

Please provide to following details on the origin of this report

Contracting Party	New Zealand
<i>National Focal Point</i>	
Full name of the institution:	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Name and title of contact officer:	Rachel McLean
Mailing address:	Private Bag 18 901 Wellington New Zealand
Telephone:	64 4 494 8584
Fax:	64 4 494 8507
E-mail:	<u>Rachel.mclean@mfat.govt.nz</u>
<i>Contact officer for national report (if different)</i>	
Name and title of contact officer:	Paula Warren CHM Focal Point
Mailing address:	Department of Conservation PO Box 10-420 Wellington New Zealand
Telephone:	64 4 471 3135
Fax:	64 4 471 3130
E-mail:	<u>Pwarren@doc.govt.nz</u>
<i>Submission</i>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	15 May 2001

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 report was prepared by the CHM focal point, drawing from information available as a result of processes related to the implementation of the NZ NBSAP. The content was checked by other affected government agencies. In line with NZ practice of focusing public processes on the NBSAP, no external consultation was undertaken.

The NBSAP focuses on implementing measures to halt the decline of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity; the most pervading national issue. This report also refers to other actions and mechanisms relating to sustainable use of forests, a key objective under the Convention.

Decision IV/7 on Forest biological Diversity

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

4. 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)	x
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>	
5. 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

6. 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	
7. 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	
8. 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	
9. Has your country promoted the sharing of relevant technical and scientific information on networks at all levels of protected forest areas and networking modalities in all types of forest ecosystems? (Work Programme, paragraph 17)	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	

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

10. 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	
11. 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)	X
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
12. 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	

13. 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)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	X
d) not relevant	
14. 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	
15. 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
d) yes - already widely disseminated (please give details below)	
16. Has your country prepared case-studies on assessing impacts of fires and alien species on forest biological diversity and their influences on the management of forest ecosystems and savannahs? (Work Programme, paragraph 35)	
a) no – please indicate below whether this is due to a lack of available case-studies or for other reasons	
b) yes – please give below any views you may have on the usefulness of the preparation of case-studies for developing a better biological understanding of the problem and/or better management responses.	X

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

17. 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)	
c) yes – significant assessment made (please give details below)	X
d) not relevant	
18. 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)

Considerable assessment work was undertaken or drawn on during the preparation of the NZ NBSAP. In addition, further assessments have been completed or are underway in relation to particular elements of forest biodiversity, or particular conservation or sustainable use options.

A clear framework for forest conservation and use is in place. Most indigenous forests are within the protected area network, and fully protected from unsustainable or socially unacceptable uses. Indigenous forests on private lands are subject to sustainable forest management provisions of the Forests Act 1949. This provides for limited timber production based on the forest's capacity to be both sustained for this use and managed for natural forest (non-timber) values. All forests including both indigenous and planted commercial forests (which provide the majority of timber production in New Zealand) are subject to broader requirements for sustainable management of natural and physical resources under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

Voluntary conservation mechanisms through government-funded mechanisms offer full protection options to private forest owners. An additional voluntary agreement between planted forest industry, major environmental groups and other sector stakeholders provides for biodiversity conservation in conjunction with commercial forestry operations.

Māori as the indigenous peoples of New Zealand are significant owners of forested lands. In addition, there are methodologies in place which provide for their involvement in protected area management, and in regulatory processes.

Sustainable forest management under the Forests Act provides for the sharing of expertise between the regulatory agency and forest owners, and the gradual improvement of forest management practices. Research is currently underway to explore and refine mechanisms and methods providing for both conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of New Zealand forests outside the fully protected forest estate. Conservation management is largely undertaken by the Department of Conservation. Methods developed by the Department (particularly relating to pest control) are made freely available to other forest managers. The national Government-funded science system also makes information freely available.

There is in place a coordinating mechanism in relation to international processes affecting forests. This includes major forest companies and conservation groups.

A process for placing voluntary legal protection across private land through "covenants" is in place. The bodies administering the covenant legislation (one government agency and one trust) provide significant information to landowners about forest conservation issues, and biodiversity protection options. The Government provides significant funds to pay for the registering of covenants, and is increasingly also contributing to management of covenanted lands.

New Zealand has in place a comprehensive system for addressing the impacts of alien species on all biodiversity. This includes:

- regulatory controls on alien species importation
- comprehensive quarantine systems
- mechanisms for identifying significant pests and requiring their collective control by landowners
- research programmes to improve pest control methods
- funding for pest control on public and private land

Nevertheless, the size of the problem is such that significant biodiversity loss is still occurring as a result of alien species impacts. Work is underway to improve the targeting of available resources, and to increase the ability to address these problems.

New Zealand has relatively complete taxonomy for vascular plants, vertebrates, lichens and bryophytes, and further

work is underway to refine taxonomy where this is significant for management purposes. Taxonomy of invertebrates is variable, and for fungi and micro-organisms is limited. New Zealand has been operating a threat classification system for species for around 8 years, and a new system has just been developed. This has allowed the listing of threatened species across most taxonomic groups, and identification of priorities for management work. A system for developing and implementing species recovery programmes is in place, and many significant conservation outcomes have been achieved.

New Zealand has an extensive protected area network, encompassing 30% of New Zealand's land area. This network is not fully representative, and in particular lowland, fertile forests are poorly represented. In addition, the condition of many areas is poor, due to the effects of alien species (see above).

A detailed inventory system for ecosystem remnants is being progressively implemented. It has been completed for around 25% of the country, with the work targeted to the highest priority areas.

There has been significant progress over the last ten years to improve the representativeness of the network. Work is well advanced to develop better classification and inventory mechanisms to guide land acquisition and management work. This will also be used by regulatory authorities at national and sub-national levels. In addition, the Department of Conservation is developing a comprehensive ecological management strategy to improve ecological management work across all ecosystems.

In addition, there has been significant progress in developing improved management techniques, in particular through the development of methods for intensive multi-pest management ("mainland island" work).

The major problems for forest biodiversity management in New Zealand are:

- The extent of alien species problems, and lack of suitable and affordable techniques to adequately manage these.
- The almost complete historical loss of some ecosystem types, and the extreme practical and financial difficulties in recreating them, or in protecting the highly fragmented and degraded remnants.
- Providing for sustainable forest management, recognising the most pervading issues for conservation of NZ indigenous forest biodiversity, while integrating this with sustainable use of NZ's productive landscape.