ecology and the National Program for Public Environmental Education highlighted the importance of disseminating traditional knowledge on the conservation of

biological diversity to the next generation through the school system.

Activities implemented on maintaining the traditional knowledge

With GTZ support a project named the "Integrated Prevention of Desertification" has been established. A total of 12 local conservation units have been established and they have been actively participating in sustainable management of natural resources and maintaining traditional knowledge and practices in their local area. For example, in Omnogobi province the "Future" community unit has involved 36 households. They are moving from place to place in order to conserve the pasture using their wealth of traditional knowledge. The results have been very successful by providing a period for the regeneration of grass in areas, and reducing the impact of livestock on pastureland. Community members are also protecting rare wildlife and plants, and introducing sustainable use of medicinal plant practices.

An environmental public awareness project was established in 1997 and ran until 1999, with assistance from the Dutch Government and UNDP. It aimed to provide the general public with more information on traditional knowledge.

In another project a set of rules was developed by local people whereby good traditional knowledge is maintained and developed and the conservation of biological diversity is facilitated. For example, Altan Ovoo Mountain located in Sukhbaatar province is protected by local communities based on traditional customs/culture.

In 1999 WWF set up, together with the World Bank and the Mongolian Buddhist Religious Centre, a project, called "Sacred Gift to the Earth". A workshop was held on the "Role of Religion in environmental conservation". The outcome of the workshop was that the belief of worshipping the mountains, or nature, played a key role, not only for conservation of biological resources, but in the proper utilization of natural resources. Activities included the carving of statues and ceremoniously placing them at sacred sites throughout Mongolia.

Although Mongolia is carrying out some activities on maintenance of traditional knowledge for conservation of biological resources, there is a need to improve the policies and regulation on it.

More work needs to be carried out on the following

- Create a database of traditional knowledge.
- Promote the use of the traditional culture of native people to deal with nature utilizing biological resources and their restoration.
- Raise public awareness on the importance of conserving

traditional knowledge.

- Improve the mechanisms of introducing, promoting and strengthening traditional nature protection knowledge to the wider public.
- Include the traditional knowledge in formal and informal education program, and improve teaching methodologies and provide necessary supplies

Article 9 Ex situ conservation

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
Mongolia attaches great importance to *ex situ* conservation of biological diversity. Although some positive steps have been made in this field, namely rehabilitation of some rare animals and plants, due to financial constraints not as much work in this field is being done as would be liked.

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

132. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	
133. Has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions (9c)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
134. Has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex situ* conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and *in situ* populations of species (9d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If a developed country Party -	
135. Has your country cooperated in providing financial and other support for ex situ conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of ex situ conservation facilities in developing countries (9e)?	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
136. Has your country received financial and other support for ex situ conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of ex situ conservation facilities (9e)?	
a) no	
b) yes	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Policies, laws and other regulations related to *ex situ* conservation

The law on "Wildlife" and law on "Natural Plants" defines plant and animal protection measures as the reintroduction, domestication and support of breeding of animals and plants. Moreover, the law legalized the incentive mechanism for such activities. In addition, some specific objectives were reflected in the National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan. However, the Programme says that the domestication and artificial breeding of wild animals must be made on the basis of thorough research work. According to the above-mentioned Law, permission must be obtained from relevant authorities for domestication and deliberate rearing of wild animals. Hunting and catching of rare and endangered animals is permitted only for scientific purposes under control of the central state administrative organization. As for plants, creation of nurseries and gardens has been encouraged at the policy level and financed from the state budget. Animal Husbandry and Plant and Agricultural Institutes have been conducting research and experimental works on the possibility of growing special sorts of cultivated food and fodder plants suitable to the Mongolian climate through reproductive selection methods, as well as on improvement of livestock breeds.

The present situation of *ex situ* conversation

Some fur bearing animals were introduced into Mongolia and farmed, such as Ondatra zibheticus, Stoats and Raccoon Dogs, while the two species of native gazelle, Saiga antelope, Przewalski's Horse, Asian beavers and wild goats are being reintroduced into areas where they used to dwell and also into new areas. The Przwalski's Horse reintroduction programme has been going since 1992. There are now over 180 horses in the country, centered on two sites; Takhiin Tal in the Gobi desert and Hustain Nuruu in Tov province.

Research work on the rearing and domestication of musk Deer is being conducted at Bugat Mountain near Ulaanbaatar.
A proposal for a Project to conserve the Bactrian Camel has been sent to the Wild Camel Conservation Fund.
A survey and behavioral study of the Gobi bear has been carried out, the results of which were used to write a proposal for a further project aimed at their conservation.

Measures to study and protect rare and endangered animals such as the Central Asian beaver, river otter, Saiga antelope, musk

deer, snow leopards and red deer are planned.

Conservation of wild animals in captive collections

There is no zoo in Mongolia, although unseccessful attempts have been made to establish one.

Twenty-two camels were taken from the wild to stock a captive breeding program at Bayantooroi, in the Great Gobi A Strictly Protected Area. Difficulties in animal management have meant that although there have been two births, the total captive population is now only 10 animals and there is a risk of genetic mixing with local domestic camels.

The utilization of 133 species of plants was legally prohibited and 128 higher and lower species were registered in the Red Book of Mongolia, which means that favorable conditions for their natural rehabilitation have been created. Over 20 endangered plants are now being re-cultivate

Conservation of wild plants in botanical gardens

A botanical garden was established in eastern Ulaanbaatar in the 1970's in order to conserve native, rare and economically useful plant species. For the last twenty years research has been carried out on over 100 species at the garden, and plants are provided for the city's green areas from this garden.

An arboretum was established in the north-east of Ulaanbaatar in the 1980's and has cultivated about 800 species of native trees and 50,000 other plants. Operations of both gardens have recently been reduced as a result of financial problems and a shortage of qualified staff.

Over 20 projects, including The Cultivation of rare and useful plants in the Gobi; Genetic resources of the original, rare and useful plants in Mongolia and Studies on cultivation of rare plants are being implemented for the purpose of cultivating plants as well as preventing their extinction.

Today scientific methods for the conservation of genetic resources of rare and endangered plants, cultivation of some species, honey production and the commercial growing of medical herbs, as well as the improvement of flora in cities and towns, is being developed.

International cooperation on *ex situ* conservation

As a developing country Mongolia cannot achieve results on the conservation of biological resources without international financial and technological assistance. The Ministry of Nature and Environment is working closely with international

organizations including UNDP, GEF, WWF, GTZ, World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Also several regional and international workshops on the conservation of biological diversity have been held, like the first regional workshop in dry land regions sponsored by UNDP/GEF held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 2001. Twenty-five representatives from 11 Asian nations, including China, India, Nepal, Japan, Russia and Tajikistan participated in the event.

Future objectives

Although Mongolia is taking some measures to domesticate and rear rare animals and grow rare plants from seed, the legal coordination in this field is not developed to the desired level and no special programme has been developed in this field. Moreover, due to financial constraints as well as incomplete scientific studies, activities in this field are not being implemented. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly important to:

- Establish and improve the national breeding and domestication centres for endangered and rare animals and plants (breeding stations, zoos, botanic gardens).
- Improve skills and qualifications of staff.
- Implement a project on the reintroduction of rare and endangered animals and plants.
- Expand the scope of research studies on increasing biodiversity, introduce up-to-date technology and cooperate with foreign countries.
- Strengthen national laboratories for studies on biological diversity and endangered animals and plants.
- Establish genetic resource of rare animals and plants.

Article 10 Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
Wise and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity is an issue of great importance, which touches upon the national interests of Mongolia. Therefore this issue has been given a high level of priority in the state strategy and policy. The state policy on ecology of 1998 proposed sustainable development as an important objective and started to create an economic basis for environmental protection, through utilizing natural resources in the most effective way, with little negative impact on the environment. Biological diversity is an economic and ecological resource of great value, which satisfies multiple human needs.

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

142. Has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced (10d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
143. Does your country actively encourage cooperation between government authorities and the private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological diversity (10e)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
e) review of implementation available	

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

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

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

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

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

Decision V/25. Biological diversity and tourism

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

155. Has your country established enabling policies and legal frameworks to complement voluntary efforts for the effective implementation of sustainable tourism?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The policy and legal environment for the sustainable use of biodiversity

The socio-economic development of Mongolia is widely dependent on the utilization of natural resources. There is a prevalence of nomadic animal husbandry, which is directly dependent on the natural environment. The mining of different natural resources is a major industry in Mongolia. Wise and sustainable utilization of the natural resources has been put as the main objective in the State Policy on Ecology, Mongolian Action Program for the 21st century, the National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan, and 20 other programs on environmental policy. Also 25 environmental as well as other relevant laws have created the legal basis for the 'polluter pays' and 'utilizer protects' principles. These environmental laws regulate the relations on sustainable use of natural resources. For example such laws as the law on "Environmental Protection", law on "Hunting", law on "Natural Plants" created the economic mechanism for sustainable use of natural resources. These laws also defined the full responsibilities of central and local organizations. Particularly the law on "The Ratio of the Income From Natural Resource Use Payments To Be Spent for Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Restoration" has been approved by the Parliament. The Government approved Resolution No. 52 on the "Procedures to Create, Spend and Report on the Financial Resources for the Protection of Environment and Restoration of Natural Resources" in 2000.
These laws and regulations are of significant importance in creating the legal environment for the provinces and other administrative units to have a sustainable financial resource for the protection of the environment.

The current uses of natural resources

Wildlife is utilized in a variety of ways, including the direct use of meat, skins, and other animal products by nomadic herdsmen and urban Mongolians; commercial marketing of skins; commercial marketing of fish; large-scale harvest of gazelles was carried out until the mid 1990's and sport hunting of game and trophy species by Mongolian and foreign sportsmen.

Some 59 mammal, 128 bird, and 30 fish species are utilized for commercial purposes and for direct subsistence. According to government estimates, over 2 million terrestrial animals are harvested annually. Commercial exploitation of fish began in the mid- 1950's, with the main fishery industries located round the Buir, Buun Tsagaan and Ugii lakes.

Some rare animals are harvested every year on special licenses issued to foreign hunters. In 2000 40 argali, 259 ibex and 69 gazelles were licensed to foreign hunters, and 50 Saker falcons were exported alive.

In Mongolia there are 845 species of medical plants, more than 1000 species of animal fodder plants, 173 species of food plants, 489 species of decorative plants and 195 species of other plants, which have different uses. Currently 100 species of plants are used for medical purposes and 200 kinds of medicines are produced.

Such big economic entities as the Mongol Em Impex and Monos companies annually produce about 25 tons of herbal medicines and cosmetics. About 15 kinds of medicines for improving heart function, arthritis prevention, kidney, liver, bile and respiratory diseases are extracted from Mongolian medical plants.

In the last 30 years research on the component, spread and extraction of microorganism species has been conducted. Valuable scientific information on the conservation and use of these organisms has been gathered.

Currently, microorganisms are used for preparing dairy products, vodka, beer, and fertilizers, vaccines for humans and animals and medicines. In the future it may be possible to use these microorganisms for making protein for livestock fodder, forest restoration, to concentrate copper, to eradicate insect pests and to reduce soil contamination. The method of using microorganisms as a ecological-biological control technique has less negative impacts on the environment.

The measures that have been taken towards sustainable utilization of biological resources

The work on the assessment of the Mongolian flora and fauna, on the study of its resources, on the improvement of utilization of animals and plants based on its ecological and economic evaluation has not been fully conducted at the state level due

to financial restraints. However there have been certain improvements in the field of research and study.

The work on the utilization of natural resources, conservation status and control on the implementation of environmental laws and regulations has been conducted in two ways: state administrative and public. In the years from 1997-2000 32,200 violations of the laws occurred at the state and local level. From the imposed 398 million MNT fines, 253 million MNT were paid.

In 1998 the Mongolian law on Environmental Impact Assessment was approved as well as almost 10 rules, procedures and directions. According to the Law on EIA, environmental impact assessment is conducted in two ways: general and detailed.

Some measures have been taken to breed and propagate some animal and plant species. The planting of some useful plants, the production of animal and plant products under the control of state organizations and through the funding of economic entities has tended to increase.

The issue of sustainable tourism development

The virgin nature of Mongolia, its rare species of flora and fauna, fresh air and water, specific natural structures, nomadic culture, traditions and specific living modes of the Mongolians, a history of thousands of years and relics of the culture and archaeology forms the basis for the development of Mongolia's tourism industry. The Government of Mongolia announced the year 2003 as “Visit Mongolia”.

Mongolia is aiming to develop its tourism sector within the framework of sustainable economic development. The policy of developing ecological tourism, which provides a balance between the environment and biological diversity, fits into this capacity, and has little negative impacts on the environment. This has been reflected in the master plan for developing tourism and the national program on Specially Protected Areas. Certain measures have been taken in this regard. EIA’s are carefully conducted on tourism projects and the implementation of environmental protection plans and environmental control programs is controlled. According to the management plans of Specially Protected Areas, measures on creating tourist routes, opening information centers and providing tourists with information have been taken.

The Government of Mongolia recently approved “The basic guidelines for the development of tourism for the years 1995-

2005”.

However, favourable conditions for tourist development are still not yet in place due to the lack of information, publications and promotion abroad.

Issues relating to the restoration of natural resources

The techniques employed for the restoration of degraded soil due to mining is out of date. Therefore the Ministry of Nature and Environment is paying special attention to the detailed planning of restoration works and related expenses in the Environmental Impact Assessments. This is the main factor in approving the assessments of economic entities, which have the right to conduct EIA. 5 kinds of standards on the issues of restoration of land degraded as a result of mining were approved by the National Center of Standardization from the Ministry of Nature and Environment in 2000. The methodology and directions related to the implementation of the above mentioned standards were approved and followed. In 2000 a total of 356 thousand ha that were used for gold mining purposes have been rehabilitated, at a cost of 734.8 million MNT. Also, in the same year 170 thousand ha of agriculture fields were fertilized and fast growing plants were established in order to prevent soil erosion.

Reforestation works began in Mongolia in 1970, with a small area of land reforested. Since the 1980’s, this work has been intensified according to the state plan and the scope of reforestation has increased significantly.

The financing for reforestation and forest works increased 3.2 times in 2000 compared to the previous year. As a result of this the reforestation works have intensified and 9030 hectares were reforested. On a further 2000 ha, works to help natural reforestation have been conducted.

Within the framework of “National Program on Forests” the “Procedures on Lending Forest Resources through Contracts” was approved through the Government Resolution No. 125 of 1998. As a result of this forest resources were lent by the State to four companies in Selenge and Darkhan-Uul provinces, which prepare wood and execute reforestation works. “Forest conservation community” was created involving local communities with the purpose of increasing public participation in forest conservation and improving the living standard of the local communities.

As a result of the decrease in pine resources over the years,

the decision of the Ministry of Nature and Environment on decreasing the quantity of pine being felled and prohibiting pine preparation has been approved. The areas where pine grows have been taken under the protection of local government and measures to limit exportation of pine logs and other products have been taken.

Poverty alleviation and the issue on increasing public participation

The policy on increasing the financial resources and living standards of local communities through sustainable utilization of biological resources has been followed. Within the framework of this plan a poverty alleviation program for poor people in some areas provides employment in clearing the burnt forest and utilizing natural resources.

With the purpose of supporting the alleviation of social problems of people living in the territory of specially protected areas, 50 small projects were implemented through the financial resources of foreign projects and 228 million MNT were spent. 590 people from 100 households and economic entities in Bayan-Ulgii, Gobi-Altai, Omnogobi, Selenge, Tuv, Khovd and Khentii provinces implemented small projects and increased their living standards. Health programmes in rural communities were supported by 50 million MNT.
The environmental laws of Mongolia give the rights and responsibilities of administering the natural resources to communities and state administrative organizations. The principle of increasing the participation of local people in processing local programs and plans for sustainable utilization of biological diversity have started to be implemented. Special Protected Area management plans have started to be implemented with the participation of local communities. The process of consulting with the local people while conducting environmental impact assessments has also been done.

Major threats to wildlife

- Poaching (illegal harvest) due to poor enforcement of the laws. Some poachers come from across the national borders and there is also cross-border trade in poached animals and plants
- Over-utilization (unsustainable harvests) of wildlife species. This comes as a result of a lack of available species-population information which could be used to establish sustainable quotas, or establishing quotas for political or economic reasons which ignores available population information

- Loss of habitat due to overgrazing, mining, cultivation, multiple tracks, stream canalisations, dams, and stream and lake sedimentation.
- Air and water pollution arising from increased industrialization and population growth
- Unsound management practices for conservation that may put biodiversity at risk rather than protect it, including the cross breeding of domestic species to infect wild populations.

What needs to do done

- Include the principles on proper use of biological diversity into legal and strategic documents of other sectors within the Government.
- Ensure enforcement of laws and legislation regarding biodiversity conservation and the environment.
- Prepare and implement regional and local land management plans and establish proper pasture use system.
- Involve local people in the long-term sustainable utilization of natural resources, allowing them equal access to common resources and to provide the conditions by which the local people can improve their lives.
- Improve planning, development and management of ecotourism in Mongolia.
- Formulate ways and means of preventing and alleviating the adverse environmental, social and cultural impacts of tourism.
- Establish effective cooperation with non-government and other international organizations on sustainable use of biological diversity.

Article 11 Incentive measures

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
The Government of Mongolia agrees that proper incentive measures will be promoted for biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization activities. In a country like Mongolia with rich biodiversity resources, implementing socio-economic incentive approaches will make effective the implementation of obligations under the Convention. We have developed all kinds of incentive measurements at all levels of authority, including state, provincial and local levels. Incentive measures can be given through different economic and social motivations like tax and credit policy, rewards and honorary awards. However Mongolia is a developing country and needs more information exchanges on incentive measures from other countries and seeks more financial assistance in order to improve and ensure the effectiveness of using incentive measures.

158. Are programmes in place to identify and ensure the adoption of economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	
e) review of implementation available	

159. Do these incentives, and the programmes to identify them and ensure their adoption, cover the full range of sectoral activities?	
a) no	
b) some sectors	X
c) all major sectors	
d) all sectors	

Decision III/18. Incentive measures

160. Has your country reviewed legislation and economic policies to identify and promote incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) reviews in progress	X
c) some reviews complete	
d) as far as practically possible	

161. Has your country ensured the development of mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas, *inter alia*, national accounting systems and investment strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of identifying mechanisms	
c) advanced stages of identifying mechanisms	
d) mechanisms in place	
e) review of impact of mechanisms available	
162. Has your country developed training and capacity building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives?	
a) no	
b) planned	
c) some	X
d) many	
163. Has your country incorporated biological diversity considerations into impact assessments as a step in the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) yes	
164. Has your country shared experience on incentive measures with other Contracting Parties, including making relevant case-studies available to the Secretariat?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes – case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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

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

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

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

171. Has your country reviewed the incentive measures promoted through the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
172. Has your country explored possible ways and means by which these incentive measures can support the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in your country?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	X
c) early stages of development	
d) advanced stages of development	
e) further information available	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Legal framework

The legal base for using economic incentives is already determined in the law on “Environmental Protection” and law on “Natural Resource Payment”. For instance, Articles 19 and 34 of the law on “Environmental Protection” allow the state to give incentive measures to the people, businesses and organizations for their contributions in the activities of conservation, sustainable use and restoration of natural resources, and in adopting different kinds of environment-friendly modern technologies.

In the “Law on Hunting” it states that the person who discovers an illegal act and who informs the relevant authorities will be rewarded with 15% of the fine for the violation. Similar articles can be found in The Law of Forest and The Law of Water. Also, the Government Resolution No 95 of 1998 issued “A rule of using incentive measures for the people, economic entities and organizations that adopt environmentally friendly technologies”.

Based on the Mongolian Law on Forest, the Government made a resolution that the community or business enterprises can possess forestland area for a 40-year period from the State. They then have the obligation of protecting the forest resources from illegal cutting and wild fire, regenerating the forest areas through establishing nurseries, and using the forest resources to improve the living standards of the local people. Local government will provide tax exemption for use of timber or fodder collecting. The Government also has a fund for reforestation, and communities can obtain a grant to carry out reforestation activities. A total of 19 community forestry units have been established in 4 provinces.

Incentive measures

Every year the Ministry of Nature and Environment selects an “Environmentally friendly technology user” and “Ecologically clean product” and awards certificates and prizes. The Ministry also announces a “Governor-Best friend of the environment” contest each year and grants an “Annual Prize for the Environment” – up to 1 million MNT is awarded to people who make a significant contribution to nature protection activities. The Government always promotes and co-operates with environmental NGOs.

Nevertheless, despite economic incentives and stimulation mechanisms for environmental protection, restoration and proper utilization of natural resources are currently not reflected enough in Mongolian Environmental Legislation. The current level

of fines is not an effective incentive for individuals and businesses to comply with the law.

Underlying needs

- Strengthen the legal base to create a flexible economic incentive system for sustainable use and restoration of natural resources
- Provide incentive measures through a reduction or exemption from different kinds of fees and taxes
- Establish incentive funds through the support of state and local budgets, donations and funding from economic entities and local and international organizations
- Promote economic entities using environment-friendly technologies by foreign aid, loans and investment
- Set a realistic amount for the fines incurred for polluting the environment and use a certain percentage of this income for rewarding businesses engaged in ecologically-clean production;
- Improve financial methods of fees and taxes for the conservation, regeneration and use of natural resources, relating to aspects of ownership and contracting
- Raise public awareness on environmental incentives. It is essential to study and adopt the experiences of other countries to establish a sound incentive system in Mongolia

Article 12 Research and training

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Mongolian researchers have conducted a lot of research in the field of biological diversity in order to develop adequate resources for a database that is used to carry out activities on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. They have developed and implemented scientific basis for the utilization of natural resources and discovered new animal species and new plant varieties.

However, the cost of any research is expensive and requires modern techniques and technology. A developing country like Mongolia does not have a capacity for doing such research individually, so it is necessary to seek more financial and technological assistance from developed countries and other international communities.

Training and re-training the national professionals in the up to date methods for conserving biological diversity is also important.

175. Has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	

176. Has your country provided support to other Parties for education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	

177. Does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (12b)?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	

178. Does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and

sustainable use of biological resources (12c)?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	

If a developed country Party -	
179. Does your country's implementation of the above activities take into account the special needs of developing countries?	
a) no	
b) yes, where relevant	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Mongolian Government attaches great importance to developing the scientific research necessary to achieve biodiversity conservation. The National Programme on Scientific and Technological Development was approved in 2000, and will run until 2010. It incorporates the building of a democratic society with an economic structure based on sustainable natural resource utilization. Biological research has been a given high priority, in particular, work connected with studying the ecological balance and the surveying and monitoring of wild and domestic species of animal and plants.

Research on the wildlife species, ecosystems and the landforms of Mongolia has been undertaken over a long period of time. Although much data has been collected on biodiversity and on the general environmental condition, data on wild species is scattered in many different institutions. Much of the work was done before the establishment of the present Protected Area network. Most of the data that has been collected still needs to be analysed in order to provide a comprehensive inventory of the country's biodiversity, as well as that occurring in the Protected Areas. The Great Gobi Strictly Protected Areas, Khovsgol Lake National Park, and Bogd Khan Mountain Strictly Protected Area have been comparatively well studied and a number of published articles and research reports are available.

The Mongolian-Russian Biological Expedition has carried out surveys and inventories all over Mongolia and has produced many useful publications, but many specimen collections have still not been studied. Recently some detailed studies have been carried out on the ecology and behaviour of certain species, for instance on the Gobi bear, snow leopard, wild ass, mountain sheep and black tailed gazelle. Buffer zone resource exploitation is being studied around the Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area and Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, and resource inventories of the Otgontenger and Bogd Khan Mountain Strictly Protected Areas are in progress.

Due to a lack of funds, several research posts in the Protected Area Services have been cut, however there are research biologists at ten of the Strictly Protected Areas and a

biologist and water chemist at Khovsgol Lake National Park.

Many fields of natural sciences are developed in Mongolia through the university education system and specialist scientific organizations. The Law of Science and Technology, The Law on Technology Transfer and Law on Legal status of the Academy of Science were enacted in 1998. The research activities through the Academy of Science and other special scientific institutions and universities have been financed by different sources. Much research material is available on the biodiversity of Mongolia prepared by international and local experts for many years. However, the co-ordination and proper use of that information is unsatisfactory. The Information-Computer Centre of the Ministry for Nature and Environment (MNE) is responsible for the management of this information collection, and disseminating the results of different research works, surveys and studies. A lot of research work has been done on the ecosystems of Mongolia, including the distribution, population and eco-biological features of species, identifying a scientific base on which to establish the Protected Area network, developing eco-tourism and biodiversity impact assessments. The Science and Technology Fund spend approximately 1 million MNT every year funding environmental research projects. As a result of these projects, many books, pamphlets and research papers have been published. There are more than 100 experimental laboratories, and 2500 research workers are working in scientific institutions and universities.

Based on Central Government demand, some projects and measures relevant to conservation, sustainable use and rehabilitation of biological diversity are funded and implemented from the Science and Technology Fund.

Workshops and training on biodiversity conservation, strengthening protected area management, environmental impact assessments, and environmental law enforcement are regularly organized by the MNE for representatives from all levels of both central and local organizations. A Basic Conservation Training Curriculum for Protected Area Rangers and Provincial Inspectors has been developed by GTZ, working through the MNE.

Over the last 3 years, over 50 officials were involved in short/long-term study tours and training abroad.

Professionals in Biology are currently working in over 20 natural science faculties of the Mongolian National University, Mongolian Pedagogical University, Medical University of Mongolia and Agricultural University of Mongolia. The academic programs and curriculums of these universities are under review.

Due to a shortage of finances, Mongolia is not able to fund the necessary training and research work from its own resources. For a country like Mongolia with a vast territory, it is necessary to adopt modern techniques and technologies of land use, including GIS to improve the productivity of bio-diversity surveying, monitoring and investigation works.

It is important to establish registration and information databases to ensure biosafety and to expand genetic studies to protect the genetic fund of the organic world.

It is also necessary to provide young research workers with an opportunity to train in modern research methodologies and obtain academic degrees at the universities of developed countries.

Overall assessment and co-ordination of all research works on biodiversity carried out throughout the country are required to select the primary projects.

Actions need to be carried out

- Full review and assessment of previous research work on biodiversity to identify the gaps in knowledge.
- Improve research and monitoring programs in Protected Areas.
- Improve the supply of information to the central biodiversity information management system.
- Develop a genetic conservation research program.
- Establish national education and training programs for biodiversity conservation.
- Make contact and collaborative research agreements with foreign universities and institutions in order to increase the training of research staff and promote joint biodiversity conservation studies.

Article 13 Public education and awareness

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Public awareness plays a crucial role in promoting the conservation and sustainable utilization of biological diversity and the Government of Mongolia pays great attention to it. For example, in the national biodiversity action plan the importance of public awareness is highlighted.

Recently the Government of Mongolia drafted and started implementing a National Programme of public education on ecology. Through this program lessons related to biodiversity conservation are taught at all levels in Mongolia's schools, from kindergartens to secondary schools. Dissemination and education on biodiversity is carried out through the public media, radio and other publications. Apart from Government efforts, many internationally funded projects also have a public awareness aspect.

Mongolia is a developing country and its socio-economic transition period requires more public education and awareness activities to be done. However, due to lack of financial support and poor experience in this field, difficulties in implementation are encountered.

182. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through media?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
183. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through the inclusion of this topic in education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
184. Does your country cooperate with other States and international organizations in developing relevant educational and public awareness programmes (13b)?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	

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

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

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

Decision V/17. Education and public awareness

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Ministry of Enlightenment and Ministry for Nature and Environment (MNE) have implemented a program of ecological education and training within the framework of the formal and informal education systems. In 1997 the Government approved the program on “Public Education on Ecology”. This is the main policy document that states the importance of public awareness to biodiversity conservation and environmental protection. It is necessary first to provide information to the public in order to involve them in environment conservation. Some activities have been carried out and are showing good results. Many other related government institutions have developed programs and projects. For example, in 1997, the Government approved an environmental conservation program to be incorporated into the curricula of formal and informal education. For example, an ecology subject in high school and the inclusion of Ecology and Environment Conservation subjects in university curriculum. The program is planned to give a basic understanding of environmental protection to primary and secondary school students, and, depending on the professional orientation of colleges, universities and professional training organizations, to arrange training on environmental conservation.

The Ministry for Nature and Environment approved a national Action Program on Public awareness in 1999. This is a key document outlining the government's strategy on environmental public awareness creation, and appoints a National Council to coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan.

NGOs play an active role in enhancing public awareness and ecological education. More than 100 environmental NGO's have been established over the last few years. The MNE has also set up a Co-ordinating Committee to strengthen public involvement and participation in crucial environmental decision-making. The committee is responsible for coordinating activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations and to ensure that public opinion is taken into consideration. These kinds of committees have also been established at local and regional levels.

Environment Public Awareness Programme (EPAP), supported by the Dutch Government, was implemented in Mongolia between 1997 and 1998. The goal of the EPAP was to identify and demonstrate effective community-based strategies that could, through dissemination of effective messages, reduce the threats to Mongolia's environment. Within the framework of this programme almost 100 projects on environmental public awareness were implemented by NGOs and governmental agencies in all 21 provinces. A lot of these were aimed at raising awareness among young people, including projects like "Protect the Black-tailed Gazelle", "Gobi bear among Nature and Children" and "How to plant a tree".

Foreign and internationally funded Projects all have components that encourage public participation in management of the environment. They also assist Mongolian environmental NGO's to work actively in this field and to strengthen their capacity. The TASIS – "Strengthening of the NGO network" project aims to assist NGO's in implementing projects on environmental public awareness. NGO's like the Scouts Association and the Mongolian Women's Federation have benefitted as well as different youth and children's organizations.

Under the auspices of various internationally supported projects (WWF, GTZ, UNDP, US Aid) Environmental Information Centres have been set up in communities in the bufferzones of certain Protected Areas and National Parks. These include the Khan Khentii, Khar Us Lake and Uvs Lake Protected Areas and the Altai Tavan Bogd, Gorkhi Terelj, Gobi Gurvan Saikhan and Khovsgol National Parks.

In the Bulgan province, there are two Information Centres specifically related to forest conservation, set up by a World Vision project funded by AusAid.

An information unit has also been established in the MNE to raise the environmental awareness of the public and to help educate people on environmental legislation. Several environmental journals and periodicals now exist in Mongolia. An Environmental Journalists Club has also been working at the Press Institute of Mongolia.

Between 1995 and 2000 a number of books, magazines and publications on environmental issues were published. These included the "Mongolian Environmental Laws", a Report on the

Environmental status of Mongolia, the Mongolian Red Book, the Protected Areas of Mongolia and Nature and Children. Other handouts, information bulletins and visual materials have been produced and made available to the public.
Included in the environmental public awareness projects implemented by the MNE are many activities such as children's painting and writing competitions and Ecological Olympics events for high school children. Some TV programmes have also been produced on wildlife protection. A special website on the environment is available for the public.

Under the GTZ supported "Integrated Fire Management Project" a Fire Prevention Curriculum was written for kindergarten and secondary schools.

An Ecological Training Center was set up in Ulaanbaatar in 2001. It aims to improve the environmental education of teachers from secondary schools and universities.

Various international and national environmental NGO's have contributed a great deal to the protection of endangered species by raising public awareness and distributing information. The Mongolian Association for Conservation of Nature and the Environment is probably the most important NGO in Mongolia with over 50,000 members and nearly 400 member organizations.
The citizens of Mongolia have increasingly become aware of the deteriorating environmental conditions that are affecting their human activities and health.

Follow up activities needed to strengthen public awareness

- Increase the funding for promotion of environmental education at both national and local levels.
- Create an environmental education information network that connects the education systems of the capital city and provinces.
- Conduct public awareness activities on environmental education issues through the media
- Strengthen the environmental NGO's capacity and increase their role in promoting public awareness
- Promote active participation of communities, NGOs and other stakeholders in environmental decision making processes and biodiversity conservation actions
- Expand international cooperation in the environmental education sector and take measures to involve the private sector

- Develop and publish educational materials giving information about Mongolian national policy documents related to ecological education
- Improve output and ensure the effectiveness of national and international programs focused on increasing public awareness on environment issues
- Provide training and retraining to formal and informal school ecological teachers

Article 14 Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

To adequately incorporate environmental concerns into development planning, the relevant decision making authorities must be fully informed of the possible environmental, economic and other impacts prior to approving or rejecting a project proposal. The primary goal is to inform the responsible desicion making body of the foreseeable environmental consequences, both positive and negative, of a given project. Without this information base outlining the potential consequences it may be diffcult, if not impossible, to determine whether a development proposal will comply with the environmental regulations of a particular area.

Therefore, the Government of Mongolia attaches high priority to the important role of environmental impacts at all levels. This will ensure the prevention of potential adverse impacts such as the destruction of biological diversity, air or soil pollution, and other negative consequences.

However, although some work on impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts on the environment has been carried out, there is still a lack of financial resources and much more work remains to be done.

196. Is legislation in place requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity (14 (1a))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) legislation in place	X
e) review of implementation available	
197. Do such environmental impact assessment procedures allow for public participation (14(1a))?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	

198. Does your country have mechanisms in place to ensure that the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account (14(1b))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	

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

d) mechanisms in place	
204. Has your country encouraged international cooperation to establish joint contingency plans for emergency responses to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	
b) yes	
c) no need identified	

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

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

Decision V/18. Impact assessment, liability and redress

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The law and other legal documents related to impact assessment

The Mongolian law on Environmental Impact Assessment was passed by Parliament in 1998 and amendments were added in 2001. The purpose of the law is to regulate the implementation of environmental impact assessments and decisions regarding projects implemented for environmental protection and proper use of natural resources. It contains 4 chapters and 13 articles covering, for example, procedures for conducting general and detailed environmental impact assessments, requirements for the writing of environmental protection plans and the procedure in the event of violations. The law defines Environmental Impact Assessments as ”the proper identification of any possible adverse effects from industrial and service activities by citizens, commercial firms and organizations as well as the determination of measures to prevent, minimize and mitigate such adverse impacts”.

A special resolution was passed for the implementation of the EIA Law. Subsequently, four new procedures were included to improve the EIA. However, the EIA methodology still needs improvement. Guidelines need to be more detailed. Eventually, after a period of usage, the EIA Law could be further improved and amended accordingly. The enforcement mechanism is very weak.

In 1993, an EIA unit was established within the Environment Inspection Department of the Ministry for Nature and Environment. This EIA unit has conducted general environmental impact assessments on 753 projects. Of these 186 were gold mining projects, 34 coal mining projects, 62 projects to extract other mineral resources, 154 projects on tourism, 182 projects on various industrial activities, and 135 other projects. In 2000, general environmental impact assessments were conducted on 186 projects.

Among the projects cancelled due to the environmental impact assessment procedure was a large “Oil storage” proposal located near the Selenge river basin. The reason was that effluent from the project would have flowed into the Selenge River and eventually into Lake Baikal.

At present there are 21 private firms licensed by MNE to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments.

The Environmental Impact Assessments decision-making working group, chaired by the Vice Minister of the MNE, includes experts/representatives from relevant departments of the MNE. These experts have an advisory role and final decisions are made by the MNE.

International Cooperation on impact assessment and minimising the adverse impacts

A project funded by the Asian Development Bank focused on staff training, transfer of international methodologies and the review and development of MNE procedures, regulations, standards, and legislation related to EIA. Training in various computer programs and models was conducted and database programs were established for the development of a computerized database (EIA-

Data Management System). The Project was among the first of its kind in Mongolia to be funded by an international aid agency.

The achievements were:

1) A draft EIA Procedures Manual and program of environmental considerations for national policies, sector programs and master plans was produced.

2) Development and implementation of fast-track environmental assessment procedures.

3) The incorporation of NGOs and the public in procedural and decision making activities.

4) A development plan was produced for updating the MNE computer facilities and linking them with other agencies within Mongolia and overseas.

Follow up actions that need to be implemented

- Create a provincial monitoring network on EIA.
- Strengthen the participation of Ministries, provincial governments and the community in EIA implementation.
- Provide a training program for the 17 local private firms licensed by MNE to conduct EIA. Training is also an important precondition for successful implementation of EIA procedures.
- Provide adequate resources for, and strengthen the enforcement mechanism.
- Develop waste emission standards and create a pollution levy system for identified industries.
- Develop regulations to combat desertification for private consulting companies.
- Develop sector guidelines for EIA (mining, energy, tourism).
- Formulate economic incentive policies for pollution control and nature conservation.
- Strengthen the EIA Databases.

Article 15 Access to genetic resources

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
This Article is important to Mongolia and so adequate priority is given to it. However, due to an absence of capacity to formulate national legislation and make evaluations neither national legislative, administrative or policy measures for access to genetic resources are adequately developed. Plans to improve the situation include the appointment of national authorities responsible for access to genetic resources and for fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development. The inventory and maintenance of genetic resources is rather complicated, which needs a large amount of funds and technologies.

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

222. Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources (15(7))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	

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

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

227. Has your country identified national authorities responsible for granting access to genetic resources?	
a) no	
b) yes	
228. Is your country taking an active role in negotiations associated with the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	
b) yes	

Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Mongolia is a country with extreme environments and a high endemism of genetic resources. Biotechnology development based on genetic resources is one of the important issues for the sustainable development of Mongolia's economy. Due to this Mongolia gives a high priority to this Article and is very interested in development of national legislation, formulation of national policy and administrative measures for access to genetic resources. It is also necessary to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development, and the benefits arising from commercial and other utilization of genetic resources.

However, due to the lack of capacity and finance to undertake the above activities, this process is very slow and ineffective. Nevertheless, there are several Mongolian laws on biological resources. According to them, all biological resources must be re-examined periodically. For instance, forest resources should be surveyed every ten years and animal and plant resources surveyed annually. Animal and plant species should be classified as threatened, endangered or abundant. However, no laws exist in regard to access to genetic resources by other Contracting Parties and sharing of benefits arising from such collaboration. Consequently Mongolia urgently needs the following activities to be carried out in order to successfully implement Article 15:

- Appointment of National focal points, National authorities and experts responsible for granting access to genetic resources. Strengthening of the clearing-house mechanism.
- Development of a national human and institutional capacity building programme. Based on this, build the capacity for the development of legislation, assessment and inventory of biological resources and management of information on them. In this regard, Mongolia should seek financial support through the financial mechanism of the CBD.
- Development of legislation and the formulation of a national policy for access to genetic resources and for fair and equitable sharing of the results of research. In developing such legislation Mongolia should take into account and allow the development of a multilateral system to facilitate access and benefit-sharing in the context of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.
- Development of the means for the protection of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.
- Prepare case studies on issues of national intellectual property rights in regard to their relation to the CBD. More particularly, on the issue of access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, provide information on the origin of genetic

resources. This can be used as the basis to renew national laws on intellectual property rights.

- Evaluation and preparation of information on *ex-situ* collections.

Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Mongolia is interested in access to and the transfer of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, or that makes use of genetic resources without causing significant damage to the environment. However, most priority is given to the transfer of technologies from other Contracting Parties. Legislation, administrative and policy arrangements have not been developed due to the lack of capacity, experience and finance.

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

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

Decision III/17. Intellectual property rights

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Mongolia actively participates in the international system on intellectual property rights. Mongolia joined the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in 1979, and is a signatory to the following treaties: The Paris Treaty of industrial property rights protection, the Madrid Agreement on registered trade marks (1985), the Patent Co-operation Treaty (1991), the Hague Union for the international deposit of

industrial designs and the WTO's Agreement on Trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs)(1997). In 1998, Mongolia also joined the Berne Union for the protection of literary and artistic works. However, in the National law on Intellectual Property gaps still exist on biotechnological inventions.

Mongolia's Patent Law, amended in 1996, stipulates that medicine used for the treatment and diagnosis of human and animal diseases, microbiological methods and products are granted with a patent. However, this law does not cover plant varieties and animal breeds received through biological methods. The Mongolian Patent Law should therefore be improved to cover biotechnological inventions.

A case study on the impacts of intellectual property rights on the achievement of CBD objectives needs to be carried out with financial and expertise assistance from CBD's relevant bodies.

Training and international co-operation in the transfer of technologies of biodiversity conservation and technologies that make use of genetic resources, and do not cause significant damage to the environment, are also needed.

Follow up actions needed to be carried out

- Improvement of the existing legislation and development of the relevant legal regulations for access to and transfer of bio-technology
- Strengthening the National capacity on genetic resources and biotechnology transfer
- Evaluation of the present status of genetic resources and biotechnological development in Mongolia
- Improvement of information exchange on biotechnology and promotion of international co-operation on technologies for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

Article 17 Exchange of information

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

The Government of Mongolia, especially its related Ministries and research institutes, places great importance on the exchange of biodiversity information at both a national and international level. Establishing a biodiversity exchange information network at national and international levels would increase the level of knowledge about biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use by promoting scientific, technological and technical exchanges of information at all levels.

Exchange of information plays a significant role in effective biodiversity conservation, especially in the conservation of transboundary migratory species. Although a national information monitoring system for biodiversity conservation is already established, its activities and capacities still need to be strengthened and expanded.

This information monitoring system is a means of providing the customers and policy-makers with correct and reliable information on the basis of the systematic processing of observations, measurements, collections and analyses. The environmental information is classified into 2 groups, general and specialized. These are categorized according to their scale, content and frame of use.

General information belongs to the Central Database while the specialized ones to the Sub-Databases established at the professional institutions. The Central Database is available on the Internet for use by the public. There is a computer network connection between the Central and Sub-Databases to make the information more accessible to the customer and for ease of information exchange between the Databases. Again the financial situation does not allow for the operation of the environmental information system on a regular basis, particularly, at the local level where the establishment of the information system and the availability of equipment, software and professional staff is very poor. The Computer Calculation Centre of the Ministry for Nature and Environment is the main institution holding environmental data resources. This contains much biodiversity information including information on land, soil, fauna, flora, forestry, water and the general environmental situation, including pollution. Besides this many scientific institutions also have separate information resources according to their activities. This information is scattered and cannot be collected onto the Central Database due to lack of financial support and modern equipment and technology. The Government of Mongolia shall conduct work on improving and enhancing the exchange of information on biological diversity and improve the environmental information system.

These further measures need to be taken to make the system more effective

- Strengthen the management and legal framework of the environmental information system.
- Establish information databases at a provincial level to provide the information to all users.
- Strengthen cooperation with research organizations to develop an internal information collection form and schedule so as to provide regular collection and update of information.
- Improve standards and quality of information and reporting. Strengthen the information entering, processing and analysing capacity.
- Enhance the international cooperation of biodiversity Information sharing and seek more financial support from international communities.

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

Article 18 Technical and scientific cooperation

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
Technical and scientific cooperation has a very significant role to play in the achievement of the Conventions objectives. Mongolia needs to develop more widespread technical and scientific cooperation with other countries in order to effectively conserve and sustainably use its biodiversity resources. Joint research works have been carried out in the course of projects implemented by the Academy of Science, universities and the Ministry of Nature and Environment. However, the technical and scientific knowledge of the country is still insufficient.

254. Has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (18(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
255. Do the measures taken to promote cooperation with other Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention pay special attention to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution building (18(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
256. Has your country encouraged and developed methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention (18(4))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) methods in place	

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

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

259. Is your country cooperating in the development and operation of the Clearing House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
260. Is your country helping to develop national capabilities through exchanging and disseminating information on experiences and lessons learned in implementing the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
261. Has your country designated a national focal point for the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
262. Is your country providing resources for the development and implementation of the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes, at the national level	X
c) yes, at national and international levels	
263. Is your country facilitating and participating in workshops and other expert meetings to further the development of the CHM at international levels?	
a) no	
b) participation only	X
c) supporting some meetings and participating	

264. Is your CHM operational	
a) no	
b) under development	
c) yes (please give details below)	X
265. Is your CHM linked to the Internet	
a) no	
b) yes	X
266. Has your country established a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary CHM steering committee or working group at the national level?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

The Mongolian Government and its related scientific institutions such as the Institutes of Botany, Geo-ecology, Biology and Geography have established good scientific and technical co-operation with international organizations such as UNDP, UNEP and WB and with other countries such as the Russian Federation, USA, Germany, Japan and South Korea.

Joint Mongolian and Russian biological expeditions have carried out many investigations into Mongolian biological resources over the last 30 years. As a result, many national scientists gained valuable knowledge and experiences.
With the assistance of UNDP/GEF the Eastern Steppe Biodiversity Project has conducted several research projects on ecosystems, endangered species, land management and pasture capacity.

Experts from the genetic laboratory of the Institute of Biology have a co-operation with the San Diego Zoo Park in the USA, conducted genetic studies on the wild sheep (Ovis ammon) and, with a zoo park in France, Przwalski’s Horse (Equus przwalski).

Researchers from the mammalian ecological laboratory together, with Denver Zoo in the USA, have carried out 660 man/hours of

fieldwork observing the migration and daily movements of the wild sheep, Bactrian camel, snow leopard and corsac.
Bird researchers have carried out field work in the Hangai and Khovsgol regions to study some species of birds with funding from a French hunting and wildlife management institute from the "Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage".

With the purpose of studying the migratory patterns of some of Mongolia's rare birds, a project to ring birds between 2001 and 2003 was prepared, in conjunction with a bird research institute from Japan. Funding is to be received from the Ministry of Nature and Environment of Japan. Preliminary fieldwork has been conducted in the river basins of the Hurh and Onon rivers to find suitable sites in which to carry out the Project. A Mongolian researcher has received training in bird ringing techniques from the Bird Research Institute in Yamagasjy, Japan in 2001.

Mongolia has established a National Focal point of Clearing House Mechanism and preliminarily set–up a Biodiversity Clearing House website, in which to introduces the policies, laws and regulations, programs, plans, measures and key events of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. At present, data update and website design capacity is rather weak, and the equipment is outdated. The Clearing House lacks effective methods to promote Scientific and technical cooperation between countries.

Article 19 Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Biotechnology development based on genetic resources is one of the important issues for sustainable development of Mongolia's economy. Consequently, Mongolia is interested in being involved in biotechnological research and having access to the results and benefits arising from biotechnology research.

Mongolia is also interested in protection of its vulnerable ecosystems and genetic resources from the potential adverse effects of Living Modified Organisms (LMO). Mongolia supports activities towards proclaiming that the Parties providing genetic resources, especially developing countries, have a full right to participate in research and development of technologies that involve their genetic resources, and that the benefits arising from their commercial exploitation are shared on a fair and equitable basis.

However, in Mongolia, the legislative framework for undertaking modern biotechnological research, experience in the evaluation of genetic resources and in risk assessment are not adequate because of the lack human and institutional capacity and financial support.

270. Has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research (19(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures:	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	

271. Has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties (19(2))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Most Mongolian ecosystems are fragile and need protection from the potential adverse impacts of LMOs. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has been ratified by the Mongolian Parliament. Based on this, biosafety-enabling activities should be started in Mongolia, including the preparation of a National Biosafety Framework and appropriate legislation. National focal points and experts should be designated. Public awareness on LMOs and their effects should be conducted. Transparency on imported LMO products should be ensured. The authorities responsible for the risk assessment and field trials of LMOs should be appointed. A national workshop to identify the technological capacity and legal mechanism should be convened.

Article 20 Financial resources

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
Financial resources are a decisive factor in biodiversity conservation and it should be acknowledged that the shortage of funding in developing countries is the main threat that will effect the successful implementation of the Convention. During this period of transition to a market economy, the state budget allocation to biodiversity conservation activities has been increasing year by year, however this amount is not sufficient. It is obvious that the future of biodiversity conservation in Mongolia depends largely on the financial aid of foreign countries and international donor organizations.

275. Has your country provided financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention (20(1))?	
a) no	
b) yes – incentives only	
c) yes – financial support only	
d) yes – financial support and incentives	
If a developed country Party - 276. Has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention, as agreed between you and the interim financial mechanism (20(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition – 277. Has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable you to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention (20(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes	

If a developed country Party - 278. Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))? ***If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -*** 279. Has your country used financial resources related to implementation of the Convention from bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
a) no	
b) yes	

Decision III/6. Additional financial resources

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

Decision V/11. Additional financial resources

282. Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) procedures being established	
c) yes (please provide details)	
283. Are details available of your country's financial support to national biodiversity activities?	
a) no	
b) not in a standardized format	
c) yes (please provide details)	
284. Are details available of your country's financial support to biodiversity activities in other countries?	
a) not applicable	
b) no	X
c) not in a standardized format	
d) yes (please provide details)	
Developed country Parties - 285. Does your country promote support for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention in the funding policy of its bilateral funding institutions and those of regional and multilateral funding institutions?	
a) no	

b) yes	
Developing country Parties - 286. Does your country discuss ways and means to support implementation of the objectives of the Convention in its dialogue with funding institutions?	
a) no	
b) yes	
287. Has your country compiled information on the additional financial support provided by the private sector?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	
288. Has your country considered tax exemptions in national taxation systems for biodiversity-related donations?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national conditions	
c) exemptions under development	
d) exemptions in place	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Mongolia pays special attention to implementing its policy for the conservation and sustainable use of the natural resources of the country and every year approves a certain amount of funding for this activity from the state budget. Projects funded by foreign countries and international donor organizations also provide great contributions to conserving the biodiversity of the country.

Expenditure of state budget allocation

In 2000, the state budget resources covered nature protection and restoration expenses. 44.2% of the total budget of 2.3 billion MNT, approved for the environment sector, was spent on hydrometeorology and environmental monitoring activities while 15.3% was spent on environmental sector staff costs. 40.5% was spent on nature protection and restoration activities. The amount of money spent on the environmental sector in 2000 represents only 0.3% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of the country.

To guarantee the financial resources for nature conservation and restoration activities, “The law on the amount of funds for nature restoration spent from income of natural resource using fees” was recently enacted by Parliament. This law determines the legal base for creating sustainable financial resources for sustainable natural resource management at either central or local level and, furthermore, sets up the fundamental requirements for sustainable development.

From the 2000 budget approved by the Ministry of Finance and Economy, 620 million MNT was spent on forestation and forest activities, 189.2 million MNT on protected area administration costs and 30 million MNT on general environmental events. Compared to the previous years figures this was an increase in all areas. Particularly, the budget for forestation and forest activities was considerably increased. Also the fund allocated from the state budget to the Protected Area Administrations was increased by 14%.

Expenditures of non-budget funds

The non-budget funds for the environmental sector are made up of donations from international organizations, foreign countries and private people as well as aid and technical assistance in the form of project implementation.

10% of the income of trophy hunting fees from international hunters, 73,300 USD, was transferred to the Nature Protection Fund in 2000. Every year, the Nature Protection Fund spends a certain amount of money on biodiversity conservation, bio-technical measures and environmental education activities.

48 projects were implemented during 1993 to 2000 in the environmental sector through the technical assistance of foreign countries and international donor organizations, and over 44.2 million USD was spent through these projects on biodiversity conservation, Protected Area management, forest protection, water resource management and hydro-meteorology and environmental monitoring activities.

20.9% of the total assistance was spent on biodiversity conservation, 20.9% on hydrometeorology and environmental monitoring, 17.6% on protected area management, 8.15% on forest protection and 5.28% on reducing water pollution.
Most of the projects are engaged in policy and program development and research works. The majority of the project funds are spent on training and workshops, operational costs and the costs of hiring international consultants. It is necessary to improve the efficiency of these projects and focus the new proposed projects on direct investment to nature restoration activities.

Further close co-operation with the NGOs, private sector, foreign countries and international donor organizations is very important to secure more financial resources for sustainable conservation and use of biodiversity resources.

Article 21 Financial mechanism

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

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
Having an effective financial mechanism in place is essential to successfully implementing the duties of the Convention. Great appreciation is given to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for their wide-range of financial assistance to the conservation and sustainable use of global biodiversity resources. But, the existing financial mechanism and its process of resource generation, equal allocation, effective use and monitoring needs to be upgraded.

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Over 44.2 million USD of programs and projects have been implemented during the period 1993-2001 with the financial support from international organizations and foreign countries.

With financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility, between 1993 and 1997 a Project titled “Mongolian Biodiversity” was implemented in Mongolia, and 163.3 million MNT was spent on capacity building of the protected areas central and local administrations. At the same time the project made a valuable contribution to creating a legal base for biodiversity conservation, training national professionals, improving environmental education and public awareness, improving public participation in Protected Area management and developing a National Action Plan of Biodiversity Conservation. Also the Global Environment Facility is financing another 7 year project, which began in 1998, titled “Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood Options in the Eastern Steppe of Mongolia”. This project aims to protect the unique ecosystem of the eastern part of Mongolia. With financial assistance from the GEF a number of Mongolian experts have been involved in various international conferences, training and workshops.

Mid-term project proposals to protect the globally endangered Bactrian camel and the ecosystem of the Altai-Sayan Region have been developed and submitted for GEF funding.

Having more prompt, flexible and open principles for effective financial management and closer co-operation with the developing countries based on the precise study of the demands could be an essential factor towards achieving the GEF goal.
Timely transfer of the funds required to implement the decisions of the Party Meetings would also intensify the implementation of the Convention. Also the process of project approval is very slow and the respective information delivery is not sufficient. During the project development phase, it is very important to get more opinions from the national experts in order to develop a practicable project document based as much as possible on local community participation and specific features of the country and to involve international consultants. Financial assistance for national capacity building and conducting various training programs for the national environmental NGOs is also a priority.

Article 23 Conference of the Parties

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Mongolia gives the highest consideration to the Conference of the Parties and regularly involves its representatives in matters relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Minister of Nature and Environment and other representatives of the state administrative organizations have been participating in it and clarifying their positions on the legal acts and documents adopted by the Conference of the Parties. Certain steps are being taken to implement the decisions of the Conference.

The financial contribution to the Convention is allocated from the state central budget and transferred to the Trust Fund of the Convention. In order to generate more financial sources for the successful implementation of the Convention an Environment Trust Fund has been established. National scientists and experts have been sent to the regional meetings and workshops of the Conference, to submit recommendations and draft documents, exchange information, and express positions concerning the specific characteristics of the country. Several regional and national meetings and seminars have been organized in Mongolia to ensure the implementation of the Convention. For instance, in May 2000 an international conference with a topic “Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation – a Trilateral Approach Experiences and Visions” was organized in Ulaanbaatar involving environmental sector vice-ministerial level representatives of Mongolia, China and the Russian Federation. The Conference adopted a recommendation on further co-operation of the three neighbouring countries in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, establishment of transboundary-protected areas, joint-protection of the ecosystems and the rare and endangered migratory species of the Eastern Mongolian Steppe and the Altai-Sayan eco-region. This international conference was a significant input to the further development of the regional co-operation of these countries.

In August 2001 Mongolia successfully organized an international scientific conference “Exchange of Experience to Protect the Arid Ecosystem of Asia”. It was an important step towards the implementation of the Conservation Plan of the Biodiversity in the Arid and Semi-arid Areas as well as the Decision 5/23 of the Conference of the Parties. Due to the insufficient capacity of the national experts and language difficulties, the representatives of Mongolia could not be elected on to the executive bodies of the Convention. Furthermore, in order to improve the efficiency of the Conference of the Parties, early preparation and distribution of the agenda, so as to get comments from the parties prior to the conference is very important. Good preparation will lead to prompt approval of the decisions of the Conference. Also parties from the developed countries have to be requested to pay special attention to human resource training, technology transfer and financial assistance of the parties from the developing countries.

Article 24 Secretariat

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Mongolia is in a position to closely co-operate with the Convention Secretariat in supporting all of their activities. Mongolia is in a position to co-operate with the Secretariat on different issues like to develop The National Action Plan of Biodiversity Conservation, prepare the First National Report of the Convention of Biological Diversity, organize the participation of the country's representatives in different kinds of working groups or expert meetings, give recommendations to the Conventions draft documents and exchange information.

The Ministry of Nature and Environment of Mongolia bears the responsibility for organizing the implementation of the Convention throughout the country, appointing the National Focal Point and the Clearing House Mechanism Coordinator.

Due to the current socio-economic difficulties during this transition period to the market economy, Mongolia is not able to provide any financial contribution to the Secretariat.

Article 25 Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice plays a vital role in the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Representatives from Mongolia have been regularly participating in the relevant meetings of this institution, and are involved in a broad range of activities to develop science-based recommendations and assessment for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and develop methodologies to adopt modern techniques and technologies.

Information on biodiversity conservation activities, research works and experiences in Mongolia have been duly distributed to other parties and comments on the decisions and recommendations made by the SBSTTA have been provided.

Furthermore it is necessary to increase the representation of the developing countries in the expert groups, improve the operational management, co-operate with the scientific bodies of the other international conventions and strengthen the relationship with other international on-going programs. Moreover, it needs to develop a long-term activity plan of the SBSTTA on the basis of the parties’ opinions to focus on the priority questions and take consideration of the regional characteristics for developing technical recommendations.

Article 26 Reports

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

Decision IV/14 National reports

302. Did all relevant stakeholders participate in the preparation of this national report, or in the compilation of information used in the report?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
303. Has your country taken steps to ensure that its first and/or second national report(s) is/are available for use by relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, was this by:	
a) informal distribution?	
b) publishing the report?	
c) making the report available on request?	
d) posting the report on the Internet?	

Decision V/19. National reporting

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Ministry of Nature and Environment of Mongolia developed The First National Report “Biological Resource of Mongolia” with the support of the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Development Programme. This was submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention in April 1998. A Working Group of experts and scientists from the state administration organizations, relevant Ministries and agencies, the Academy of Science and its institutes, universities and NGO representatives wrote the first report and several national-level seminars were organized to discuss the draft document. The First National Report on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity was published as a special book for public dissemination.

Furthermore it is necessary to improve the national reporting process using a methodology and criteria that is better able to assess the real results.

Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

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

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

314. Is your country supporting and/or participating in the River Basin Initiative?	
a) no	
b) yes	
315. Is your country gathering information on the status of inland water biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) assessments ongoing	
c) assessments completed	
316. Is this information available to other Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes - national report	
c) yes – through the CHM	

d) yes – other means (please give details below)	
317. Has your country developed national and/or sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes – national plans only	
c) yes – national plans and major sectors	
d) yes – national plans and all sectors	
318. Has your country implemented capacity-building measures for developing and implementing these plans?	
a) no	
b) yes	

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

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

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

Mongolia has limited water resources. Total resources are approximately 22.3 thousand m^3. Mongolia has an estimated 3,800 rivers and streams and these have a total length of 67,000 kilometres. 3,500 lakes, 7,000 springs, 120 mineral water resources and 187 glacial rivers cover over 500 square kilometres. Surface and ground water resources play a vital role in the countries economy especially in agriculture and forestry, livestock production, industrial and domestic water supplies and, indirectly, the sanitation and health of the people.

The Water Act has been enacted since 1995. The purpose of the law is to regulate the protection, proper use and restoration of water resources. The Government approves the law on water discharge and its fee. Water quality standards have been updated. A pollution mitigation action plan for the Tuul River (which flows through Ulaanbaatar) was implemented in 1997 with support from the Dutch government. Also, the Government has approved a national action plan on water resources.

At present the level of studies on changes in Mongolia’s water resources, the water regime and the effects of impacts of economic activities on broader environmental and other factors are not satisfactory. Salination and poor water quality are major problems in arid and semi arid regions of Mongolia.

Salination is caused by a combination of poor drainage and high evaporation rates that concentrate salts in surface layers of the soil, lakes and ground water aquifers. Natural water quality problems related to saline waters, seasonal freezing and droughts limit the use of water resources in Mongolia.

Priorities on water

- Develop legal harmonization and amendments.
- Develop regulations for implementation of the law; put the law into effect; Establish training programs for the personnel required to implement the laws.
- To take action to improve water supply and to reduce the wastage of water in urban areas which may include the replacement of electric pumps and other capital works; a public awareness program on conserving water; an Emergency Leak Repair Program; introduction of water metering devices for at least each apartment block in provincial centers; and a graduated steeply rising tariff for excessive per capita consumption of water.
- To undertake research to identify the location and the estimated amount of groundwater reserves, giving priority to areas where local communities do not have adequate water; Establish a monitoring network based on wells, etc, of the amount and quality of groundwater; and to develop regulations and standards for sustainable use of groundwater.
- To obtain or develop equipment for demineralizing and softening water for rural water supplies, especially in the steppe areas where water quality is an important threat to health.
- Improve public awareness and health education on water related issues.
- To ensure an adequate water supply to cover for the expected demand, estimation of resources and trends, expansion and recovery of water resources, improving the regime for protecting water resources in ways that increase the quality and protect against pollution in harmony with population and settlement.
- To supply the population with purer dinking water and to use industrial water more efficiently.
- To create monitoring networks on water use and its conservation.

Marine and coastal biological diversity

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

320. Does your national strategy and action plan promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
321. Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) arrangements in place	
322. Has your country provided the Executive Secretary with advice and information on future options concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes	
323. Has your country undertaken and/or exchanged information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management?	
a) no	
b) yes – previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
324. Has your country programmes in place to enhance and improve knowledge on the genetic structure of local populations of marine species subjected to stock enhancement and/or sea-ranching activities?	
a) no	
b) programmes are being developed	
c) programmes are being implemented for some species	
d) programmes are being implemented for many species	
e) not a perceived problem	
325. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in an annex to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	

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

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

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

N/A

Agricultural biological diversity

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

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

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

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

341. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	
b) yes	

342. Is your country promoting regional and thematic co-operation within this framework of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some co-operation	
c) widespread co-operation	
d) full co-operation in all areas	
343. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) limited additional funds	
c) significant additional funds	
If a developed country Party –	
344. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity, in particular for capacity building and case-studies, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition?	
a) no	
b) yes within existing cooperation programme(s)	
b) yes, including limited additional funds	
c) yes, with significant additional funds	
345. Has your country supported actions to raise public awareness in support of sustainable farming and food production systems that maintain agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent	
c) yes, to a significant extent	
346. Is your country co-ordinating its position in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes	
347. Is your country a Contracting Party to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade?	
a) not a signatory	
b) signed – ratification in process	
c) instrument of ratification deposited	
348. Is your country supporting the application of the Executive Secretary for observer status in the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation?	
a) no	
b) yes	

349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	
b) yes	
350. Is your country compiling case-studies and implementing pilot projects relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	
351. Has information on scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies been supplied to other Contracting Parties through media such as the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) not applicable	
b) no	
c) yes - national report	
d) yes – through the CHM	
e) yes – other means (please give details below)	
352. Has your country considered how to address generic concerns regarding such technologies as genetic use restriction technologies under international and national approaches to the safe and sustainable use of germplasm?	
a) no	
b) yes – under consideration	
c) yes – measures under development	
353. Has your country carried out scientific assessments on inter alia ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	
b) some assessments	
c) major programme of assessments	
354. Has your country disseminated the results of scientific assessments on inter alia ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	
b) yes – through the CHM	
c) yes – other means (please give details below)	
355. Has your country identified the ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some measures identified	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive review completed	

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

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

Agricultural biodiversity is a primary main concern for the Government of Mongolia due to its importance for economic development and enhancing the food security of the nation.

Policy and legislative framework

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture has developed a series of policies and regulations related to agricultural biodiversity conservation.

A law on the “Protection of livestock genetic fund and health” and a law on “Plant protection” have been adopted. Laws on “Livestock protection”, “Farming”, “Agriculture”, “Seed plantation insurance” and “Agriculture cooperatives” are currently being written in order to strengthen the system of protecting livestock from natural hazards, prevent further decline in crop production, expand international cooperation in the field, update the information network system and improve the legislative framework.

Creation of a natural disaster protection system for the country’s livestock, improvement of the quality of veterinary and reproduction services and intensification of the epizootic disease prevention activities are the priority areas for the state agricultural sector in the years to come.

The Government has adopted a number of policy documents and resolutions including the “National programme for improving livestock quality and reproduction”, “National programme for protecting livestock from drought and dzud (severe winter storms) disaster”, the ”Green revolution”, the “White revolution”, “Rule for creating the livestock protection fund, its utilization and reporting” and the “Resolution on measures to be taken in case of animal infectious disease outbreaks”.
Along with this, in order to “prevent decline in crop production and ensure its sustainable development”, the “Urinsh 2001” project and “Seed” programme were approved by the Cabinet Resolution #39 in 2001.

Measures taken

Some 89.5%, or 284.3 thousand head of male livestock, used for breeding at the national level, were inspected and accredited. Moreover, an additional 12.5 thousand head of male livestock have been selected for breeding. 30 million MNT from the state centralized budget and 10 million MNT from local budgets were allocated for livestock reproduction activities.

A “Hay making and Fodder preparation in 2001” project was prepared and 1 billion 50 million MNT were allocated for hay and fodder preparation. As a result, 416,000 tons of fodder, 802.6 thousand tons of hay and 16.9 thousand tons of commercially produced fodder have been utilized.

A total of 17 small and medium sized enterprises reserved 515.5 tons of first class potato seeds and 417 million MNT credit was provided to them for purchasing herbicides. Also, some 228.5 million MNT worth of herbicides were made available to small and medium sized enterprises. As a result, 36.3 thousand ha of land has been chemically processed and cleaned of weeds.

The Cabinet has adopted a “Green Revolution” programme by its Resolution #76 and over last 4 years 676 million MNT were allocated from state budget to provide 240 greenhouse, 140 complex hand tools, 175 tractors, 130 water irrigation systems, 130 herbicide tools, 220.8 tons of seeds of potatoes and vegetables, 15,000 fruit tree seedlings, repair 3 water irrigation system, build 15 new wells and establish 180 agro-parks in different soums and districts of the country. This was the major state investment to the development of agriculture production and also played an important role for reduction of poverty.

In 2001, the state budget allocated 535.4 million MNT for eliminating harmful rodents in 407 thousands ha of pasture areas

using air spreading (total 339.3 thousands ha or 83.3% of total covered area) and biological methods (total 49.2 thousands ha or 12.1% of total covered area).

In 2002 the “Agriculture Technical Cooperation Programme" was prepared and project preparatory research has been launched after negotiations with the Asian Development Bank. The project will provide US$10-15 million soft term loans to the agricultural sector.

International cooperation

As a result of cooperation with the UNDP, World Bank, “Water-21” project, Gobi Development Initiative, and other international organizations, US$500.000 investment has been secured for rehabilitating water points and wells in 12 provinces of the country. Also, a project for supplying agricultural equipment and machines was prepared under the framework of the KR-2 project assisted by the Government of Japan.

In 2002, the Ministry of Agriculture developed the “Technical cooperation in Agriculture” program proposal. Preparation for implementation will be launched based on an agreement signed between ADB for funding. According to the program, a total of 10-15 million USD soft loans will be provided to the development of the agriculture sector.

Problems

Due to consecutive “dzud” disasters over the winters of 2001 and 2002, approximately 4.7 million head of livestock perished. The animal husbandry sector of the country suffered extensive losses.

There are still a number of problems that need to be solved. The problems include a critical need for creation of a legislative environment for proper utilization of land, the lack of resources for rehabilitating the sprinkler systems, shortage of seed reserves due to recurrent droughts, poor quality of seeds, the lack of turnover of resources of the agricultural companies, absence of favorable investment opportunities, outdated equipment and technical facilities and general lack of financial resources of the agricultural companies.
Insufficient chemical processing of crops led to drastic decreases in the harvest.

Measures to be taken in the near future

- Improve the existing legislation on agricultural biodiversity and the strengthening of its enforcement.
- Provide a comprehensive analysis of the status and trends in Mongolian agricultural biodiversity and of their underlying causes as well improving the local knowledge of its management.
- Create a national system for protecting livestock from natural hazards, increase the number of fodder reserve points, corrals, water points and animal holding facilities.
- Enhance the effectiveness of epizootic disease prevention activities, especially parasitic diseases, improve animal health conditions and create conditions for supplying livestock raw materials and products that meet the international standards.
- Strengthen capacities of herders, farmers, indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders to sustainably manage the agricultural biological diversity, so as to increase the benefits.
- Conduct countrywide assessments of the genetic resources of importance for food and agriculture.
- Exchange experience and information from other countries on agricultural biological diversity conservation.

Forest biological diversity

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

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

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

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

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

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

372. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you will implement it?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	
373. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	
374. Is your country fostering cooperation for the regional or subregional implementation of the programme among countries sharing similar biomes?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	

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

41.3% of Mongolia's total territory is classified as arid; this includes part of the Gobi desert. 78.2% of the territory is under a potential danger of desertification. Natural causes of desertification are: low rainfall and sandy soils that are very susceptible to wind erosion; high winds; extreme temperatures; thin topsoil; fires; sparse vegetation due to overgrazing (due to a substantial increase in livestock numbers over the last 10 years). Population and agricultural pressures also contribute to the problem by disrupting the traditional pastoral land-use system; more horses, cattle and goats; fewer sheep; inappropriate mining and industrial practices; inappropriate cultivation practices; multi-tracking (off-road traffic).

A dramatic increase in the number of livestock (from 25.8 million head in 1990 to more than 30 million in 2000) and a growing proportion of goats in herds has put pressure on fragile grasslands, particularly around population centers, where land is often denuded. Nation-wide, more than half of the pasturelands are experiencing medium levels of degradation. Low and high degradation pasturelands make up another 45% combined.

Mongolia therefore pays great attention to the protection of the environment and biodiversity of dry lands. The Law on Environmental Protection, Law on Protection of Wildlife, Law on Hunting, Law on Special Protected areas and the Law on Natural Plants were passed between 1994 and 1998. In addition, over 20 regulations and resolutions have been endorsed to support these laws. These laws and regulations are aimed at creating a sound legal and economic environment for the regulation of wildlife protection, and the proper

utilization and restoration of resources in dry and sub-humid lands.

Mongolia has adopted some measures to conserve and restore the environment and biodiversity in arid zones.
Biodiversity conservation of dry lands is being addressed, to varying degrees, by over 20 programs and action plans. Among these are the State Policy on Ecology, Mongolian Action Program for the 21st Century (MAP-21), the National Water Program on Natural Disaster Reduction as well as being mentioned in the Government Action Program 2000-2004.

Mongolia ratified the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in 1997 while the Government of Mongolia approved the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification by resolution #169 in 1996. Strategies, directions, phases and methodologies of the activities are determined in the National Action Programme of Mongolia to Combat Desertification. These aim to evaluate the current nature and environment, socio-economic situations, and the reasons for desertification, its spread and consequences.

Large areas of the fragile ecosystems of the Gobi Desert zone, with their rare and endangered flora and fauna, are designated as Protected Areas and measures on development for these areas are being taken. Within this framework several Protected Areas have been established such as the Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park and Small Gobi Strictly Protected Area.

The Mongolian Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology are conducting scientific studies on desertification. Several projects have been or are being implemented on vegetation cover of desert areas, ecosystem features, climatic factors, and water supply.

The Government of Mongolia has spent 870 million MNT on the reforestation of 24,300 ha of land since 1998. In 2000, 9030 ha land was reforested in Mongolia.

In cooperation with the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Combating Desertification (CCD), Mongolia successfully hosted the Asia-Africa Forum on Combating Desertification and Asian Focal Point Meeting on the Implementation of the CCD in 2001. Mongolia is the host country for the Asian Regional Thematic Programme Network on “Capacity building for mitigating drought impact and combating desertification” within the framework for the implementation of the Convention in Asia.

Between 1996 and 2000 the Government of Mongolia presented 20 project proposals to international organizations and developed countries for technical and financial support to combat drought and desertification. 14 projects out of the 20 proposed, worth US$24.6 million, are being implemented at national or local levels. Other projects on protecting natural resources,

improving natural resource management, reducing pasture-land degradation, strengthening national capacity, increasing public awareness and forestry rehabilitation, which are closely linked to the issue of desertification, should be mentioned here too. For instance, the project on the “Integrated Prevention of Desertification” funded by GTZ was started in 2000. This project aims to reduce the spread of desertification through working with the local herders to establish more sustainable grazing systems in the Gobi Desert. In the context of public awareness on combating desertification, between 1997 and 2000 eight national workshops on environmental and desertification issues have been organized involving different stakeholders.
Only 30% of the land degraded due to mining and geological exploration is rehabilitated to some degree. A total of 522 million MNT has been spent for well rehabilitation and renovation in the last two years within the framework of the National Water Program, resulting in the renovation of 337 wells.

Although the Government is paying special attention to protecting the biodiversity in arid zones, mitigating the effects of desertification and rehabilitating the degraded environment, the following challenges and problems still need to be tackled:

- Financial constraints.
- Underestimation of desertification consequences, biased thinking of considering desertification as simply an environmental problem.
- Insufficient legal mechanism to combat desertification.
- Unsatisfactory inter-sectoral coordination.
- Lack of national and local capacity to protect biodiversity and to combat desertification.
- Lack of monitoring, assessment and information on desertification.
- Unsatisfactory public/private sector and local government participation in combating desertification.
- Lack of technology and methodology to rehabilitate degraded environment and to stop sand movement.

Measures to be taken in the near future

- Develop economic, legal and structural grounds to protect the biodiversity of the arid zone.
- Define the extent of desertification, its reasons and consequences, and establish a monitoring system.
- Adapt national technology to combat desertification and take

practical measures to rehabilitate degraded environments.

- Increase public involvement in protecting biodiversity in arid zones.
- Mobilize local and international resources for the conservation of biodiversity in arid zones and rehabilitation of degraded lands.

Decision V/20. Operations of the Convention

375. Does your country take into consideration gender balance, involvement of indigenous people and members of local communities, and the range of relevant disciplines and expertise, when nominating experts for inclusion in the roster?	
a) no	
b) yes	
376. Has you country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	
377. Has your country undertaken a review of national programmes and needs related to the implementation of the Convention and, if appropriate, informed the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	
b) under way	
c) yes	

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

Institutional measures

Established a National Committee on Implementing Convention on Biological Diversity and focal point in Mongolia.
The National Committee on Implementing Convention on Biological Diversity was established in 1995 and consists of representatives from MNE and other government agencies, research institutes and NGOs. This Committee conducts meetings each quarter to coordinate the implementation of activities and prepare an annual work plan.
The National Focal points are also established for CBD, and clearinghouse mechanism. Mongolia is preparing to sign the Bio-safety Protocol. Mongolia is actively participating in CBD implementation related activities and takes part in each COP and SBSTTA meetings.

Developing international cooperation

The Government of Mongolia has carried out effective international cooperation in the field of biological conservation and sustainable utilization and is actively participating in regional and sub-regional actions. Within the framework of its international cooperation on the protection of environmental and natural resources Mongolia is a signatory to five international conventions.
At present 7 inter-governmental agreements and 30 bilateral cooperation agreements, with foreign countries were established between 1990 and 2000.
Since 1993, Mongolia's international cooperation on environmental issues has reached a high level; it has been jointly implementing projects with international organizations like GEF, UNDP, UNEP and WWF, and countries such as Germany, the Netherlands, Japan and the USA. As a developing country, Mongolia is unable to provide sufficient funding from the state budget required for the efficient conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Therefore, it is necessary to seek further funding from international sources.

Formulating laws and action plans related to biological diversity

Mongolia adopted the law on “Special Protected Areas”, law on “Special Protected Areas Buffer zone”, law on “Protecting livestock genetic fund and health” and another 25 related environmental laws in the last 7 years. The Government of

Mongolia developed several action plans that relate to implementing biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization such as “National Biological Diversity Conservation Action Plan”, “National Plan of Action to Combat Desertification”, “National Programme on Protected Areas” and other programs and action plans on water, forest, environmental public awareness and wildlife.

Strengthened and improved biodiversity conservation activities

1/ In situ conservation

Mongolia has taken certain steps to establish a system of Protected Areas and ensure their management recognizes the great importance of Protected Areas which balance the virginity of nature, support the main ecological processes, represent rare and endemic species and preserve and protect historical and cultural property. Scientists consider that a country which has nature, climate and territory features like Mongolia has to take under the protection no less than 30% of its territory and by carrying out economic activity effectively it can ensure its ecological balance.

By the year 2001 Mongolia had founded 50 protected areas covering more than

20.6 million hectares of land, or 13.2 % of the entire country. There are 12 Strictly Protected Areas, which make up 50.4% of the total protected area, 16 National Parks, which make up 40.3%, 16 Nature Reserves, which make up 8.9% and 6 Natural Monuments, making up 0.4%. 11 Protected Area Administration offices networks were also established. 3.0 million hectares of territory in 22 provinces is protected under the protection of local authorities. Mongolian protected areas are gaining increasing importance internationally. For example, the Gobi Strictly Protected Area, The Bogd Uul Strictly Protected Ares and Uvs Nuur Strictly Protected Area are already on the list of World Biosphere Reserves. The total territory of the protected area increased by 25.8% in 2001, from 16.3 million ha in 1996. Endangered animals, which are listed in the Red Book, include the Bactrian Camel, Gobi Bear, Przewalski's Horse, Saiga Antelope, Shiber and Murun Elk, Wild Boar and the Asian Beaver; 70% of the areas in which Snow leopard, Wild Ass, River Otter, Musk Deer, Ibex and Wild Sheep live are now under state protection. 40% of the total area growing over 400 species of endangered plants has been taken under state protection.

2/ Ex situ conservation

Some fur bearing animals were introduced into Mongolia and farmed, such as Ondatra zibheticus, Stoats and Raccoon Dogs,

while the native gazelles, Saiga antelope (Tatarica mongolica), Takhi (Przewalski's Horse), Asian beavers and wild goats are being reintroduced into areas where they used to dwell and also into new areas. The Takhi reintroduction programme has been going since 1992 and as of now Mongolia has over 180 Takhi. Two herds were released to pastures from special acclimatization areas of steppe at Takhiin tal, in the Gobi Desert. Another project to reintroduce the Takhi has been implemented for 10 years based at Hustain Nuruu in Tov province.

Research work on the rearing and domestication of 5 families of Musk Deer is being conducted at Bugat Mountain in Gachuurt village, near Ulaanbaatar city.

A botanical garden was established in eastern Ulaanbaatar in the 1970's in order to conserve native, rare and economically useful plant species. For the last twenty years research has been carried out on over 100 species at the garden, and plants are provided for the city's green areas from this garden.

The Red Book of Mongolia, published in 1997, indicates that there are two categories of endangered species in Mongolia: rare and endangered species. This includes 30 mammal species.

Moreover, the use of 133 species of endangered plants has been legally abolished, and 128 species of higher and lower plants were registered in the Red Book, providing sound conditions for their natural rehabilitation.

Although Mongolia is taking some measures to domesticate and rear rare animals and grow from seed rare plants, the legal coordination in this field is not developed to the desired level and no special programme has been developed in this field. Moreover, due to financial constraints as well as incomplete scientific studies, activities in this field are not being implemented.

3.Established effective research and monitoring system

Mongolian researchers have conducted a lot of research in the field of biological diversity in order to develop adequate resources for a database, which is used to carry out activities on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

The Law of Science and Technology and The Law on Technology Transfer were enacted in 1998 and in 2001 the Government issued the "Concepts of Science and Technology Policy of the State". The research activities through the Academy of Science and other specialist scientific institutions and universities have been financed by different sources. Much research material is available on the biodiversity of Mongolia prepared by international and local experts over many years. But the co-ordination and proper use of that information is not sufficient.

The Information-Computer Center of the Ministry for Nature and Environment is responsible for the management of all this information collection, and for exchanging the results of different research works, surveys and studies.
With financial support from the State budget the assessment of resources and an inventory program were implemented at the endangered and threatened species level. For example, a programme was implemented to assess the status of some animals which are recorded in the Red Book, such as wild mountain sheep (Ovis ammon), wild goat (Capra siberica), gobi bear (Ursus arctos gobiensis), snow leopard (Uncia uncia), Przewalski's Horse (Equus przewalski) and the Bactrian camel (Camelus bactrianus ferus.

Also at the national level an inventory of falcon, mountain sheep and deer was carried out. With the support of foreign donors, the Protected Area Administration together with scientific institutions has organized research, study and monitoring activities in Protected Areas.
EIA unit was established within the Ministry for Nature and Environment. In 2000 general environmental impact assessments were conducted on 186 projects.

4.Increased public awareness on biodiversity conservation

In 1997 The Mongolian Programs for Public Education on Ecology is approved. These are the main policy documents that state the importance of public awareness to biodiversity conservation and environmental protection.
NGOs play an active role in enhancing public awareness and ecological education of the public. More than 100 environmental NGO's have been established over the last few years. The MNE has also set up a coordinating Committee to strengthen public involvement and participation in crucial environmental decision-making.
Environment Public Awareness Programme (EPAP), supported by the Dutch Government, was implemented in Mongolia between 1997 and 1998. Within the framework of this programme almost 100 projects on environmental public awareness were implemented by NGOs and governmental agencies in all 21 provinces.
Under the auspices of various internationally supported projects (WWF, GTZ, UNDP, USAid) Environmental Information Centers have been set up in communities in the bufferzones of certain Protected Areas and National Parks.

Some TV programmes have also been produced on wildlife protection. A special website on the environment is available for the public.

An Ecological Training Center was set up in Ulaanbaatar in 2001. It aims to improve the environmental education of teachers from secondary schools and universities.

Numerous workshops, training and seminars on biodiversity conservation have been organized at the international and national level. These have provided a great opportunity for sharing experiences among experts and researchers and improving strategic planning and implementation.

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

The Government of Mongolia has actively participated in COP and SBSTTA meetings and other related international meetings on Biodiversity. Mongolia has conducted studies that aim to improve its strategic papers and implementation plans for biodiversity conservation projects with other countries. In 1994, a trilateral agreement on establishing a joint protected area within Mongolia, China and Russia was concluded by the Ministry for Nature and Environment of Mongolia, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Reserves of the Russian Federation and the Agency for Environmental Protection of the Peoples Republic of China. According to the agreement, the parties agreed to protect biological diversity in the border areas of the three countries, especially migratory birds, and to conduct joint research and monitoring projects.

Mongolia is in a position to increase its global, regional and sub-regional cooperation on biodiversity conservation and its sustainable utilization.

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

Improve the policy and legislative documents and ensure their enforcement

The Government of Mongolia and its enacting agency, the Ministry for Nature and Environment, has developed a National Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan that covers the main aspects of biological diversity, such as; conservation of flora and fauna, protected area management, research and training and public awareness. However, there is insufficient information on genetic resources and biotechnology. In line with the guidelines

and decisions of CBD, Mongolia should revise its National Biodiversity Action Plan and consider the development of a strategy for the conservation of genetic resources.

A series of national work programmes for biodiversity conservation in arid and sub-arid, grassland, forest and wetland ecosystems need to be produced. The legal and regulatory framework still needs improving to reflect recent changes and current strategic priorities, as well as to ensure better enforcement of the existing legislation. Most of the new legislation on biodiversity conservation will require the development of new regulations and standards. It is essential to develop regional and local action plans for biodiversity conservation that are incorporated into regional development programmes in the provinces.

Mongolia needs to improve the inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation in biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use. All ministries and international organizations that are involved in biological conservation need to develop closer relationships. This will ensure that wasteful duplication of effort is avoided.

Strengthen capacity building for Mongolia

In general MNE is responsible for the development and enforcement of biodiversity conservation policy and legislation. For a country to develop its economy and resources according to the basic principles of sustainability, a strong and professional environmental management system must be in place at central as well as regional and local levels. There is an urgent need to strengthen capacity building and training for policy makers, planners, environmental inspectors, rangers and other stakeholders.

Mongolia is not able to fund the necessary training and research work from its own resources.

For a country like Mongolia with a vast territory, it is necessary to adopt modern techniques and technologies of land use, including GIS, to improve the standards of biological surveying, monitoring and research. Special training courses on biodiversity conservation, strengthening protected area management, environmental impact assessments, and environmental law enforcement for participants from developing countries who are party to CBD will play an important role in improving the national capacity.

Increase technical and financial assistance to Mongolia

Although the Government of Mongolia has developed a series of action plans and other activities to conserve and to promote sustainable utilization of biodiversity there are problems with

its implementation due to a lack of financial resources. The country is in a transition period and its vast territory and small population means it cannot generate enough income on its own to effectively implement the CBD activities. Besides this lack of financial resources the country also needs to strengthen its human and technical capacity.

It therefore needs financial and technical assistance from developed countries and other international organizations.

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

The format of this second report was much better than the first one, making it much easier to complete.

Some difficulties were encountered in interpreting the meaning of the questions and there was overlap between some of the Articles,ie; It seemed necessary to give the same information to answer questions in different Articles.

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

Date of completion:	**April, 1996**
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government	
By which authority?	**By Government of Mongolia**
On what date?	**July, 1996**
If the NBSAP has been published please give	
Title:	**Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan for Mongolia**
Name and address of publisher:	**Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**
ISBN:	
Price (if applicable):	
Other information on ordering:	
If the NBSAP has not been published	
Please give full details of how copies can be obtained:	
If the NBSAP has been posted on a national website	
Please give full URL:	
If the NBSAP has been lodged with an Implementing Agency of the GEF	
Please indicate which agency:	**UNDP**

Has a copy of the NBSAP been lodged with the Convention Secretariat?			
Yes		No	

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

Title: Biological Diversity of Mongolia: First National Report
Completed and published: on June, 1998
Adopted by the Government of Mongolia
A copy of this report has been lodged with UNDP

Title: National Program for Protected Areas
Completed and published: 1998
Adopted by Parliament of Mongolia

Title: National Action Plan to Combat Desertification
Completed and published: 1996
Adopted by the Government of Mongolia
Copy of this report has been lodged with UNDP

Title: National Forestry Programme
Completed and published: 1998
Adopted by the Government of Mongolia

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

Annex

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