

Please provide to following details on the origin of this report

Contracting Party	THE NETHERLANDS
National Focal Point	
Full name of the institution:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Name and title of contact officer:	Ms. Annemarie van der Heijden
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 20061 2500 EB The Hague The Netherlands
Telephone:	31 70 3486059
Fax:	31 70 3484985
E-mail:	annemarie-vander.heijden@minbuza.nl
Contact officer for national report (if different)	
Name and title of contact officer:	ir. Jacob Jan Bakker
Mailing address:	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries Department of Nature Management P.O. Box 20401 2500 EK DEN HAAG
Telephone:	+ 31 70 3785764
Fax:	+ 31 70 3786144
E-mail:	J.J.Bakker@n.agro.nL
Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	

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

Stakeholders has been invited to participate.

The report has been prepared by policy officials and specialists.

Materials used are indicated in the text.

Decision IV/7 on Forest biological Diversity

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

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

<i>If a developing country Party or a Party with economy in transition -</i>	
4. Has your country requested assistance through the financial mechanism for projects that promote the implementation of the focused work programme on forest biological diversity? (Decision IV/7, paragraph 7)	
a) no	
b) yes (please give details below)	

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

5. Has your country identified methodologies for enhancing the integration of forest biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into an holistic approach to sustainable forest management at the national level? (Work Programme, paragraph 13)	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	X
d) not applicable	
6. Has your country developed methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest-related knowledge into sustainable forest management, in accordance with Article 8(j)? (Work Programme, paragraph 14)	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	
7. Has your country promoted cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological resources at all levels in accordance with Articles 5 and 16 of the Convention? (Work Programme, paragraph 15)	

a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	X
d) not applicable	
8. Has your country promoted the sharing of relevant technical and scientific information on networks at all levels of protected forest areas and networking modalities in all types of forest ecosystems? (Work Programme, paragraph 17)	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	X
d) not applicable	

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

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

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

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

16. Has your country assessed experiences gained in national and regional processes, identifying common elements and gaps in existing initiatives and improving indicators for forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 43)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes - limited assessment made (please give details below)	X
c) yes - significant assessment made (please give details below)	X
d) not relevant	

17. Has your country carried out taxonomic studies and inventories at the national level which provide for a basic assessment of forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 43)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes - limited assessment made (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant assessment made (please give details below)	X
d) not relevant	

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

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

Q. 3. Assessed status and trends

The forest area of the Netherlands is being checked periodically. The area is slowly increasing. Important areas of natural woodland have been identified. Key parameters for biodiversity (e.g. dead wood and indigenous tree species) are part of the forest inventories (the parameters show an increasing trend).

Many data on bird, mammal, insect and plant species are available from national or regional monitoring programmes (see also the Dutch thematic report on alien species), but are not linked to specific forest areas.

Q. 5. Integrating forest biological diversity into sustainable forest management

Biodiversity is an integral part of *Natuur voor mensen, mensen voor natuur* (Nature for People, People for Nature; the Dutch national policy plan for nature, forests and landscape in the 21st (2000); replaces the Forest Policy Plan (1993)). Stakeholders are consulted in forest policy development and participate in the development of a national standard for Sustainable Forest Management.

A special subsidy programme (*Programma Beheer*; Programme Nature Management) exists to support ecological and social forest functions on private forest land; the scheme also includes support for the maintenance of old natural forests. Landowners can participate in subsidy schemes to mitigate negative effects of air pollution and excessive drainage.

Internationally, the Netherlands support integrated conservation and development programmes (through development co-operation) and develop sustainable forest management as a tool for the conservation and sustainable use of forests and a equitable sharing of forest resources.

Q. 6. Traditional forest related knowledge

In the Netherlands (and many other Western European countries) the large number of (small) private forest owners play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity in forests. Their knowledge of forest management, coupled with national policies to protect and enhance biodiversity in forests, is an efficient tool to achieve the policy goals.

In their development co-operation, the Netherlands pay special attention on the specific role of the traditional forest-related knowledge of the indigenous people and the local population in sustainable forest management. Further work is foreseen in the development of the integrated conservation and development programmes where the traditional knowledge plays an important role.

Q. 7. Promote cooperation

At the national level, participation by stakeholders is encouraged, e.g. by financial support by the government for a national round table to establish a national standard for certification together with the Forest Stewardship Council.

Land owners are encouraged to organize themselves in "forest groups" to solve many problems of small scale ownership; Landowners can also participate in special programmes (*Programma Beheer*) to support non-benefit forest functions, e.g. the protection of important areas of ancient natural forest or to mitigate negative effects of air pollution and excessive drainage on forest- and other ecosystems.

At the Pan-European level: promoting Sustainable Forest Management (including biodiversity and protected areas) and reporting on progress as follow up of the Helsinki Resolutions.

In their development co-operation, the Netherlands promote the link between conservation and sustainable use of forests and the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of forests for sustainable development and poverty alleviation. In a number of countries, programmes are supported on the conservation and sustainable use e.g. through attention to participative management of protected areas and buffer zone development around protected areas. On the multilateral level, programmes are supported to integrate conservation and sustainable use of forests in Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes of Worldbank and programmes with FAO, IUCN and WWF.

Q. 8. Promote sharing of technical and scientific information

In its recent policy papers, the Netherlands government emphasizes the importance of networks of protected areas and of hot spots. The Netherlands support the Tropenbos Foundation research programme with research on the conservation and sustainable use of forests in the tropical forests. Dissemination of technical information via books (e.g. on Maintenance and improvement of forest margins, on "Multifunctional close to nature forestry", on forest ecosystem approach etc.) and a free information bulletin.

Q. 9. Enhanced understanding human influence

Research and extension on the impacts of commercial forest exploitation, air pollution and climate change. Policy to promote small scale "close to nature" forestry and ecological functions of forests (national level); policy to and to reduce deforestation and promote sustainable forest management in tropical and boreal forests (*Regeringsstandpunt Tropisch Regenwoud; Government's Position on Tropical Rain Forests; Natuur voor Mensen, mensen voor natuur* (Nature for People, People for Nature; and the Dutch national policy plan for nature, forests and landscape in the 21st (2000)).

Q. 10. Promote activities to assemble management experiences

The Netherlands support the Tropenbos research programme, CIFOR and ICRAF with programmes and activities on local management experiences. Under the IFF, the Netherlands also support the workshop on underlying causes for deforestation. In the national context, management experience and scientific information is assembled and published in "handbooks", e.g. on close to nature forestry (cf. *Handboek geïntegreerd bosbeheer*), on the ecosystem approach (cf. *Ecosysteemvisie bossen*), special management topics such as forest margins (*Handboek beheer bosranden*) and mitigating measures in situations with high deposition (cf. *Richtlijnen mineralen toediening en neveneffecten van bemesting*).

Relevant topics are also dealt with in articles for relevant target groups in periodicals.

Q. 11. Activities to minimize negative and promote positive effects

General policies have been developed to reduce nitrogen deposition and excessive drainage in the Netherlands; although relatively effective, the original policy targets have not yet been met. A special programme to mitigate the effects of (nitrogen) deposition and drainage on forest ecosystems, provides financial support for mitigating measures taken by forest owners. The programme also includes an intensive information exchange between research and land managers.

State and provincial support for "close to nature" forest management, including subsidies for relevant quantities of dead (standing) timber. Efforts are made to protect the gene resources of rare indigenous tree and shrub species.

In the international context, the development co-operation of the Netherlands supports programmes on the integrated conservation and development initiatives where the participation of the local population in the management of the forests is elaborated. In the broader macroeconomic and poverty alleviation context of countries, emphasis is put on the impact of external factors on the forests. Specific support to IFI's through partnerships is directed to these aspects.

Support to the Forest Stewardship Council and the development of minimum requirement for sustainable forest management contribute to the reduction of the impact of commercial logging on the forests.

In the development co-operation, much emphasis is put on avoiding negative impacts of development activities on forests.

Q. 12. Activities to minimize impact alien species

Programmes in the Netherlands to control introduced Am. Black cherry have run during the 60-ies and 70-ies, but are more or less abandoned now. Problems mainly exist at a local scale and are dealt with at the management level.

Q. 13. Prioritisation of research

Some research (biodiversity indicators) and on small scale close to nature forestry funded, as well as a limited programme on forest reserves. The main focus of research was on deposition (1980-1995) and climate change (1995 onwards).

In the international arena, the research by the Tropenbos Foundation is directed to minimizing the impact of commercial logging and other human factors on forest biological diversity.

Q. 14. Research results and synthesis reports

A wide range of research, e.g. on forest reserves, effects of air-pollution and drainage, climate change, small scale and multifunctional forest management, the role of dead wood, effects of grazing etc.. Also practical experience, e.g. of the State Forest Service, with using key parameters and indicator species groups in forest management planning. At the national level, important research results are disseminated by research reports, (hand)books and special (free) bulletins. As several publications are only available in Dutch, international distribution is limited. Reports of the Tropenbos Foundation on conservation and sustainable use of forests have been widely disseminated.

Q. 15. Case studies impact fire and alien species

Fire is relatively unimportant; effects of the introduced Am. Black cherry have been studied (but not in great detail). Effects of air pollution and excessive drainage seem to be much more important and have been studied in some detail (e.g. overview in G. van Tol *et al.*(1998), Biodiversity of Dutch forests ecosystems as affected by receding groundwater levels and atmospheric deposition. Biodiversity and Conservation 7: 221-228). The Netherlands have supported the provision of an expert on fire impact studies to UNEP.

Q. 16. Assessment of common elements and gaps

The Netherlands have supported the Tropenbos Foundation and CIFOR in elaborating indicators for forest biodiversity. The Tropenbos Foundation has developed a Hierarchical Framework for the Formulation of Sustainable Forest Management Standards and works on criteria and indicators for forest biological diversity.

In the Pan-European context, a start has been made with identifying the possible gaps in protected forest areas

Q. 17. Taxonomic studies and inventories

In the Netherlands, the *Netwerk Ecologische Monitoring* (Ecological Monitoring Network) surveys bird species on a regular basis, as well as several groups of insects (butterflies, damselflies), mammals and plants. However, systematic covering of forest ecosystems is not yet optimal. More detailed studies are available for moist/wet forest types (Stortelder *et al.* (1998). Broekbossen. KNNV uitgeverij Utrecht, 216p.). Rare tree and shrub species populations are mapped (Rövekamp & Ketelaar (1998). Opzet van een genenbank voor autochtone boom- en struiksoorten. Bronnen, 54p.)

In the international arena, the National Herbarium supports inventories and taxonomic studies at the national level in different biogeographic areas as do the Leiden and Amsterdam musea for the faunistic elements.

The ETI programme registers and publishes electronically the taxonomic information on CD-Roms.

