A. REPORTING PARTY

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Information on the preparation of the report

Box I.

Please provide information on the preparation of this report, including information on stakeholders involved and material used as a basis for the report.
The Third National Report on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been compiled by the National Foundation for Environmental Protection (NFOS) commissioned by the Ministry of the Environment (MS). An interdisciplinary team of experts representing a number of organizations and fields has been established to meet the project needs. The data sources included official documents (legal acts, strategies), reports and reviews, databases as well as information provided by experts representing various institutions, sharing their knowledge and ideas. Prior to delivery to the Convention Secretariat, the Report was subjected to the standard procedure of internal (within the Ministry of the Environment) arrangements. It was also made available to public consultation on the Ministry website The Third National Report has been compiled by the team headed by Andrzej Weigle (NFOS) composed of the following experts: • Wojciech Nowicki, Alicja Kiczynska, Beata Ciszewska, Katarzyna Owczarz, Grzegorz Bistula-Prószynski, Rajmund Wisniewski (National Foundation for Environmental Protection), • Joanna Perzanowska, Wojciech Mróz, Wojciech Solarz (Institute of Nature Conservation, PAS), • Wieslaw Podyma, Denise Fu-Dostatny, Dorota Nowosielska (Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute) • Elzbieta Martyniuk (National Co-ordinating Centre for Conservation of Livestock Animal Genetic Resources, National Research Institute of Animal Production), • Zbigniew Mirek (Institute of Botany, PAS), • Kazimierz Rykowski (Forest Research Institute), • Witold Lenart, Barbara Nowicka, Anna Kalinowska (University of Warsaw), • Krzysztof Skóra (Hel Marine Station, University of Gdansk).

B. PRIORITY SETTING, TARGETS AND OBSTACLES

Box II.

Please provide an overview of the status and trends of various components of biological diversity in your country based on the information and data available.

The second national report on the state of biological diversity prepared in 2003 (the first one was prepared in 1991 for UNEP) entitle *Biological Diversity of Poland* is the basic source of information on current condition of biological diversity. According to that study, the total number of species recorded in Poland is approximately 60 000, however, the number might be somewhat higher as just 300 species of prokaryotic microorganisms have been included which are stored in the Polish Collection of Microorganisms. According to thet study the *Procaryota* superkingdom also entails 1647 species (probably just only 1000) representing the class of blue algae (*Cyanophyta*). The following numbers of species of Eukaroytic organisms have been recorded in Poland:

- in Kingdom *Mycetalia* – 3630 species, although it is estimated that the actual number of species may even exceed 12000; the ecological group of lichens should be added to that number, whose reported species number is 1519 and the actual number of species is estimated at approximately 1600;
- in the plant kingdom (*Vegetabilia):*
    - in the ecological group of algae – 12850 species, however, the actual species number is estimated at approximately 9100 as some of the names reported in the scientific literature are synonyms;
    - among terrestrial plants: liverworts (*Marchantiophyta)* – 234 species /probably 250 species and hornworts *(Anthocerotophyta)* – 4 species, mosses *(Bryophyta)* – 697 species, lycopods *(Lycophytina)* – 13 species, horsetails *(Sphenophytina)* – 10 species, ferns *(Pterophytina)* - 52 species, conifers *(Pinophytina)* – 10 species and angiosperms *(Angiospermae)* – 2405 species; (in all groups but liverworts the number of species probably occurring in Poland is identical to the recorded species numbers);
- in the protozoan kingdom (*Protozoa)* – 1152 species with the estimated number of 3620;
- in the animal kingdom (*Animalia):* parazoans (*Parazoa)* – 9 species and metazoans (*Metazoa)* 35359 species, however, due to inconsistency of data on bony fish the actual number might be lower by 40 species.

As regards the superspecies level, there are presently 485 plant communities making up 40 classes in Poland as described following Braun-Blanquet's botanic rules. In fact, the number of communities may be somewhat higher as some of the ecosystems have not been examined in detail (e.g., bogs, rock communities). The intraspecies (genetic) level has not been comprehensively explored yet.

Apart from the report *Biological Diversity in Poland* mentioned above, the basis foe a concise description of the issue of change in biological diversity condition includes recently prepared and published new editions of *Polish red book of plants (*2001), *Polish red book of animals – volume I Vertebrates* (2001), *Red list of threatened and endangered animals in Poland* (2002), *Polish red book of animals – Volume II Invertebrates* (2004).

For instance, about one third of Polish mammals are found threatened with extinction. The *Polish red book of animals Volume I Vertebrates* contains 32 mammal species, and *The red list of threatened and endangered animals in Poland* – 34 species. In total, four species disappeared from the Polish territory – the auroch and tarpan a long time ago and the European mink which was recorded for the last time ion the 1930s and European suslik recorded in the 1960s for the last time disappeared in the 20th C. At present, the group of "losers" includes some species which have been so far recognized as common, for instance the brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) or common hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*). Small and isolated populations of the garden dormouse (*Eliomys quercinus*) and Tatra chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra tatrica*), which reaches the northern border of its range in Poland. In contrast, the European beaver (*Castor fiber*) rebuilt its populations so successfully that in some regions it became a serious problem to local economies and nature conservation. In some regions of Poland the black cormorant has become to pose a similar problem. Changes in the Polish fauna of mammals consist in retreat of certain species and population decline on the one hand and arrival of new, alien species that due to their expansiveness

certainly constitute a threat to indigenous species on the other hand. Those species include, e.g., the racoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) or American mink (*Mustela vison*). The main obstacle to successful reintroduction of the European mink is the American mink which escaped from farms. Having occupied the ecological niche vacated by the indigenous species, it presently occurs throughout almost all northern Poland.

Clearly negative trends are recorded also for other animal groups. Population numbers and number of occurence sites of most amphibian species decline all over Poland. The decline in numbers and diversity is also recorded for invertebrates.

As regards angiosperms *(Angiospermae)*, it is presently estimated that there are 40 extinct species, that is, 1.7% of the native flora. Endangered species, that is those, which are close to extinction include as many as 3% of the flora. Endangered species (approximately 2.5%) and vulnerable species (approximately 4%) should be added to that group. Bearing in mind ever increasing human impact and small area of the country protected as national parks or nature reserves, the level of threat to the flora of flowering plants should be recognised as high.

Determination of the trends actually occurring throughout the last century is a very difficult task. Such analyses might be based upon distribution of sites where individual angiosperm species occur. In 2001, the *Distribution Atlas of Vascular Plants in Poland* was published. It contains distribution maps of 90% of all vascular plant species in Poland, and for some 500 species range maps were compiled discriminating between the existing and historical sites. For some of the species for which such maps have been prepared most sites are of historical character (where species is extinct). Those species include for instance, waterwheel plant (*Aldrovanda vesiculosa*) – the species typical of clean eutrophic waters, Buek's sedge (*Carex buekii*) – typical of bogs or Lady bells (*Adenophora liliifolia*) – typical of Euro-Siberian steppe woods with *Quercus* spp. The three habitats mentioned above are one of the most threatened biotopes. Their historical sites are most often taken from the literature dating from the second half of the 19th C. Most probably, the critical period began at the beginning of the 20th C when intense exploitation of bogs started in the northern and western Poland and changes in forest habitat use (termination of grazing in forests) resulted in considerable transformation of those communities. The examples shown reflect a more general tendency of gradual disappearance of species related to the most threatened habitats and the negative trends are recorded for apparently common species such as the liverleaf *(Hepatica nobilis),* or bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)*. However, one should bear in mind that the *Distribution Atlas of Vascular Plants in Poland* is the first synthetic study of that type in Poland comparing the contemporary state with that at the beginning of the 20th century which may create impression that decline in species diversity in Poland is serious. However, it should be recognised that the greatest losses of biological diversity related to the 1950-1975 periods (industrialisation, land reclamation and hydrotechnical projects at a massive scale) already took place.

The very important source of information useful for evaluation of trends in biological diversity are numerous documents of the local character, usually covering some region or province. The examples include the lists of endangered vascular plants of Gdansk Pomerania, the Carpathians, Opole Region, Lower Silesia or Lublin region. According to the regional "red lists", the level of threat to vascular plants is higher (35-45% of taxons), however, the evaluation is affected by occurrence of species which are rare within individual regions and not so rare all other their range. Thus, the national list of endangered species may not be just a sum of data originating from the regional lists.

Generally, plant communities are characterized by the diversified dynamics of occurrence. Ranges of some of them clearly extend whereas ranges of other ones have remained unchanged for years. There are also distinct groups of plant communities differing in their threat status. It is recognized that out of 280 types of communities of lowland Poland, three went extinct, 55 are close to extinction and almost 130 are endangered. Semi-natural communities deserve special attention, which are declining due to giving up traditional farming practices. However, the causes of reduction in ranges and a number of individual patches of vegetation types may vary considerably.

Some community types disappear as a result of changes in land use. *Spergulo-Lolietum remoti* community related to traditional flax cultures is a classic example. The community most likely has completely disappeared from the territory, following changes in technology of seed treatment, sowing and harvesting. Disappearance of meadows of varying moisture level of *Molinion* type should be related to a lack of regular swaths. Some of those meadows are grown with bushes as a result of giving up cultivation, other ones are transformed into meadow communities of the *Calthion* type or moist, poor pastures as a result of an increase in intensity of use. Similarly, the number of sites with steppe communities with oak *Potentillo albae-Quercetum* declines, which is a forest type at least partly of anthropogenic character and whose occurrence depends on small clearances and traditional, presently

non-existent forest grazing.

The second group of rare and endangered communities is related to rare and very special habitats. They include first of all semi-natural dry grasslands on calcareous substrates *Festuco-Brometea*, relic forests of *Erico-Pinetea* type, blanket mires of the *Oxycocco-Sphagnetea* type, Wolyn and Nida variety of oak-hornbeam forests (*Tilio-Carpinetum*) and many other communities. Also aquatic communities related to the so called Lobelia lakes, representing the *Littorelletea* class are classified into the group.

Another group of declining communities is related to the group of communities related to communities that have been considerably modified as a result of human activity, that initially were not so rare. Among others, bogs of the *Caricion davallianae* type are classified into the group.

One more group of communities disappearing as a result of habitat transformation include halophytic communities, both coastal and inland ones.

Presenting the full picture of the changes in biological diversity is very difficult in Poland due to the fact that neither historical nor contemporary resources have been fully identified.

Priority Setting

1. Please indicate, by marking an "**X**" in the appropriate column below, the level of priority your country accords to the implementation of various articles, provisions and relevant programmes of the work of the Convention.

Article / Provision / Programme of Work	Level of Priority		
	High	Medium	Low
a) Article 5 – Cooperation	X		
b) Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use	X		
c) Article 7 - Identification and monitoring	X		
d) Article 8 – *In-situ* conservation	X		
e) Article 8(h) - Alien species		X	
f) Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions		X	
g) Article 9 – *Ex-situ* conservation	X		
h) Article 10 – Sustainable use of components of biological diversity		X	
i) Article 11 - Incentive measures		X	
j) Article 12 - Research and training	X		
k) Article 13 - Public education and awareness	X		
l) Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts	X		
m) Article 15 - Access to genetic resources		X	
n) Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology		X	
o) Article 17 - Exchange of information	X		
p) Article 18 – Scientific and technical cooperation	X		
q) Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits	X		
r) Article 20 - Financial resources	X		
s) Article 21 - Financial mechanism	X		
t) Agricultural biodiversity	X		

u) Forest biodiversity	X		
v) Inland water biodiversity	X		
w) Marine and coastal biodiversity	X		
x) Dryland and subhumid land biodiversity			X
y) Mountain biodiversity	X		

Challenges and Obstacles to Implementation

2. Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the provisions of the Articles of the Convention (5, 6,7, 8, 8h, 8j, 9, 10, 11,12, 13, 14, 15,16, 17, 18, 19 and 20)

3 = High Challenge	1 = Low Challenge
2 = Medium Challenge	0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome
N/A = Not applicable	

Challenges	Articles																	
	5	6	7	8	8h	8j	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
a) Lack of political will and support	0	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
b) Limited public particip. and stakeholder involvement	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
c) Lack of mainstreaming and integr. of biodiversity issues into other sectors	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	1	2	1
e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
g) Loss of traditional knowledge	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1
i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
m)Lack of financial, human, technical resources	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
n) Lack of economic incentive measures	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
o) Lack of benefit-sharing	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	1
p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
r) Lack of effective partnerships	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
u) Poverty	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
v) Population pressure	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
x) Lack of capacities for local communities	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
z) Weak law enforcement capacity	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
bb) Others (please specify)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2010 Target

The Conference of the Parties, in decision VII/30, annex II, decided to establish a provisional framework for goals and targets in order to clarify the 2010 global target adopted by decision VI/26, help assess the progress towards the target, and promote coherence among the programmes of work of the Convention. Parties and Governments are invited to develop their own targets with this flexible framework. Please provide relevant information by responding to the questions and requests contained in the following tables.

Box III.

Goal 1	**Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes.**
Target 1.1	**At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved**
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X
Please provide details below.	
The objective of covering one third of the Polish territory with legal protection assumed in the early	

1930s (*The State Environmental Policy)* has been achieved. As of 2004, there are 23 national parks, 1385 nature reserves, 124 landscape parks and 342 protected landscape areas in Poland, covering in total 32.2% of the country territory. However, only 1.5% of the territory of Poland are covered by the forms of protection whose main objective is biodiversity conservation (national parks and nature reserves). Within the other areas conservation of biological diversity is performed under conditions of sustainable development and one should bear in mind that 22.63% of the country are covered with rather not too restrictive form of protection, that is, protected landscape areas. However, throughout the last ten years a significant increase in the number of protected areas has taken place, and also area of many of them has increased. In the reporting period (that is, from 2001 on) among others one national park ("Ujscie Warty" 19.06.2001) has been established and several existing ones have been extended, 52 nature reserves, 4 landscape parks and also one Biosphere reserve (Western Polesie, 2002) have been established. More protected areas are to be established, which will make the area of Poland under protection within the national system of protected areas grow up to near 40%. However, most of the new areas will be covered with protection of a rather low level – landscape parks and protected landscape areas.

Irrespective of the above, it is assumed that 12-17% of the area of Poland (including areas already covered with legal protection) will be included into the Natura 2000 network within which potential for conservation of habitats declining at the scale of Europe will considerably grow, among others thanks to financial means on active conservation from foreign sources as well as due to the obligatory procedures for minimisation of threats to subjects of conservation of those areas.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	In the documents currently in force, including those pertaining to conservation of biological diversity in agricultural areas, forested areas or wetlands there is no direct reference to target 1.1, thus there is no specific targets to cover specific proportion of individual ecosystem types with legal protection. The EU Habitat Directive which is to be implemented in Poland also indirectly refers to that target. According to the Directive, such proportion of natural habitats and species habitats should be covered with protection which ensures their representatives (e.g., 10% of a given habitat).
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	

Please provide details below.

In formal terms, one could find the target of covering 30% of the country territory with legal protection has been achieved and there is no need for introducing it into new documents. However, effectiveness of some of the nature protection forms is unsatisfactory and thus it seems it is necessary in the strategic documents to adopt the target of covering at least 10% of the country territory with effective protection.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

In the milieu of people dealing with nature conservation there is discussion under way about the target, optimum form of the national system of protected areas. That is particularly true for the range of the Natura 2000 network which should include 12-17% of the country area where special sites of habitat and bird conservation should be established following the Habitat and Bird Directive

requirements.

Irrespective of that, the discussion is underway about the need for extending marine habitats covered with legal protection in the Polish part of Baltic.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

No indicators have been introduced.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

While establishing protected areas the main challenge is to convince local communities that such activities are necessary but also that they may be used for stimulating local socio-economic growth.

Another issue is to provide effective conservation of biological diversity in areas that are not covered with any protection form but commercially used.

Insufficient financial means for management (employees, equipment, protection plans) of protected areas and providing active conservation and for nature compensation.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box IV.

Target 1.2	**Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?

a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X

Please provide details below.

A number of areas important in terms of nature conservations were indicated in the *National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity*. They include agricultural land, forested areas, wetlands and marine habitats.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		In a number of national documents concerning development of rural areas importance and necessary for conservation of biological diversity of agricultural land, including conservation of old varieties and breeds was stressed.
b) Inland water	X		Importance of those areas to conservation of biological diversity is evidenced by the fact of developing the project *Strategy for wetland conservation* (2004).
c) Marine and coastal		X	So far importance of marine habitats has not been sufficiently stressed.
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	That does not apply to Poland.
e) Forest	X		Importance and necessity for conservation of biological conservation typical of those areas was indicated in a number of documents concerning forest management in state-owned and private forests.

f) Mountain		X	Importance of mountainous areas is not sufficiently stressed in the national documents although favourable trends have occurred in recent years.

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

The global target has been further developed both in the *National Strategy* and other problem-oriented documents (such as the project on the *Strategy for Wetland Conservation, 2004)* and sectoral ones (such as *National Policy on Forest, Programme of Rural Development, including the National Agri-environmental Programme)*, however, some of the sectoral documents (e.g., those concerning transport or water management) deal with the issue to insufficient extent. The national targets are also taken into consideration in planning documents at lower levels of administration (e.g, programmes of environment protection for provinces, provincial programmes of environment protection), nonetheless their full implementation requires closer co-operation with nature conservation services and further educational activities in the self-governmental milieus.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

Ready documents are periodically evaluated and upgraded (for instance the first review of the state of implementation of the *National Strategy* is under way now*)*. At the same time work on new materials have been initiated, e.g., *Strategy for agribiodiversity*. Some of the problems require more detailed exploration (e.g., the rules of biological diversity conservation in marine habitats). Also in the national programmes higher priority should be granted to protection of areas of special importance to biological diversity conservation.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

No indicators have been introduced.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

The real challenge is regular implementation of the adopted assumptions of conservation and principles of economic use of areas which are important in terms of biological diversity. That particularly pertains to areas in which clash between nature and economy occurs – e.g., marine habitats and inland waters which are subjected to fishing, areas of planned road constructions, areas of intense tourist impact (e.g., skiing areas, etc.).

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

From the Polish perspective, river valleys, particularly large, unregulated or regulated to a low degree deserve to be included into the list of habitat types important in terms of biological diversity.

Box V.

Goal 2	**Promote the conservation of species diversity**
Target 2.1	**Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X

Please provide details below.

Under Polish conditions, the target pertains both to populations of endangered and threatened species and populations of species which are commercially used. A number of targets related to that were specified in the *National Strategy.* Their extended versions are included both in the successively implemented plans of conservation of protected areas and plans of conservation of endangered species (such as national programmes of conservation for capercailie and black grouse populations - 2001 and the national programme of bison conservation - 2004), as well as economic plans (e.g., forest surveys, fishing surveys, etc.). However, first of all due to financial and organisational preconditions, still insufficient number of species are covered with targeted active measures are the measures are not implemented at the sufficient scale.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		The strategy for agribiodiversity conservation currently under preparation will include provisions concerning the need for conservation both species related to crops (e.g., weeds) and old traditional varieties of crop plants and breeds of livestock animals. Costs of keeping traditional livestock varieties and breeds are covered by farming subsidies under the current National Agri-environmental Programme within the programme of Rural Development. Work on extending the list of species covered with subsidies are under way.
b) Inland water	X		Provisions specified in the *National Strategy* are expanded in the project on the *Strategy for wetland conservation* and *Sectoral Operational Programme of Fishing i Fish Processing* in the part concerning inland fishing *(*as the activity "Conservation and development of water resources"). The principles of fish and crayfish management are specified in fishery operating management plans whose preparation for waters made available to fishing is obligatory.
c) Marine and coastal		X	The target partially expanded (it applies to certain species commercially utilised) in the *Sectoral Operational Programme of Fishing i Fish Processing (*as the activity "Conservation and development of water resources"). Also legal regulations (national and European Union ones) on the principles of commercial exploitation of certain species in Baltic.
d) Dry and subhumid land			It does not apply to Poland.
e) Forest	X		The need for protection of species is specified and expanded in a number of legal and economic documents and policies concerning forest management in state-owned and non-state forest.
f) Mountain		X	There is national documents dedicated directly to the issue.

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

There are several provisions set out in the *National Strategy,* which expand the global target both in the field *Conservation of genetic resources of wild threatened and endangered species.* Specific targets and tasks that result from them concerning conservation or enhancing populations as well as restoration of threatened or endangered species are successively introduced into protection plans successively prepared for national parks, landscape parks and nature reserves. There are also national programmes of selected species conservation developed and implemented (e.g., the national *Programme of bi-habitat species in the Vistula River basin*). The global target is also expanded in the state forest and agricultural policies in which, e.g., the necessity for preserving rare or endangered species as well as varieties and breeds of species commercially utilised in agriculture and endangered fish species is stressed. In the *Sectoral Operational Programme Fishery and Fish Processing special emphasis is laid on conservation of bi-habitat species* (first of all salmon, powan, eel, and vimba) through supporting new, restoring old and overhauling existing structures to restore patency of inland water courses. The current programmes pertain first of all to the flagship species whose conservation supports conservation of accompanying species. Also, implementation of further programmes focused on the most threatened plant and animal species is planned.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

National targets being expansion of the global target are successively introduced although attempts to stop the decline of population have failed for some species.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

No indicators have been introduced, however, several basic studies have been conducted making it possible in the future to specify measurable targets for assessment of species conservation effectiveness.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

The main challenge related to the above target are financial means needed for performing the assumed tasks. Some of them, pertaining, e.g., to old, traditional breeds is and will be performed with financial support originating from the agri-environmental programmes. The tasks related to restoration of inland waterway patency for bi-habitat fish will be also subsidised with financial means intended for implementation of measures under the *Sectoral Operational Programme Fishery and Fish Processing*. In order to finance other plans, the responsible persons have to search for support from other targeted funds.

Another important issue is to prevent from overexploitation of populations (particularly sea fish species) that might be commercially utilised and consequently to search for financial means to provide fishermen with compensations for income lost as a result of giving up fishing those Baltic species whose populatio0n have been overexploited and require restoration (e.g., cods).

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Under Polish conditions hunting and angling constitute an important field in which the global target is pursued. The legal acts currently in force (e.g., close seasons, size limits), as well as adopted strategies, e.g., for supplementing natural populations whose numbers decline with individuals from breeding stations (e.g., hares).

Box VI.

Target 2.2	**Status of threatened species improved**
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X

Please provide details below.

Implementation of target 2.2 directly corresponds to implementation of target 2.1. In various national documents related to the environmental, forest, agricultural and fishing issues, a number of targets have been adopted that pertain to conservation of endangered species.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		Special emphasis is laid on endangered, traditional breeds and varieties of livestock animals and crop plants.
b) Inland water		X	The target expanded to a very limited degree in the *Sectoral Operational Programme Fishery and Fish Processing* as the activity "Conservation and development of water resources". In respective legal regulations those protected species are indicated that require active conservation. Regional programmes of protection of endangered species are developed (e.g., lake minnow, river lamprey, bi-habitat species).
c) Marine and coastal		X	The target expanded to a very limited degree in the *Sectoral Operational Programme Fishery and Fish Processing as* "Conservation and development of water resources".
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	It does not apply to Poland.
e) Forest	X		Targets concerning conservation of endangered forest species are included in a number of documents.
f) Mountain		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue.

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

The global target is further elaborated in a number of documents, both of national character (such as the National Strategy, State Forest Policy, national programmes of species conservation) and of local character (plans of conservation of protected areas, programs of nature conservation in forest districts).

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

The national targets being expansion of the global target are introduced successively although tasks initiated in relation to their implementation still do not fully provide effective conservation of endangered species.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

No indicators have been introduced. .

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

The key challenge is including the global target into those ministerial strategies in which they have been omitted (e.g., in relation to marine fishery).

As it was described at 2.1, also financial means for implementation of the adopted assumptions is a substantial challenge.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box VII.

Goal 3	**Promote the conservation of genetic diversity**
Target 3.1	**Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?

a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X

Please provide details below.

Conservation of genetic diversity is an important target adopted in the national documents in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		Target 3.1 corresponds to task 2.2 and concerns mainly old, traditional varieties and breeds of crop plants and livestock animals.
b) Inland water		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue. The target partly implemented through the programme of subsiding with public resources intended for financing biological progress in fishery.
c) Marine and coastal		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue.
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	It does not apply to Poland.
e) Forest	X		In a number of documents concerning forest management there are targets related to conservation of genetic diversity, particularly that of trees.
f) Mountain		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

Apart from the *National Strategy*, the global target was expanded in a number of documents concerning agriculture and forestry. Irrespective of that, targets for conservation of genetic diversity were reflected in plans and programmes of conservation of species in small populations (e.g., bison, lynx). Within the framework of the programme of supporting biological progress maintaining populations of pure lines of the carp and rainbow trout as well as acquiring strong biological material of populations subjected to conservation of fish genetic resources have been financed by public financial means for years.

Conservation of the domestic ichtyofauna genetic resources is performed under economic

programmes, namely fishery plans.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

National targets being expansion of the global target are introduced successively.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

No indicators have been introduced. .

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

Implementation of the global target is related to a number of challenges. The first one is related to poor knowledge of the issue which results both from substantive matters (methodology), staff-related and financial issues. Insufficient financial means constitute also the problem in the face of the necessity for collecting and storing huge collections of gene banks.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box VIII.

Goal 4	**Promote sustainable use and consumption.**
Target 4.1	**Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?

a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X

Please provide details below.

The national targets being expansion of the global target concern mainly forest, agricultural and game management and to some degree fishing and fishery.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		The global target included in a number of documents concerning agriculture. Also the code of good farming practice is based upon it.
b) Inland water	X		That concerns mainly fishing and angling.
c) Marine and coastal	X		To a limited degree the issue is regulated in relation to fishery.
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	It does not apply to Poland.
e) Forest	X		The global target is included in a number of documents concerning forest management. Also, the system of certification of forest management is based upon it.
f) Mountain		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and

strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

Global target expansion was laid down in documents pertaining to agriculture and forestry.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

The adopted targets are successively implemented within the framework of forest management ecologization and implementation of the code of good farming practice and other related programmes. However, sustainable use of marine resources and sustainable fishing operations require enhancement both in the strategic and operating documents and in the legal system.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

No indicators have been introduced.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

Dissemination of the adopted standard procedures and extending them to other fields of economy constitute a challenge.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box IX.

Target 4.2	**Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?

a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X

Please provide details below.

References to the global target are found in a number of national and sectoral documents. A special document pertaining to that issue is *Strategy of changing production and consumption patterns to favour the implementation of sustainable development principles,* adopted by the Council of Ministers on 14.10.2003.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	**Yes**	**No**	**Details**
a) Agricultural	X		The global target extended in a number of documents related to agriculture.
b) Inland water		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue
c) Marine and coastal		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	It does not apply to Poland.

e) Forest	X		The global target extended in a number of documents related to forestry.
f) Mountain		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

The global target is indirectly dealt with in the *National strategy* and sectoral documents, whereas it is directly addressed in the *Strategy for changes in production and consumption patterns to those which favour implementation of the rule of sustainable development* (2003).

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

Activities related to implementation of the global target are successively conducted particularly ion forest management and also agriculture (particularly in the areas where agri-environmental programmes are implemented). The target also applies to game management and tourist industry (particularly within protected areas)

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

No indicators have been introduced.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

Challenges are related mainly to identification of appropriate proportions between requirements of biological diversity and possibilities of its sustainable use. Fishery is one of the examples of such problems.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box X.

Target 4.3	**No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	

Please provide details below.

In fact the problem does not apply to biological diversity in Poland. In contrast, measures are successively taken in relation to endangered species originated from other regions of the world (as a part of implementation of Washington Convention) which are subject to international trade.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	**Yes**	**No**	**Details**
a) Agricultural		X	

b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XI.

Goal 5	**Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.**
Target 5.1	**Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	
Please provide details below.	
Stopping degradation of natural habitats is the target adopted in a number of national documents.	

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	**Yes**	**No**	**Details**
a) Agricultural	X		

b) Inland water	X		The global target pertains to all the ecosystem types and is successively introduced to sectoral programmes of work.
c) Marine and coastal	X		
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		
f) Mountain	X		

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

Both provisions set out in the *National* Strategy and other national and sectoral documents and the legal system being currently implemented constitute extension of the global. Conservation of natural habitats is particularly related to the EU Habitat Directive being implemented in Poland.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

Designation of the proposed network Natura 2000 is an example of global target implementation, which is to cover those natural habitats which are the most valuable ones at the European scale and are subject to particular social control of NGOs and experts associated with them.

The problem of change in land use and degradation of land surface is regulated, inter alia, by the Environment Protection Act (2001) and the Agricultural and Forest Lands Protection Act (1995), and the problem of unsustainable use of water resources – among others the Water Law (2001).

In Poland work on implementation of the Framework Water Directive is under way implementing the system of water management in catchment basins. Under the present legal conditions several administrative bodies are responsible of water management. The change in the water management system should support implementation of the global target.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

No indicators have been determined.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

Covering natural habitats in the areas that have not been legally protected so far and are still commercially utilized constitutes a challenge. The present system of spatial planning constitute threat to those sites (developing plans at the micro-scale with no natural conditions taken into account).

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

In relation to the anticipated economic development, availability of the EU funds stimulating development, extension of the transport network, expected changes in the agricultural structure one may expect an increase in threats resulting form changes in land use and leading to losses in natural habitats or their degradation. The new legal regulations and strategic documents prepared for the new period of programming in the EU should anticipate mechanisms of preventing those threats.

Box XII.

Goal 6	**Control threats from invasive alien species.**
Target 6.1	**Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?

a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	

Please provide details below.

Identification and control of routes for immigration of alien species is a target adopted in the national documents.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	The global target is not extended further in the sectoral workplans.
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	

Please provide details below.

The global target has been introduced into the *National Sstrategy.*

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

Research, organisational and legal activities related to alien species have been under way for a few years.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

No indicators have been introduced.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

Developing methods for counteracting adverse effects of alien species constituting a threat to indigenous biological diversity is a challenge.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XIII.

Target 6.2	**Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?

a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	

Please provide details below.

National targets correspond to the global target.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	The project "Developing the rules of dealing with alien species threatening indigenous fauna and flora" which applies to all the ecosystem types is currently being prepared.
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	

Please provide details below.

Expansion of the global target is set out in the *National Strategy* and *Action Plan.*

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

Actions taken to deal with alien species threatening native biological diversity are limited. To some extent the task is fulfilled in relation to alien species in forest ecosystems through provisions in forest management plans and in plans for protected areas. Principles of introduction of alien species into the environment are covered with legal regulations (Nature Conservation Act of 2004).

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

No indicators have been introduced.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

Development of effective methods for restraining invasions and eliminating non-native species and finding appropriate financial means are challenges.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XIV.

Goal 7	**Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.**
Target 7.1	**Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?

a) No	X
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	

Please provide details below.

The issue not included in the national targets.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	**Yes**	**No**	**Details**
a) Agricultural		X	The global target is not extended further in the sectoral workplans.
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	

Please provide details below.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

Restricted measures of conceptual character are taken in forest management.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

No indicators have been determined.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

As actions taken to implement the global target are of limited character in Poland, both scientific background and organizational-financial issues constitute a challenge.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XV.

Target 7.2	**Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X

Please provide details below.
The global target has been introduced into a number of national documents .

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		There are provisions concerning the necessity for reducing point-source and dispersed pollution set up in a number of strategic and legal documents. The target is also extended in strategic and legal documents implementing respective provisions of the Water and Nitrate Directives (*e.g., designating waters vulnerable to pollution with nitrates from farming).
b) Inland water	X		The target expanded in the *Sectoral Operating Programme Fishery and Fish Processing* as the action "*Fish raising and breeding*" aiming, *inter alia*, at reducing adverse effects of inland fishery on the environment. In a number of strategic and legal documents there are also provisions included concerning conditions for discharge of point pollutants (municipal and industrial sewage) and surface runoff of mainly agricultural origin into inland water bodies.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Directly: provisions concern the necessity for limiting discharge of pollutants from ships or produced during extraction of mineral resources (gravel aggregate, oil or gas). Indirectly: provisions concern the necessity for reduction in pollutants discharged into the sea (mainly with river waters).
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	It does not apply to Poland.
e) Forest	X		Indirectly: provisions pertain to necessity for reduction in emission of pollution (mainly in the atmosphere), having adverse effects on forest ecosystems.
f) Mountain		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	

c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

The global target widely expanded both in documents related to environmental protection and sectoral documents.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

The target successively implemented in all fields and sectors of the economy. Within the few recent years significant progress in reducing the impact of pollution on the environment has been recorded as a consequence of designating considerable domestic and aid (from EU) funds.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

Several indicators concerning pollutant emissions have been determined (e.g. in the 2nd National Environmental Policy, in the *Guidelines for the National Development Programme in 2007-2013*).

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

Actually financial means for completing the adopted action plan constitute a challenge.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XVI.

Goal 8	**Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods.**
Target 8.1	**Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?

a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X

Please provide details below.

Targets adopted in forest management and partly also in agriculture refer to the global target

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		Agri-environmental programmes being implemented at present are expansion of the global target
b) Inland water		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue
c) Marine and coastal		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue
d) Dry and subhumid land			It does not apply to Poland.
e) Forest	X		A number of references in documents in documents related to forest management.
f) Mountain		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and

strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X
Please provide details below.	
References to the global target are found both in the *National Strategy* and other documents, particularly those concerning forest management.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
The global target is successively implemented. The system of forest district certification is an example in the forest management system.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
Dissemination of the adopted standards of conduct including their application in marine economy is a challenge.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XVII.

Target 8.2	**Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained**
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	
Please provide details below.	
There are no national targets directly related to the global target.	
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).	

Programme of work	**Yes**	**No**	**Details**
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XVIII.

Goal 9	**Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities.**
Target 9.1	**Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	
Please provide details below.	
Under Polish conditions, the global target is of utilitarian value exclusively in agriculture	

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		There are provisions concerning the necessity for preserving old, traditional varieties of crop plants and livestock animal breeds and extensive forms of farming in a number of documents.
b) Inland water		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue
c) Marine and coastal		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	It does not apply to Poland.
e) Forest		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue

f) Mountain		X	There are no national documents dedicated directly to that issue

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

The global target laid down both in the *National Strategy* and in the documents concerning agriculture.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

Conservation of old, traditional livestock animal breeds and traditional extensive methods of farming, first of all meadow-pasture use is currently performed within the framework of agri-environmental programmes. The list of species covered with subsidies is to be extended in the programme developed for 2007-2013. Also the concept of covering activities related to preservation of traditional field patterns (e.g., in Lublin region), threatened as a result of agriculture intensification has been developed.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

No indicators have been determined.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

Covering also cultures of old crop plant varieties and convincing as numerous group of farmers as possible to implement those packages contitute a challenge. Financial means to implement the adopted targets constitute another challenge.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XIX.

Target 9.2	**Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	

Please provide details below.

The global target of no utilitarian value under Polish conditions.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	**Yes**	**No**	**Details**
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	

c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	

Please provide details below.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XX.

Goal 10	**Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.**
Target 10.1	**All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	

Please provide details below.
There are no national targets directly related to the global target.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	**Yes**	**No**	**Details**
a) Agricultural		X	

b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	

Please provide details below.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XXI.

Target 10.2	**Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	

Please provide details below.
There are no national targets directly related to the global target.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	**Yes**	**No**	**Details**
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	

c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	

Please provide details below.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XXII.

Goal 11	**Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention.**
Target 11.1	**New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	

Please provide details below.
The global target does not apply to Poland being a country of transformation economy.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	**Yes**	**No**	**Details**
a) Agricultural		X	

b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XXIII.

Target 11.2	**Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4**

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	
Please provide details below.	
The global target does not apply to Poland being a country of transformation economy.	

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	**Yes**	**No**	**Details**
a) Agricultural		X	

b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	

Please provide details below.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)

The Conference of the Parties, in decision VI/9, annex, adopted the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Parties and Governments are invited to develop their own targets with this flexible framework. The Conference of the Parties considered the Strategy as a pilot approach for the use of outcome oriented targets under the Convention. In decision VII/10, the Conference of the Parties decided to integrate the targets into the reporting framework for the Third National Reports. Please provide relevant information by responding to the questions and requests contained in the following tables.

Box XXIV.

Target 1. A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The target adopted both in the National Strategy and Strategy for Development of Scientific Research.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The target has been introduced into research programmes of scientific institutions, among others, Institute of Botany of the Polish Academy of Science.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
The ten-volume set *Biodiversity of Poland* covering all plant and fungi groups occurring in Poland is under preparation. So far, seven volumes have been published. The project is co-ordinated by the Institute of Botany, PAS.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Thanks to undertaking the project, coordination of all the university centres in Poland has been developed	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
The final volume is to be published in 2006.	

Box XXV.

Target 2. A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The target has been introduced into programmes of scientific institutions.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The target has been introduced into research and publishing programmes of the Institute of Botany, PAS.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
In 2001 the *Red Book of Plants (*2nd edition) and *Monographic Atlas of Protected plants* have been published. At present, the third edition of the *Red List of Endangered and Threatened Species* is under preparation, work is under way on the new issue of the Distribution Atlas of Vascular Plants in Poland, including the most recent dynamic trends in that organism group. In some of the provinces, regional "red lists" of plants and fungi have been compiled, too. There is a need for intensification of work on identification of the state of threat to spore plants and fungi.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXVI.

Target 3. Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
The standard, all-Poland protective procedures have been developed for 46 species of vascular and spore plants covered with protection under the pan-European Natura 2000 system. The protective procedures of local character for individual species have been developed for certain protected areas within their protection plans. Those tasks are successively implemented in the course of preparation of individual protected objects which will make it possible in the future to develop standard procedures for further 80-120 vascular plant species.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXVII.

Target 4. At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The target is being fulfilled. By 2010 13-17% of the country will be effectively conserved.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
There is no need for introducing the target into new documents.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Over 32 % of the country area in total are covered with various forms of nature conservation, including mere 1.54% intended exclusively to conserve species diversity (national parks and nature reserves) and others to protect flora within sustainable development. Irrespective of that some of forest ecosystems are subject to special protection (wildlife refuges, protective forests) under the Act on Forests. New areas will be covered with legal protection in relation to implementation of the Natura 2000 network in Poland, eventually covering 12-17% of the country territory. It should be emphasised here that due to the fact that the Polish territory is extensive, that will be a relatively large area. Significant limitations to the land use types within those areas, including procedures preventing threats to protected objects at the stage of planning (obligatory environmental impact assessment) will considerably enhance effectiveness of conservation in those areas.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Irrespective of measures taken under the Act on Nature Conservation and Act on Forests, the tasks are performed that are related to designation of the Pan-European Network of Important Plant Areas in Poland whose aim is to recommend those areas for legal protection. The first version has been completed in December, 2004 by the Institute of Botany, PAS.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
A large part of areas covered with legal protection, considerable transformation of the environment in the past, whose effects are often irreversible, changes in land use, complicated ownership status of the areas under protection, financial and organisational problems of nature conservation services making achievement of high effectiveness difficult, even for areas of the highest protective status. For instance that pertains to not fully satisfactory conservation of xerothermic or bog reserves as well as stands of certain valuable plant species within national or landscape parks.	

Box XXVIII.

Target 5. Protection of fifty percent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
Target 5 is directly related to task 4 although it has not been introduced into the national targets in this form.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
In December 2004 the work on preparing the first Polish list of Important Plant Areas has been completed. Most of them (over 50%) are located within areas covered with various forms of legal protection including protected landscape areas which is rather ineffective form of protection in this case. One should also bear in mind that the knowledge of nature (including knowledge of flora) in the protected areas is much greater than that for non-protected areas. Therefore, one may expect that not all areas valuable in terms of flora have been identified and consequently it is not certain whether a half of them have been covered with effective protection.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXIX.

Target 6. At least thirty percent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
There are no national targets directly referring to target 6. Indirectly it is reflected in the principle of sustainable development laid down in the Constitution and implemented in all the fieds of the national economy.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The principle of sustainable development is in a sense extended in forest management and is gradually introduced into agriculture (particularly within the framework of implementation of agri-environmental programmes).	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Under the process of 'ecologization' of forest management, management practice is modified so that it includes to larger extent, e.g., the requirements related to conservation of valuable or endangered plant species. The measures taken within areas covered with protection in landscape parks and Forest Promotional Complexes are of special importance. A similar attitude is applied in relation to agri-environmental programmes whose implementation in Poland has started this year and which are successively modified. Poland also takes part in the Pan-European programme for conservation of biological conservation, so called permanent grasslands related to mowing and grazing management (LACOPE Programme).	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXX.

Target 7. Sixty percent of the world's threatened species conserved *In-situ*.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Target 7 (threshold value not specified) included in national targets.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The target is included in the *National Strategy.*	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Habitats where endangered species occur are successively covered with legal protection. It is also one of the criteria for designation of the Natura 2000 network areas, and also the network of Important Plant Areas.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
The problem is a lack of precise data making it possible full implementation of the target, however, endangered species at the scale of Europe are identified along with the proposal for comprehensive conservation of a substantial part of population within the framework of the Natura 2000 system.	
VII) Any other relevant information	
The report on implementation of the network of Important Plant Areas is currently being prepared by the Institute of Botany PAS.	

Box XXXI.

Target 8. Sixty percent of threatened plant species in accessible *Ex-situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 percent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Indirectly, target 8 was included into the group of national aims.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Target 8 is expanded both in the *National Strategy* and action programmes of institutions responsible for *ex situ* conservation.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Activities are conducted within the framework of all-Poland network of botanical gardens and are co-ordinated by the Botanical Garden in Powsin. Individual gardens are responsible for keeping collections of endangered species. Besides, the Garden in Powsin operates the Seed Bank, among others, of that plant group. Also, a number of programmes for species restitution are under way.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined. A lack of available statistics making it possible to evaluate the measurable index for target implementation.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
A lack of full identification of endangered species resources makes target implementation difficult. Another problem is insufficient scale of programmes for species restitution rather of scientific character and not planned tasks within active nature conservation.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXII.

Target 9. Seventy percent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Target 9 (no threshold value specified) included among the national targets.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
Target 9 is expanded both in the *National Strategy,* and the action plans for the gene bank and entities dealing with *ex situ* conservation. *The National Strategy* being one of the programmes for agriculture assumes inventory and collection of old and local varieties of crop plants.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Some 40% of the country territory have been subjected to inventories. In Poland some 80 thousand plant genotypes of utilitarian importance are covered with various forms of preservation. No precise identification of the resources makes the task difficult.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Collections of materials of direct significance to breeding, mainly breeding varieties and lines , are subsidized under annual ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on targeted subsidy rates for various entities performing tasks for agriculture in the sector “conservation of gene resources”. Breeders are obliged do deliver grown varieties to the gene bank or breeding materials notify it in case of terminating work.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
A number of objects stored in the gene bank is a measure of success. Each year some 300-400 objects are added.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Collection of crop plants are most often established to conserve species of strategic importance. Cereals are the majority of the stored material. Less attention is paid to less important species whose collections are often of fragmentary character. Preservation of crop plant genetic resources pose many problems related mainly to the methods for long-term storing which may lead do changes in the genetic structure of populations stored.	
VII) Any other relevant information	
It is postulated to establish a national system for exchange of information on the stored genetic resources and including all the existing collections into it. Numerous plant groups arouse common interest among various groups of scientists and practitioners. The “National collections” established within the „National Gene Bank” would enable more effective conservation of the collected genetic resources.	

Box XXXIII.

Target 10. Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Target 10 (no threshold value specified) included among the national targets.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Indirectly the target expanded in the *national Strategy.*	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
There is presently a list of non-native species including basic characteristics. The Committee for Nature Conservation of the Polish Academy of Science organized a special session dedicated to invasive species, which was the basis for preparing among others the respective publication (by the Institute of Botany, PAS). Irrespective of those activities the all-Poland project is underway (to be conducted in 2004 – 2007) on alien species, which will result in, among others, publication of the *Polish Book of Invasive Species* and in relation to the book, the programme of control and fighting populations will be worked out for each of the species.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIV.

Target 11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
Target 11 not included among national targets – it pertains to native flora species to a very limited degree.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Poland conducts standard activities related to implementation of Washington Convention.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXV.

Target 12. Thirty percent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
Target 12 is not included among national targets. Indirectly the principle of sustainable development being implemented in Poland refers to that target.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
Indirectly, programmes of 'ecologization' of forest management refer to Target 12, e.g., those concerning certification of forest districts. Similarly, agri-environmental programmes refer to the target, which the ensure sustainable use at least of 5% of permanent grassland after they will have been fully implemented by 2006. A large part of wild plant species utilised in herbal and ornamental industries (vascular plants, mosses and lichens) is covered with partial species conservation and their collection from the wild requires consent of the state administration bodies. Resources of those species and possibilities for their collection are sometimes specified in the common municipality inventories by naturalists conducting firework. Full identification of resources remain a problem, including amount of resources that might be collected. Common synanthropic species that currently do not require management of resources are not covered with the system.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
The target has been almost completed.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVI.

Target 13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
Target 13 is not included among national aims. Indirectly, the principle of sustainable development implemented in Poland is indirectly related to that.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVII.

Target 14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Target 14 is included among the national aims	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The target included both in the *National Strategy* and documents concerning education, e,g., the *National Strategy for Environmental Education* (2000) and in the related executive programme.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Significance of plant biological diversity and the need for its conservation are one of the elements included in various programmes and forms of environmental education that have been under way since the early 1990s in Poland. Within protected areas (national or landscape parks) and those not covered with legal protection (forest areas managed by the Directorate of State Forest) numerous nature trails are established partly presenting the issues related to species conservation. Books and handbooks are published (e.g., *Monographic Atlas of Protected Plants, Protected Plants in Poland* - two publications entitled in the same way). Many species are presented on the Internet. Identification of many species is a part of training of forest service (forest rangers, appraisers) and agri-environmental consultants. In spite of the above, activities related to the needs and principles of plant species conservation should be intensified.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVIII.

Target 15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Target 15 addressed indirectly as one of the national targets concerning extension of knowledge of among nature conservation staff.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The target is expanded in documents concerning environmental education.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
The level of nature conservation services competence keeps on improving. In contrast, the number of employees remains unsatisfactory in relation to the needs resulting from the strategy. Also shortage of the appropriately trained staff is clear in economic sectors affecting biological diversity (e.g., forestry, agriculture, water management, transport).	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIX.

Target 16. Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
There are no national targets referring to target 16.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
The development of co-operation within the scope of plant conservation, both among scientific institutions and NGOs is related to implementation of the project Important Plant Areas, co-ordinated by the Institute of Botany PAS and designing the NAtura 2000 network in relation to conservation of plant species of special interest to the EU.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
No indicators have been determined.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XL.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this strategy specifically focusing on: a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.
Actions aiming at conservation of plant biological diversity have been conducted in Poland for years within the framework of nature conservation. The target is fulfilled both through actions in the legal field, e.g., Act on Nature Conservation of 2004 and its earlier versions, the new regulation on plant species conservation (2004) and its earlier versions, programme actions (e.g., in relation to "ecologization" of forest management or implementation of agri-environmental programmes) and substantive measures taken *in situ* (mainly within protected areas as well as *ex situ* (botanical gardens and arboreta, gene banks). Conservation of valuable species and those which are endangered at the European scale is one of the targets of Natura 2000 network implementation. The project concerning designation of the network of Important Plant directly addresses plant conservation. Measures taken in Poland contribute both to implementation of the Strategy for Plant Conservation, the 2010 Target, Millennium Development Goals and the National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity.

Ecosystem Approach

The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Application of the ecosystem approach will help to reach a balance of the three objectives of the Convention. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties has affirmed that the ecosystem approach is the primary framework for action under the Convention (decision II/8). The Conference of the Parties, at its fifth meeting, endorsed the description of the ecosystem approach and operational guidance and recommended the application of the principles and other guidance on the ecosystem approach. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties agreed that the priority at this time should be facilitating implementation of the ecosystem approach. Please provide relevant information by responding to the following questions.

3. ? [1] Is your country applying the ecosystem approach, taking into account the principles and guidance contained in the annex to decision V/6? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but application is under consideration	
c) Yes, some aspects are being applied	X
d) Yes, substantially implemented	

4. ? 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? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but development is under consideration	

[1] Please note that all the questions marked with **?** have been previously covered in the second national reports and some thematic reports.

c) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying some principles of the ecosystem approach	X
d) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying most principles of the ecosystem approach	

5. Is your country strengthening capacities for the application of the ecosystem approach, and providing technical and financial support for capacity-building to apply the ecosystem approach? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) Yes, within the country	X
c) Yes, including providing support to other Parties	

6. ? Has your country promoted regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) Yes, informal cooperation (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, formal cooperation (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders.
Within the regional co-operation (particularly in the transborder aspect), the ecosystem approach is developed to a very limited extent.

7. Is your country facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach? (decisions VI/12 and VII/11)	
a) No	X
b) No, some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach.
So far, no special measures have been taken to be directly oriented towards such exchange of experience, knowledge and technology, going beyond the forestry sector in which the ecosystem approach is implemented to the fullest extent

8. Is your country creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach, including through development of appropriate institutional frameworks? (decision VII/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant policies and programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X

d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the creation of an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach.

The ecosystem approach is gradually implemented into management of protected areas (particularly of national parks and nature reserves and to a smaller extent – in landscape parks). Protection plans are the documents in which that is particularly distinct, which refers to problems of conservation of various ecosystem types, habitat or species in a comprehensive manner.

The ecosystem approach is first of all implemented in forestry. The tools used in forest management are especially adapted to that task: legal acts (Act on Forests of 1991, regulation of the General Director of the State Forests no. 11) and sectoral instructions (Forest Management Manual, Guidelines for Silviculture, Forest Protection Manual), operating documents prepared for forest districts (operating forest management plans and nature protection plans for forest districts) and all advisory and consultative bodies working on their preparation (technical-economic committees).

Indirectly the ecosystem approach has been partly introduced into the Water Flow (2001) according to which management plans for waters within catchment basins are to be developed and implemented, actually being of the strategic character, dealing with catchment basins in a more comprehensive manner. However, it is necessary to introduce such an approach in the widely understood water management (including, e.g., in currently prepared Water Management Strategy).

Unfortunately, the legal, organisational and institutional conditions currently in force do not favour implementation of the ecosystem approach to marine areas.

C. ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

Article 5 – Cooperation

9. ? 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) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
c) Yes, multilateral cooperation (please give details below)	
d) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation (please give details below)	X
e) Yes, other forms of cooperation (please give details below)	

Further comments on cooperation with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Poland actively participates in the implementation of many agreements signed with most European and non-European countries. The agreements are usually bilateral but some are multilateral.

The agreements are the basis for the cooperation in many areas of environmental protection but they almost always include elements of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It should be stressed that most of the agreements concern several aspects of the environment thus being complementary to biodiversity as they support, directly or indirectly, its conservation. The main goal of the Polish environmental policy is cooperation within the European Union, strengthening the bilateral contacts with the neighbouring countries (Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Lithuania, Germany, Slovakia and the Czech Republic). The cooperation in the framework of the Polish-German Council for Environmental Protection is particularly well developed.

It should be stressed that the Ministry of the Environment of the Polish Republic cooperates with all

the neighbours within the framework of the Intergovernmental Commission for Trans-border Cooperation. The cooperation concerns mainly the tasks in the border regions on both sides of the border. The working groups for environmental protection and other organisational structures mainly in the protected areas in the border regions participating in the cooperation. There are 8 international protected areas including Biosphere Reservations and objects of the World Natural Heritage on the Polish borders.

An important example of the regional cooperation is the Vysehrad Group for environmental protection. The Ministers for the Environment of Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary regularly meet, once or twice a year since 1999 at the meetings of the Vysehrad Group Countries. The meetings enable discussions about the current problems of the cooperation between the countries in view of their common interests. The working groups (established at the meetings of the Ministers) jointly worked out numerous goals, agreed at the meetings of the Ministers, including those concerning biodiversity. The particular example is a map along with a description of the trans-border protected areas. An important result of the work of the Vysehrad Group for the protection of the environment is formulating a common position at the international conferences such as the meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change, World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), International Conference *Environment for Europe* (Kiev, 2003).

In spite of that, some local conflict situations do occur (e.g., no strictly protected areas in Bialowieza Forest on the Polish side of the border that are consistent with the Byelorussian ones, removal of dead or dying spruces in the Slovakian Tatra Mountains which constitutes a threat to the common population of the three-toed woodpecker, hunting geese, which are protected on the German side) resulting first of all from different traditions in nature conservation in individual countries and inconsistent of the legal systems, however, to a large degree compensated by implementation of the EU regulations in the national legal system.

10. Is your country working with other Parties to develop regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention? (Decision VI/27 A)

a) No	
b) No, but consultations are under way	
c) Yes, some mechanisms and networks have been established (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, existing mechanisms have been strengthened (please provide details below)	

Further comments on development of regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention.

The support for the cooperation on bioregional and subregional level is provided in various ways. On the bioregional level, when it concerns specific transborder protected areas, working groups and steering committees are established and, sometimes, coordinators of the cooperation are appointed. An example of a working bioregional cooperation mechanism are the structures of the Polish-German cooperation, i.e., the Polish–German Council for Environmental Protection, Polish-German Commission on Neighbourly Environmental Cooperation, Polish-German Working Group on Nature Conservation, Program Council of the Lower Odra Valley International Park, Doliny Dolnej Odry, however, the issues of biological conservation conservations require further development.

Mechanisms have been implemented for all transborder international protected areas that enable cooperation of the directors in charge of those areas and of their advisory bodies. Co-operation of national parkls in the Karkonoszed Range or in Polesie should be mentioned as model examples of international co-operation. The existing agreements at the level of the directors of the transborder protected areas and at the ministerial level provide conditions for implementing bioregional mechanisms.

Vysehrad Group that includes Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary with Romania and Ukraine being sometimes invited to participate is an example of the mechanism supporting protection and sustainable use of biodiversity at the subregional level .

The biogeographical conferences organised in the European Union member countries following the implementation of the European Habitats Directive are another particular example of the cooperation of this kind. The first such meeting took place in May 2005, with the participation of representatives of Poland as a country partly belonging to the Alpine region,.

11. Is your country taking steps to harmonize national policies and programmes, with a view to optimizing policy coherence, synergies and efficiency in the implementation of various multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) and relevant regional initiatives at the national level? (Decision VI/20)

a) No	
b) No, but steps are under consideration	
c) Yes, some steps are being taken (please specify below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive steps are being taken (please specify below)	X

Further comments on the harmonization of policies and programmes at the national level.

Poland is a party to various multilateral agreements on environmental protection. The agreements usually include either an execution plan or action plan. Inclusion of the provisions resulting from the multilateral agreements in the documents adopted by the Council of Ministers or by the Minister of the Environment provides conditions ensuring their implementation. The *Second National Environmental Policy* and other documents adopted by the Council of Ministers are the examples. In the *Second National Environmental Policy* one can find, among others, provisions related to the Convention on Biodiversity. Moreover, in the *National Strategy on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity* along with the *Action Plan*, there are provisions related to the *Second National Environmental Policy* and to other documents and regulations currently in force. Also the sectoral programme documents (e.g. that pertaining to the development of the rural areas and of fishery) include provisions directly relating to those of the Convention on Biodiversity. Such a system ensures cohesion and synergy in the implementation of different programmes.

With the view to employing the phenomenon of synergy of the convention on biodiversity and other conventions, e.g. the conventions on climate, on desertification, the Ramsar convention and other conventions, a project entitled “Assessment of the national conditions for management of the global environment”, financed by the GEF, was carried out in Poland.

Box XLI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this strategy specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Poland actively cooperates with other countries that are Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially with the neighbouring countries. The effect of this cooperation is a range of joint initiatives including those on the transborder nature conservation. In recent years some of the joint actions for the protection of biodiversity are a result of implementing the European Union Directives in Poland.

The cooperation with other Parties, including the exchange of knowledge and experience is compatible with the actions of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, 2010 Target, Millennium Development Goals, the goals adopted in the *National Strategy on Conservation of Biodiversity* and with other national and sectoral documents.

Poland is facing a new challenge, i.e. development of the cooperation with the developing countries and transferring to those countries the experience in nature conservation that has accumulated over

the years.

Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use

12. Has your country put in place effective national strategies, plans and programmes to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention? (Goal 3.1 of the Strategic Plan)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant strategies, plans and programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the strategies, plans and programmes for implementing the three objectives of the Convention.

The resolutions of Article 6 of the Convention and of corresponding Article 3.1 of the Strategic Plan (Decision VI/26) have been implemented in Poland since early '90s, i.e., since the time when the Convention was passed. One should remember (see the *1st* and 2*nd National Reports*) that the goals of nature conservation (conservation of biodiversity) and the need for its integration with the socio-economic development (regarded as sustainable development) have been included in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland of 02.04.1997.

By May 2001 (i.e. during the period covered by the two previous reports), several new or modified legal acts were adopted, including the Environmental Protection Act (2001), Nature Conservation Act (2001 – not binding), Forest Act (1991), Animal Protection Act (1997), Protection of Agricultural and Forest Land Act (1995), Inland Fisheries Act (1985), Hunting Law (13.10.1995), Geological and Mining Law (1994) and many more, including parliamentary acts and administrative ordinances.

During the period, the most important strategic documents with provisions pertaining to the goals of the Convention were prepared and formally adopted. Those include: the *2nd National Environmental Policy* (adopted by the Council of Ministers on 31.06.2000), *Long-term strategy for continuing and sustainable development – Poland 2005* (adopted by the Council of Ministers on 26.07.2000), *Long-term strategy for sustained and sustainable development – Poland 2005* (adopted by the Council of Ministers on 26.07.2000), *National Strategy for Regional Development 2001-2006* (adopted by the Council of Ministers on 22.04.1997), *National Strategy of Environment Protection 2000-2006* (adopted by the Council of Ministers' Committee of Regional Policy and Sustainable Development on 27.07.2000), *National Policy on Forests* adopted by the Council of Ministers (22.04.1997), *National Programme for Augmentation of the Forest Cover* adopted by the Council of Ministers (1995) and *Polish policy on sustainable forest management* (introduced in the regulation by the Director General of the State Forests Enterprise of 11.05.1999), *Concept for national spatial management policy* (approved by the Council of Ministers on 05.10.1999), *National Environmental Education Strategy* (approved by the Minister for the Environment and Minister of National Education on 21.09.2000), *National transport policy for 2001-2015 for sustainable development of Poland* (adopted by the Council of Ministers on 04.10.2001) and many documents concerning the agricultural economy including the *Medium-term strategy for development of agriculture and rural areas* (adopted by the Council of Ministers in 1998), *Coherent structural development policy for rural areas and agriculture* (adopted by the Council of Ministers in 1999) and many more.

By May 2001 Poland became a party to the most important conventions and agreements on nature including: *Convention on wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat* – the Ramsar Convention (entered into force in 1978), *Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora* – the Washington Convention (ratified by Poland on 12.12.1990), *Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats* – the Bern Convention (Poland has been a party to it since 01.01.1996), *Convention on migratory species* – the Bonn Convention (Poland has been a party to it since 01.05.1996), *Agreement on the conservation of*

populations of European bats – the Eurobats Agreement (Poland has been a party to it since 10.05.1996), *Agreement on the conservation of small cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas* – the Ascobans Agreement (Poland has been a party to it since 1996) and many more.

In the period covered by the report (i.e. May 2001 – May 2005) the actions of the State were concentrated mainly on updating, improving and filling the details of the legislation and strategic documents prepared earlier. The most important included:

- formal adoption by the Council of Ministers of the *National strategy for protection and sustainable use of biodiversity with the Action Plan*;
- preparation and formal adoption by the Council of Ministers of the Execution Programme for *the 2nd National Environmental Policy for 2002-2010* (February 2002) and *National Environmental Policy for 2003-2006 with perspective to 2007-2010* (December 2002);
- preparation of the *National ecological development* programme as an integral part of the *SLD-UP-PSL Government Economic Strategy `Entrepreneurship-Development-Employment'* adopted by the Council of Ministers (29.01.2002)
- passing new laws: Environment Protection Act (2001), Water Law (2001), on designating agricultural land for afforestation (2001), on preserving national character of the strategic natural resources of the country (2001), on spatial planning and management (2003), National Agricultural Constitution Act (2003), on supporting rural development with financial means from the European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Funds (2003), on nature conservation (2004), on fisheries (2004), on experiments on animals (2005);
- passing new or amended executive ordinances to the legal acts, including among others regulations of the Ministry of the Environment on wild species covered with protection: fungi (2004),plants (2004), and animals (2004);
- passing new laws: on nature conservation (16.04.2004), on spatial planning and management (27.03.2003), the Water Law (18.07.2001), on forestation of agricultural land (08.06.2001), on shaping of the agricultural system (11.04.2003), on preservation of the national character of the country's strategic resources (06.07.2001), on support for rural development from the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (28.11.2003), on fishery (19.02.2004);
- passing new and bringing up to date the relevant executive orders including, among others, the regulation of the Minister of the Environment on protected species of wild mushrooms (09.07.2004), plants (09.07.2004) and animals (28.09.2004);
- starting the work on amending the laws including the Environmental Protection Act and the Water Law Act;
- preparing and adopting a range of documents pertaining to the agricultural sector including: *Rural Development Plan for Poland 2004-2006* approved by the European Commission (06.09.2004) whose integral part is the *National Agri-environmental Programme*, *Strategy for the development of agriculture and rural areas for 2007-2013*, prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (March 2005);
- launching operational programmes (financial assistance from the European Union funds) in the agricultural sector: SAPARD (launched 14.05.2002), Restructuring and Modernisation of the Food Sector and Rural Development 2004-2006 (launched on 03.09.2004);
- preparing a draft of the *National Development Plan for the period 2007-2013* adopted by the Council of Ministers (11.01.2005) and starting the work on the operational programmes including `environmental protection' (2005);
- bringing up to date the *National Programme for Augmentation of the Forest Cover* (May 2003);
- preparing the draft *National strategy for wetland protection in Poland* (July 2004);
- preparing and adopting the *Strategy of changing production and consumption patterns to favour the implementation of sustainable development principles* (14.10.2003);
- preparing a draft of the new *National Transport Policy for the period 2005-2025* (March 2005);
- ratifying by Poland the European Landscape Convention (27.09.2004) and signing it at the international conference `Environment for Europe' in Kiev (22.05.2003), the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Carpathians (The Carpathian Convention);

Most of the tasks undertaken in the last four years that are described above are related to the adaptation of Poland to the requirements of the European Union of which Poland became a member on 01.05.2004.

In all the legal acts and strategic documents, issues related to conservation of biological diversity are emphasised in various ways. Another EU programming period for which preparations are under way is a good opportunity for granting appropriate priority to those issues.

13. Has your country set measurable targets within its national strategies and action plans? (decisions II/7 and III/9)

a) No	X
b) No, measurable targets are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but measurable targets are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, relevant targets are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, reports on implementation of relevant targets available (please provide details below)	

Further comments on targets set within national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

In the strategic documents described in section 12 not too many measurable goals were set in the area of nature conservation in contrast to the field of environmental protection in which many such provisions were adopted, for example the reduction of the water pollution loads released by the industry by 50% (compared to the 1990 level) (*2nd National Environmental Policy, 2000*). The *II National Environmental Policy* stated only (without specifying the lime limit) that: *environmental safety of the country requires,* inter alia*, ... enlargement of protected areas to cover one third of the country area.* The provision on establishing the NATURA 2000 sites covering 10% of the country area is laid down in the assumptions of the National Development Plan for 2007-2013 (April 2005).

Measurable goals appear in the documents on increase the forest cover. The *National Programme for Augmentation of the Forest Cover* (1995) and *National Policy on Forests* (1997) assumed an increase of forest cover from the present 28% to 30% in 2020 and to 33% in 2050. These assumptions were verified and further 100 000 hectares were added to be forested by 2020.

14. Has your country identified priority actions in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan? (decision VI/27 A)

a) No	
b) No, but priority actions are being identified	
c) Yes, priority actions identified (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on priority actions identified in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

The *Action plan*, adopted by the Council of Ministers on 25.02.2003 and being an expansion of the goals listed in the *National strategy on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity* contains altogether 95 tasks to be completed in the period 2003-2006, each of them with a priority on the following scale: 1/ obligatory tasks that must be completed; 2/ tasks recommended for execution; 3/ task suggested for execution (i.e. tasks whose completion depends mostly on financial, organisational or substantive capabilities). The highest priority was assigned to 46 tasks. At present the Ministry of the Environment initiated actions toward an assessment of the implementation of the *National strategy*. One of the problems will be how to assess the relevance of the selected priorities.

15. Has your country integrated the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as benefit sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision VI/27 A)

No	
Yes, in some sectors (please provide details below)	X
Yes, in major sectors (please provide details below)	
Yes, in all sectors (please provide details below)	

Further information on integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

The necessity of taking into account the biodiversity conservation issues in the strategies and sectoral as well as cross-sectoral programmes is set out both in the *National Strategy* (strategic action no IV: *Integration of the activities for the protection of biodiversity with the activities of the sectors of economy, public administration and society including NGOs, important for such protection)* and in other documents prepared in the Ministry for the Environment. Following that, the issues of biological conservation issues are successively introduced into various sectoral documents, including particularly agriculture and forestry.

The procedure of inter-ministerial coordination of all strategic programmes provides an instrument ensuring the inclusion of the environmental protection issues in other sectoral strategies. Within the procedure, the Ministry of the Environment may supervise consideration of the provisions concerning among others conservation of biological conservation.

Implementation of some programmes may lead to conflicts at the meeting point between conservation of biological diversity and economic activity. That situation occurs in agriculture because of dual policy of financing transformations in the sector of agriculture related to the agricultural policy of the European Union. On the one hand actions are taken to reduce employment in agriculture, perform land aggregation and homogenization of agricultural production and transformation of fallow land into forested areas and on the other hand, maintain the traditional forms of farming and fine-sized farms, also in areas of difficult conditions for management. A lack of appropriate balancing and spatial diversifying of the financial stimuli applied in agricultural policy may eventually lead to preferences for solutions yielding faster or larger economic profits to the detriment of biological diversity, e.g., afforestation of fallow-lands and giving up traditional technologies for more profitable cultivations and breeding.

In all the strategic documents, issues related to biological diversity are emphasised in various ways. The main flaw of the present situation is sometimes discrepancy between programme declarations and their implementation at the operational level. Another programming period in the EU that is being prepared at the moment and also the results of assessment of implementation of the National Strategy may provide a good opportunity for granting the appropriate priority to those issues.

16. Are migratory species and their habitats addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan (NBSAP)? (decision VI/20)	
Yes	X Migratory species are not listed in the *National strategy* as a separate group of species, but are included in the section `conservation of threatened and endangered species'
No	

If **YES**, please briefly describe the extent to which it addresses	
Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species	
Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats, including protected areas	The goals written in the *National Strategy* include both the activities for the protection of species (verification of the lists of protected species, game species and species in danger of extinction as well as development and implementation of the species protection programmes), habitats and ecosystems. Some of them directly concern the migratory species (preparation of the principles of designating, re-establishing, protecting and enhancing ecological corridors, preparation and implementation of the plan of improving or re-establishing the possibility of free migration of fish and lampreys in selected rivers, defining the areas (routes) of direct and considerable danger to the species of seasonally migrating animals and imposing suitable restriction on vehicle traffic in those areas, preparing the principles of biodiversity conservation in the process of designing, constructing and exploiting power installations.
Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration	
Research and monitoring for migratory species	
Transboundary movement	

If **NO**, please briefly indicate below	
The extent to which your country addresses migratory species at national level	
Cooperation with other Range States since 2000	

Biodiversity and Climate Change

17. Has your country implemented projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	
b) No, but some projects or programs are under development	
c) Yes, some projects have been implemented (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

In Poland no comprehensive action plan has been prepared concerning the effects of climate on biodiversity. Work is under way in some regions and on some components of the environment that may be considerably changed as a result of warming. Such a programme concerning the Baltic Coast focuses on the effects of possible sea-level rise and of the decrease in salinity in the waters of southern Baltic as a result of the anticipated increase in discharge. The programme was adopted in 2004 as a part of the regional strategy and is now being developed. The work is focused especially on the Visyula estuary including the environmentally valuable Zulawy region. The second of the undertaken action plans concerns the possible changes in Polish agriculture that may result from warming. Here the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is the leading institution. These programmes include many important aspects of the decline of biodiversity due to the expected climate changes.

At the national scale the work of scientists and experts has been underway since late ‘90s within the framework of the `Global Change’ programme. The Polish National Committee for `Global Change’ prepared a series of reports and expertises that included also the warming forecasts concerning the changes in the natural environment. The practical recommendations pertain mainly to water relations and agri-communities.

Reports on this subject are prepared also by the Poland 2000 Committee.

Poland also implemts the programme of monitoring of changes in the natural environment within the framework of the State Environmental Monitoring (SEM). The activities include preparing the documentation of the changes taking place in the ecosystems as a result of global warming and changing water relations based on comprehensive observations and investigations conducted in seven representative testing grounds – field stations. That applies to integrated monitoring which is a subsystem of the SEM. Besides, the adopted programme of monitoring of the state of flora and fauna including the characteristics describing biodiversity (taxonomic as well as genetic) is being implemented, also in connection with the changes in the abiotic environment (including climate changes).

18. Has your country facilitated coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, relevant mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the UNFCCC and the UNCCD.

Appropriate coordinating activities have not been implemented. In 2004 comprehensive activities have been initiated aiming at coordination of the activities related to implementation of the recommendations of the three global Conventions (on climate, on biodiversity and on combating desertification). The results of those activities are to be delivered in 2005. Their essence should be harmonization of the primary goals of the Conventions especially those of the first and the second ones. The general principles of coordination of those activities have been specified and adopted at the parliamentary level in the *2nd National Environmental Policy* (2000), but this document has no executable power.

Box XLII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

The activities related to the realisation of the Article 6 have been successfully undertaken in Poland since the early '90s. The adoption of the principle of sustainable development as the basis for the whole country carries far-reaching consequences for all branches of the economy. So far, the biggest progress was made in agriculture and forest management. In other areas, in spite of provisions introduced in the law, still a lot remains to be done.

All undertaken activities are compatible both with the Strategic Convention Plan, Goals 2010 Millennium Development Goals and with the goals stated in the *National strategy on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity* and in other documents both national and ministerial.

The main problem and challenge is to find a compromise between the need to protect biodiversity and the needs for socio-economic development. An example of such conflict areas is the discrepancy between the objectives of nature conservation and those of the road network development or between the goal of increasing the amount of energy obtained from renewable sources (e.g. biomass) and the goal of increasing the organic matter content in soil (e.g., by ploughing the biomass under).

Ad. Biological diversity and climate change

One of the essential results of research and organisational work is a rather consistent opinion of the state administration and the leading institutions that global warming caused by human activity does affect Poland and may significantly change the natural bases for nature functioning, particularly on the Baltic coast, in the mountains and in hydrogenic areas. Also possible changes in agricultural communities are treated very seriously, including those related to biological richness. Recognition of those issues makes it possible to introduce actions aiming at restriction of effects of changes into the strategic documents (sectoral and regional ones). That is particualrly noticeable in the documents conserning forest management, water management and agriculture. Such strategies have been developed in the three recent years. In contrast spatial development plans for provinces and environment protection programmes at all the levels of self-governmental administration developed in

2002-2004 to a very uneven extent include possible consequences of global warming to natural resources. The limitation of possible actions is related to considerable self-government independence of the central policy. Generating behaviours conserving biological diversity and anticipating unfavourable changes resulting from climate change is difficult and takes place occasionally.

Article 7 - Identification and monitoring

19.? On Article 7(a), does your country have an ongoing programme to identify components of biological diversity at the genetic, species, ecosystem level?	
a) No	
b) Yes, selected/partial programmes at the genetic, species and/or ecosystem level only (please specify and provide details below)	X
c) Yes, complete programmes at ecosystem level and selected/partial inventories at the genetic and/or species level (please specify and provide details below)	

Further comments on ongoing programmes to identify components of biodiversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.

Many Polish institutions conduct research, according to their specialisation, on identification of biodiversity. They include institutions of higher education (universities), institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences, sectoral research institutes, especially those in the forestry sector, agricultural sector and water management sector. This is also a subject of interest of the research laboratories of the national parks and landscape parks, of the nature conservation agencies and some non-governmental organisations. It is also a part of routine activity of the botanical gardens and zoological gardens. A large part of all the routine activities are financed by state budget or through grants.

A broad range of research on the conservation of species and genetic resources is conducted by the research units of the Polish Academy of Sciences: Institute of Botany in Kraków, Institute of Nature Conservation in Kraków, Museum and Institute of Zoology in Warsaw, Mammal Research Institute in Bialowieza, Institute of Ornithology in Gdansk, International Centre of Ecology in Dziekanów, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization in Warsaw, Botanical Garden in Powsin and sectoral research units including Forest Research Institute in Warsaw, Institute of Environmental Protection in Warsaw, Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute in Radzików, Institute of Animal Production in Kraków, Forest Gene Bank in Kostrzyca, Maritime Institute in Gdansk, Inland Fisheries Institute in Olsztyn and many other.

A particular example of the activities undertaken to identify biodiversity in Poland are periodically prepared nature inventories of the municipalities, conservation plans for the protected areas, operating forest management plans and nature conservation programmes for the Forest Districts.

In spite of taking so diversified measures, there are still important shortcomings in identification of the state and trends in individual components of biological diversity.

20.? On Article 7(b), which components of biological diversity identified in accordance with Annex I of the Convention, have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes?	
a) at ecosystem level (please provide percentage based on area covered)	see below
b) at species level (please provide number of species per taxonomic group and percentage of total known number of species in each group)	see below
c) at genetic level (please indicate number and focus of monitoring programmes)	see below

Further comments on ongoing monitoring programmes at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.

According to the legal provisions, the Environmental Protection Inspectorate is the agency responsible for monitoring biodiversity. Within the framework of the State Environmental Monitoring (PMS), coordinated by the Inspectorate there is a subsystem covering nature monitoring. The system has been implemented just for a few years and is subject to regular modifications. Further changes in the subsystem are forced by implementation of of the Natura 2000, agri-environmental programmes and the Fremework Water Directive in Poland. Within PMS other subsystems are well developed covering biological diversity issues such as monitoring of forests, monitoring of waters and integrated monitoring.

Independently of the above system there are local monitoring projects, especially in the national parks. A particular form of recording changes in biodiversity are periodically prepared (every 20 years) conservation plans for the national parks, landscape parks and nature reserves.

Ad a) Forest monitoring that has been functioning for over 15 years till recently was just a set of information on damages to tree stands. In recent years (2003) it has been expanded by monitoring of forest floor plants and undergrowth, monitoring of pine seed health, entomological monitoring, phytopathological monitoring, monitoring of pollution deposition, monitoring of sub-canopy precipitation and soil solutions and soil monitoring.

Monitoring of water ecosystems is performed periodically, in selected lakes and river sections and includes firs of all physical-chemical properties, to a lesser degree biological diversity. Besides, ecological monitoring of water ecosystems under the Framework Water Directive is planned. Monitoring of non-forest monitoring is conducted mainly in areas covered with legal protection (national and landscape parks and nature reserves).

Ad b) Monitoring of species covers only selected species of fungi, plants and animals, especially those which are threatened, endangered and legally protected under national and international laws. The monitoring programmes for birds, bats and cetaceans are particularly well developed. Other groups of species are usually monitored in only a few observation areas located especially in the national parks. It is being planned to implement the monitoring of selected plants and animals to check the effectiveness of the agri-ecological activities.

Ad c) Monitoring of biodiversity practically does not exist. Some work on the assessment of the level of biodiversity is carried out, especially on trees (Forest Gene Bank in Kostrzyca), species of cultivated plants (Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute) and on farmed animals (National Institute of Animal Production), but this cannot be regarded as long-term, systematic observations.

Irrespective of diversified activities aiming at recording condition and changes in biological diversity, there is an urgent need to create a systemic monitoring of nature.

21. On Article 7(c), does your country have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes on any of the following key threats to biodiversity?

a) No	X
b) Yes, invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, climate change (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, pollution/eutrophication (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, land use change/land degradation (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, overexploitation or unsustainable use (please provide details below)	

Further comments on monitoring programmes on key threats to biodiversity.

There is no systemic monitoring programme in Poland aiming directly at threats to biological diversity mentioned above. However, many data are collected while conducting other monitoring activities.

Under the State Environmental Monitoring (SEM) the effect of hazards to biodiversity is monitored as a part of forest monitoring. Both the changes in habitats caused, among other factors, by eutrophication and the health conditions of the tree stands (one of the causes being atmospheric pollution) are subject to assessment. Water quality is monitored also under the monitoring of rivers and lakes but there is no direct relation with biodiversity. The investigation of correlation (e.g. of the influence of the variations of the ground water table on land ecosystems) of that type is planned

together with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

Within the SEM subsystem for the monitoring of nature there is no programme oriented directly to assessing the hazards to biodiversity. Nevertheless, these issues are considered in the context of other programmes, for example invasion of alien species is considered under the monitoring of rivers. In a wider context the problem of, for example, the effect of the economic practices on nature is monitored under the programme of monitoring of the assessment of effectiveness of the conservatory protection.

Independently of the above, all threats to the environment components are recorded while conservation plans for the protected areas or plans of usage for other ecosystems are being prepared. Then the emphasis is mainly on the identification of the external and internal hazards, but because of limited possible influence less attention is paid to the changes of global character (e.g. climate change).

Recording changes in spatial management results from legal regulations concerning spatial management. The obligation to perform those analyses at least once in four years is imposed on the self-government bodies. However, in fact the duty is not always observed or threats to biological diversity resulting from land use pattern are not identified.

With respect to the species of economical potential (e.g. edible snail, medicinal plants) periodic assessment (often local) of the population is carried out in selected areas. Information about those resources are sometimes collected while performing municipality inventories of natural resources.

22. On Article 7 (d), does your country have a mechanism to maintain and organize data derived from inventories and monitoring programmes and coordinate information collection and management at the national level?

a) No	
b) No, but some mechanisms or systems are being considered	
c) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are being established	X
d) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, a relatively complete system is in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the coordination of data and information collection and management.

At the national level the agency responsible for gathering information collected within the framework of the State Environmental Monitoring is the General Environmental Protection Inspectorate. A database of the nature monitoring subsystem was created. It holds information from all the programs conducted under this subsystem. It is not yet integrated with other databases functioning under the SEM.

A particular form of integration of monitoring data is the successively expanded State Forests Information System where data from the periodically conducted management works is collected.

Much detailed data is gathered by the research institutions involved in the monitoring activities, especially the institutions of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and also by the research laboratories of the national parks. The nature conservation agencies responsible for documenting the state of nature prepare databases for the areas under their management. In previous years, partly under the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), a metabase was created containing information on the datasets existing in Poland, including the monitoring ones. However, no principles of integration and exchange of data gathered in different institutions have been prepared yet.

23. Does your country use indicators for national-level monitoring of biodiversity? (decision III/10)

a) No	

b) No, but identification of potential indicators is under way (please describe)	X
c) Yes, some indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
d) Yes, a relatively complete set of indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented	

Further comments on the indicators identified and in use.

For the last few years some Polish research institutions work on the system biodiversity indicators that would enable effective and reliable monitoring of the occurring changes. An example of such indicators, successfully used in Poland for the last few years, is the Average Individual Biomass of Carabid Beetles that enables the assessment of productivity of forest habitats. However, it should be stressed that the problem of indicators has not been satisfactorily worked out in Poland.

Box XLIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

The tasks of identifying and monitoring the state and changes of biodiversity in Poland are the routine duties of different research institutions and government agencies (e.g. the Environmental Protection Inspectorate). However, most of them are not systemic monitoring studies. Their intensity depends on the funds earmarked for such activities in the State budget.

All activities undertaken are compatible with the actions of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, 2010 Target, Millennium Development Goals, the goals adopted in the *National strategy on conservation of biodiversity* and other national and sectoral documents

The main challenge, apart from securing permanent source of funds, is creation and implementation of the efficient system for collecting, processing and rendering information obtained from the identification and monitoring works.

Decisions on Taxonomy

24. Has your country developed a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1? (decision IV/1)

No	
No, but a plan is under development	
Yes, a plan is in place (please provide details below)	X
Yes, reports on implementation available (please provide details below)	

Further information on a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1.

Poland participates in the ENBI project, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) (Warsaw University) and in BioCise (University of Szczecin).

The Ministry of Science and Information Technology co-finances the National Biodiversity Information Network (KSIB)

25. Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections? (decision IV/1)	
No	
Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on investment on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections.

The promotion of the working plan of the Global Taxonomic Initiative (GTI) can be performed within the framework of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). The latter is a system giving access to the information on biodiversity over the Internet. The initiative to create a network of institutions under the GBIF was taken by the State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN) in 2001. The coordinator is the Faculty of Biology, Warsaw University. The GBIF cooperates with other international organisations in the field of biodiversity, i.e., CHM and GTI of the Convention on biological diversity and with the regional information networks devoted to biodiversity.

The National Biodiversity Information Network (KSIB) is being created. It is composed of the National Node and Data Nodes. The National Node provides a link between the National Network and the global GBIF network, maintains and keeps up to date a register of all data sources in the country.

The contact point of the Global Taxonomic Initiative was established by the Ministry for the Environment.

26. Does your country provide training programmes in taxonomy and work to increase its capacity of taxonomic research? (decision IV/1)	
No	X
Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on training programmes in taxonomy and efforts to increase the capacity of taxonomic research.

27. Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable? (decision IV/1)	
No	
No, but steps are being considered	
Yes, for some institutions	X
Yes, for all major institutions	

28.* [2] Is your country collaborating with the existing regional, subregional and global initiatives, partnerships and institutions in carrying out the programme of work, including assessing regional taxonomic needs and identifying regional-level priorities? (decision VI/8)

[2] The questions marked with * in this section on Taxonomy are similar to some questions contained in the format for a report on the implementation of the programme of work on the Global Taxonomy Initiative. Those countries that have submitted such a report do not need to answer these questions unless they have updated information to provide.

No	
No, but collaborative programmes are under development	X
Yes, some collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessments)	
Yes, comprehensive collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessment and priority identification)	

Further information on the collaboration your country is carrying out to implement the programme of work for the GTI, including regional needs assessment and priority identification.

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) is a global network of information on biotic diversity which attempts to include all the sources of data on biological resources existing in the world. Eventually the GBIF should render Internet access to the information, pertaining to species, accumulated in nature museums, libraries and data banks. Poland has joined the GBIF in January 2004 by creating National Biodiversity Information Network (KSIB).

29.* Has your country made an assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities at the national level for the implementation of the Convention? (annex to decision VI/8)

No	X
Yes, basic assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
Yes, thorough assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	

Further comments on national assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities.

30.* Is your country working on regional or global capacity building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties? (annex to decision VI/8)

No	
Yes, relevant programmes are under development	
Yes, some activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	X
Yes, many activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	

Further comments on regional or global capacity-building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties.

The National Biodiversity Information Network has been created in January 2004 by a decision of the State Committee of Scientific Research nr 115/E-343/SPB/MSN/P-04/DWM 721/2003-2004. The aim is to open Polish biodiversity information resources and implement the standards for collecting and exchanging data. The activities are based on the common information exchange platform providing access to databases without the need for a central system. Thanks to such a system the members of the network retain complete control over the data rendered, over the expansion and modification of their databases and can decide on the content they wish to provide access to. However, their duty is

to maintain the highest possible data quality and to maintain the link with the Network.

The National Biodiversity Information Network, by definition, cooperates with the GBIF Network (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) which intends to include all the sources of data on biodiversity existing in the world. The members are countries which signed the appropriate agreement. Their number is still increasing. Poland has the status of an Associated Member. Having implemented the technological solutions adopted by GBIF and having adapted the infrastructure, members of the National Network are automatically recognised by the global network and the data they render are visible through the access system (GBIF Browser). The GBIF ensures copyright protection by asking users to accept certain conditions on the use of the data.

Eventually GBIF is expected to provide Internet access to the information on species inhabiting any region of the world and to all possible data on those species from the molecular level, through the species level, to the ecosystem level. It also supports creation of tools enabling the synthesis of this information (mapping of the range, estimating population numbers, etc.).

31.* Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8? (annex to decision VI/8)	
No	X
Yes, for forest biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Yes, for marine and coastal biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Yes, for dry and sub-humid lands (please provide details below)	
Yes, for inland waters biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Yes, for mountain biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Yes, for protected areas (please provide details below)	
Yes, for agricultural biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Yes, for island biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention.	

32.* Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8?	
No	X
Yes, for access and benefit-sharing (please provide details below)	
Yes, for Article 8(j) (please provide details below)	
Yes, for the ecosystem approach (please provide details below)	
Yes, for impact assessment, monitoring and indicators (please provide details below)	
Yes, for invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
Yes, for others (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention.	

Article 8 - *In-situ* conservation
[excluding paragraphs (a) to (e), (h) and (j)]

33. On Article 8(i), has your country endeavoured to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are being identified	
c) Yes, some measures undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the measures taken to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.

This issue is covered by the *National strategy on protection and sustainable use of biodiversity along with Action Plan* formally approved by the Council of Ministers on 25.02.2003. The documents impose an obligation on different sectors to include the issues of biodiversity protection during its commercial use into the programmes for different sectors of national economy. Top the largest extent the issue has been introduced into the legal regulations, programmes and procedures related to forest and agricultural management. In the action plans and law regulating activities related to water management, fishery or tourism the necessity for conservation biological diversity during its commercial use is indicated but full consistency actually has not been attained yet. However, a number of conferences and inter-sectoral workshops have been dedicated to the problem, first of all in relation to Natura 2000 implementation.

34. On Article 8(k), has your country developed or maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations?	
a) No	
b) No, but legislation is being developed	
c) Yes, legislation or other measures are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the legislation and/or regulations for the protection of threatened species and populations.

Comprehensive regulation on those issues is provided by the Act on Nature Conservation (2004) and the appropriate execution regulations on the protected species of fungi, plants and animals (2004).

35. On Article 8(l), does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant processes and categories of activities being identified	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the regulation or management of the processes and categories of activities identified by Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biodiversity.

According to the Environmental Protection Act (2001) for the planned enterprises that could have adverse impact on biodiversity, a suitable impact assessment will have to be carried out. In the case of possible hazards either mitigating actions or a natural compensation formula will necessary foe Natura 2000 sites..

In the legal regulations pertaining to spatial planning, there is obligation imposed on respective self-governmental bodies to modify spatial management every four years. However, actually those analyses are not used for identification of modes of land used which have adverse effects on biological diversity.

As regards protected areas, the Nature Conservation Act (2004) obliges to identify internal and external threats to the object of conservation and specifies methods for their mitigation or liquidation. Thus, provisions of the conservation plan being binding to planning documents prepared at various levels of management are an effective tool for minimizing adverse impact on biological diversity.

Box XLIV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Awareness of the need for *in situ* protection is common in Poland. This is reflected both in the law and in the national, regional and sectoral strategic documents. Due to the policy adopted by the country hazards to the biological diversity are reduced, but there is still much to be done in this area.

All the activities undertaken are compatible with the actions of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, 2010 Goals, Millennium Development Goals, the goals adopted in the National strategy on conservation of biodiversity and with other national and sectoral documents.

Programme of Work on Protected Areas (Article 8 (a) to (e))

36. Has your country established suitable time bound and measurable national-level protected areas targets and indicators? (decision VII/28)

a) No (please specify reasons)	X
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes, some targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	

Further comments on targets and indicators for protected areas.

The index of 1/3 of the country covered by legal protection adopted in the *2nd National Environmental Policy* has been already achieved. However, the need was noticed to expand the network of nature reserves in order to impose legal protection on a representative range and a suitable number of habitats and species. Appropriate projects were prepared by different research institutions (Institute of Nature Conservation PAS in Kraków, 2002). Also, the need for developing the eventual network of national parks and ensuring connectivity of all the network of protected areas through designation of ecological corridors was emphasised in the project. Because of non-uniform development of the system of protected areas, in different regions work is in progress on complementing it systematically. This is particularly needed in the Polish zone of the Baltic where a preliminary identification of the areas deserving legal protection was carried out. In the assumptions

for the National Development Poland for the years 2007-2013 the surface area indices for the legally protected areas were introduced only for the Natura 2000 sites, although various milieus indicate the necessity to increase the index to 15%.

Developing indices of effectiveness of biodiversity legal conservation other than the area ones is needed.

37. Has your country taken action to establish or expand protected areas in any large or relatively unfragmented natural area or areas under high threat, including securing threatened species? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on actions taken to establish or expand protected areas.

Since the 1970s the idea of the extensive system of protected areas has been present in the Polish tradition of nature conservation. The system is made up first of all of landscape parks and protected landscape areas whose aim is to preserve natural features of natural and cultural landscape under conditions of sustainable development is subject to periodical assessments in the course of preparing a conservation plan. Insufficient species or habitat conservation may be an argument justifying demand for expanding the area in the conservation plan.

An example of the activities undertaken for the protection of natural forest ecosystems is the proposal to extend national park to cover the whole area of the Polish part of the Bialowieza Forest. Because of the needs of the local community, the project is implemented gradually by imposing different forms of protection on different parts of the area.

Another example are the actions of Poland for the protection of biological diversity of the Carpathians under the Carpathian Convention and within the international (trilateral) East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

In recent years legal protection was imposed on many precious areas of unspoilt nature (for example the Wolinski and Slowinski National Parks were extended by adding areas of land and sea).

At present there are no new extensive areas with valuable nature that are exposed to particular hazards and need legal protection. However, legal protection is systematically being imposed on not commercially used fragments of the ecosystems with valuable nature. They are protected as ecological grounds mainly in order to prevent economic use.

38. Has your country taken any action to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) Not applicable	
c) No, but relevant actions are being considered	
d) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on actions taken to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas.

The existing system of protected areas including those within the Natura 2000 network, covers also the inland water and maritime ecosystems. In recent years the sea areas have been added to the Wolinski and Slowinski National Parks.

Work is in progress on extending the Baltic System of Protected Areas (BSPA).

39. Has your country identified and implemented practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on practical steps for improving integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures.

The protected areas are now an integral part of the regional and local development strategies and of the environmental protection programmes. They are obviously taken into account in the spatial management plans. These areas are considered to be one of the factors of the socio-economic development and they natural and cultural assets are employed in the development of tourism.

A particular example of the harmonization of the objectives of nature protection with the objectives of the socio-economic development is the functional area of Green Lungs of Poland.

Another example is the start of the implementation of the agri-ecological activities within the framework of the Rural Development Plan, especially within the boundaries of the legally protected areas.

40. Is your country applying environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant EIA guidelines are under development	
c) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to some projects or plans (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to all relevant projects or plans (please provide details below)	

Further comments on application of environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas.

The procedures related to environmental impact assessment are regulated by the Environmental Protection Act (2001) and executing ordinances to that act. Enterprises related to roads for which environmental impact assessment procedures are regulated by the Act on special rules of preparing and implementing investments related to national roads (2003) are the exception.

Investment ventures, proposals for policies, strategies. plans or programmes in various fields of the economy (strategic environmental impact assessments) are subject to those procedures. Thus, the term „environmental impact assessment" covers the procedure related to assessment of the environmental impact of conducted policies, strategies, plans or programmes as well as activities related to assessment of the impact of planned ventures. The Environment Protection Act (2001) also regulates procedures concerning transborder environmental impact of the planned ventures and policies, strategies, plans or programmes. Impact of planned ventures and policies, strategies, plans or programmes on protected areas, determining the methods for minimising that influence and determining the scope of the monitoring investigation are among the requirements of the procedure.

The amendment to the Environment Protection Act which introduces a number of changes in relation to the EIA procedure comes into force in July 2005. The amendment implements, among others, the Bird and Habitat Directives. The amendment also extends the obligation to run the procedure on environmental impact assessment for projects on ventures, policies, strategies, plans or programmes which are not directly related to conservation of the Natura 2000 sites or do not follow from their

conservation if their implementation could significantly affect those areas. In the new regulation requirements of investors and designers related to meet the obligations under the Nature Conservation Act, particularly in relation to the Natura 2000 sites are much more clearly emphasized.

Failure to specify the range and level of minuteness of analyses related to biological conservation to meet the requirements of reports on environmental impact causes that those issues are still not dealt with to a sufficient degree. That shortcoming was subject to analyses and comments of the Committee on Environmental Impact Assessments and also European Commission bodies for planned ventures that might have impact on Natura 2000 sites. Supervision of those bodies will force improving quality of studies related to the issues of biological diversity.

41. Has your country identified legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes, some gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below))	X
d) Yes, many gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	

Further comments on identification of legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas.

The identified gaps and obstacles accompanying establishing and managing protected areas have mostly been eliminated by adopting in 2004 a new act on nature conservation and by suitably amending other laws. Provisions of the act within in relation to developing and managing protected areas follow from compromise between nature conservation and economic activity conducted within those areas. Presently work is in progress on improving the adopted solutions, for example with respect to the management of the Natura 2000 sites. Also management of marine national parks requires improvement due to overlap of authorities of nature conservation service and the director of the marine office. Experience of other countries are helpful here. Periodical meeting and conferences also related to other forms of nature conservation, in which representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and local nature conservation officers take part serve that purpose, too.

42. Has your country undertaken national protected-area capacity needs assessments and established capacity building programmes? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	X
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, a basic assessment undertaken and some programmes established (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, a thorough assessment undertaken and comprehensive programmes established (please provide details below)	

Further comments on protected-area capacity needs assessment and establishment of capacity building programmes.

Because of the well-developed system of protected areas in Poland preparing such an expertise was not necessary. Some work on both the assessment of need and capacity and on the associated plan of activities are currently in progress in connection with the implementation of the Natura 2000 network.

43. Is your country implementing country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant plan is under development	
c) Yes, relevant plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant plan is being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on implementation of country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas.

So far in Poland there is no system that would guarantee secure and lasting funding of maintenance and expansion of the protected areas. This applies both to funds from the State budget and to funds allocated for this purpose from extra-budgetary sources, especially from the restricted funds. In the case of the State budget the problem is the level of funding not adequate to meet the needs. In the case of the sources outside the State budget the problem is that due to great need for bringing up to date the technical infrastructure for environmental protection relatively low priority is allocated to the proposals concerning directly the protection of biological diversity. Also formal or procedural barriers making it difficult or impossible for the entities acting for nature conservation to acquires non-budget financial means. The problem was discussed in 2004 by the Environmental Protection Committee of the Sejm (Parliament) but in spite of the Committee's favourable opinion, the propositions to increase expenditures by the State budget were not implemented (the motion was to double the level of financing from the State budget).

Special needs in this area are related to the implementation of the Natura 2000 Network in Poland.

44. Is your country implementing appropriate methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant methods, standards, criteria and indicators are under development	
c) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use and some international methods, standards, criteria and indicators in use (please provide details below)	

Further comments on methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance.

In Poland there are no standards, criteria or indices developed for assessment of effectiveness of protected areas management.

According to the Polish legal system there is formal supervision over the protected areas. The supervision of the management of the national parks is carried out by the Minister for the Environment while the management of the landscape parks is supervised by the Province Governors. The control function is performed by the Supreme Chamber of Control (NIK) and by other control organs.

The conservation plans prepared for the national parks, landscape parks and nature reserves constitute the means for indirect assessment of the efficiency of management of the protected areas. The guidelines included in Nature Conservation Act (2004) and in the regulation by the Minister of the Environment (2005) related to preparing those plans contain the requirement of assessing effectiveness of conservation activities performed so far and estimating costs of the actions planned. Thus, conservation plans will become the method for management of protected areas. Reporting, including that in relation to performing tasks laid down in the conservation plans, is

another method for assessment of effectiveness of protected areas management.

According to the guidelines the existing and potential hazard must be stated as well as ways of eliminating them. Next editions of the plans are to contain an assessment of the efficiency of the undertaken protection activities, including the financial consequences of the planned activities. Such plans will become means of assessing the management of the protected areas.

The tool helping to supervise the standard for protection implementation is the programme of assessment of effectiveness of the conservatory protection within the subsystem of `nature monitoring'.

Box XLV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

The system of protected areas has a long and good tradition in Poland. According to the legal system currently in force it includes national parks, landscape parks, nature reserves and areas of protected landscape, as well as ecological grounds, natural and scenic complexes and documentation sites. The Nature Conservation Act of 2004 supplemented the list with Natura 2000 sites designated on the basis of the EU Habitat Directive and Bird Directive. So far (as of the end of 2004), 23 national parks have been established (including the most recent one, "Ujscie Warty" in 2001), 1385 nature reserves and 120 landscape parks. All the protected areas cover 32.2% of the Polish territory.

Most of the valuable ecosystems have been included into the national system of protected areas. Further extension of the system should include, among others, marine areas.

All the measures taken conform to the Strategic Plan of the Convention, 2010 Target, and Millennium Development Goals as well as the targets adopted in the *National Strategy for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity* and in other national and sectoral documents .

The main challenge is creating favourable climate for general public approval of nature conservation and convincing local communities that protected areas may and should be an important element of regional social and economic development. Changes in awareness of those issues should be supported by the system of incentives (e.g., tax exempts). In general, methods for conflict resolving should be further searched for, in particular where there are discrepant targets adopted in the state policy. For instance, in Poland targets of road network development, hydrotechnical development of rivers, development of mass tourism are in conflict with the targets of biological diversity conservation.

Article 8(h) - Alien species

45. Has your country identified alien species introduced into its territory and established a system for tracking the introduction of alien species?

a) No	
b) Yes, some alien species identified but a tracking system not yet established	
c) Yes, some alien species identified and tracking system in place	
d) Yes, alien species of major concern identified and tracking system in place	X

46. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) No	
b) Yes, but only for some alien species of concern (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for most alien species (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the assessment of the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species.

As a result of scientific research on alien species that has been conducted for years at various scientific centres, threat to native ecosystems, habitats and species have been assessed for most of those elements. However, the system enabling identification of introduction and expansion of alien species is not working properly. Obtaining a comprehensive picture of the threats is difficult as pieces of information on alien species are dispersed. Information on introduction of alien species in forests is collected by the State Forests IT System. Information on introduction of alien species into the environment is collected on the occasion of granting respective permits by the minister responsible for the environment or agriculture. Since 1999, the information has been integrated through implementation of the database "*Alien species in Poland*" which was translated into English and published on the Internet (http://www.iop.krakow.pl/ias) The project of the Committee for Scientific Research for 2004-2006 entitled "Invasive alien species in Poland and conservation of biological diversity" co-ordinated by the Institute of nature Conservation PAS and the Institute of Botany PAS in Kraków is now under way. The project aims at comprehensive assessment of threat constituted by alien species to the native biological diversity.

47. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate, those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under consideration	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

Alien species have been recognized as an important threat to native natural diversity for years. That has been reflected in the legal regulations pertaining to introduction of alien species in Poland that have been in force for decades.

In the period covered with this report, three legal acts regulating intentional introductions of alien species have been passed or amended: Nature Conservation (2004) Inland Fisheries Act (1985) and Marine Fisheries Act (204) According to the provisions of those acts, introduction of an alien species into the environment has to be approved by the minister responsible for the environmental issues or the minister responsible for agriculture. Obtaining consent from the minister responsible for the environment is also necessary for importing alien species whose release into the environment could pose a threat to native species. However, the criteria for recognizing alien species as particularly dangerous have not been specified yet.

Also, two legal acts controlling numbers of species that have already been introduced into Poland have been amended. The numbers of alien game species is controlled following the Ordinance of the Minister of the Environment on the list of game species and close seasons for those animals (2001, as amended in 2004). Two alien species of crayfish and three alien species of fish are subject to number control according to the Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of of 2001 on fishing and conditions for raising, breeding and catching other organisms living in water.

There is a comprehensive organisational-legal system for phytosanitary and veterinary protection in

Poland (supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) and for forests (supervised by the Ministry of the Environment). Tasks performed by those bodies indirectly pertain to reduction of adverse effects of alien species on native natural diversity.

48. In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed, or involved itself in, mechanisms for international cooperation, including the exchange of best practices? (decision V/8)

a) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation	
c) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation	X
d) Yes, multilateral cooperation	

49. Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species? (decision V/8)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the use of the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches in work on alien invasive species.

To some degree the ecosystem approach is applied by the phytosanitary, veterinary, and forest services. To a small degree such approach is applied in control of the number of alien game species and also a few alien species attracting particular public attention such as Gigant hogweed*, Heracleum mantegazzianum*). Appropriate measures tend to be taken in a decentralised manner at a low administration level. That makes it possible to take into account local needs and applying solutions including the needs for correct functions of whole ecosystems.

The new Nature Conservation Act (2004) passed in this reporting period recommends to apply the precautionary principle when importing species which could pose a serious threat to native natural diversity in case of their release: such species must not be imported to Poland unless the minister responsible for the environment grants the consent. However, so far no principles of recognising species as particularly dangerous have been established.

As a matter of fact, the bio-geographical approach has not been applied so far. For instance, according to the legal regulations in force translocation of native species out of their natural range within the territory of Poland is not recognized as introduction of alien species.

50. Has your country identified national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but needs and priorities are being identified	
c) Yes, national needs and priorities have been identified (please provide below a list of needs and priorities identified)	X

Further comments on the identification of national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles.

In 2003 the Council of Ministers adopted the *National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity with the Action Plan*, in which the needs and priorities for enforcing the Guiding Principles have been partly identified:

- Recording and monitoring of alien species and exploring the sources and routes of their expansion, impact on native species and ecosystems special and economic effects of that impact.
- Working out the principles and programme for preventing introductions, elimination, control of

spreading and control of numbers of alien species, in particular those which pose the most serious threat to native resources of biological diversity.

- Implementation of the programme for preventing introductions, elimination, control of spreading and control of numbers of alien species, in particular those which pose the most serious threat to native resources of biological diversity.

51. Has your country created mechanisms to coordinate national programmes for apllying the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the mechanisms created to coordinate national programmes for implementing the Guiding Principles.

In the „*National Strategy for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity with the Action Plan*" institutions taking part in activities aiming at reduction in adverse effects of alien species and possible sources of financing those activities were identified, and institutions co-ordinating them (Ministry of the Environment) were indicated.

Extending the staff of the unit at the Ministry of the Environmenty responsible for national biosafety, including all the issues related to introduction of alien species into the country, is considered.

52. Has your country reviewed relevant policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles, and adjusted or developed policies, legislation and institutions? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but review under way	
c) Yes, review completed and adjustment proposed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, adjustment and development ongoing	
e) Yes, some adjustments and development completed (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the review, adjustment or development of policies, legislation and institutions in light of the Guiding Principles.

In the present reporting period, amendments and updates containing regulations related to alien species have been introduced into the legal acts. The acts include the Nature Conservation Act (2004), Fishery Act (2004), Ordinance of the Ministry of the Environment on determining the list of game species and close seasons for those animals (2001), Ordinance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on fishing and conditions for raising, breeding and catching other organisms living in water (2001).

In 2003, the *National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity with the Action Plan* including important elements pertaining to alien species has been adopted.

However, no comprehensive assessment of legal regulations with respect to the issue of alien species has been performed.

At present, the project "Developing the principles for dealing with alien species in the native flora and fauna" is under way at the Institute of Nature Conservation PAS in Kraków, financed by the Ministry of the Environment. The project is to be completed in July, 2005.

53. Is your country enhancing cooperation between various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but potential coordination mechanisms are under consideration	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on cooperation between various sectors.

The consent to introduce alien freshwater fish species is granted by the minister responsible for agricultural issues after consulting the minister responsible for the environment.

In the period covered with this report, development of co-operation on resolving alien species problems between CBD and IPPC Conventions took place. In 2003, representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development took part in the workshops "Invasive alien species and the IPPC" organised by the IPPC Secretariat. During the meeting, the potential for making use of the extended phytosanitary system subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture for protection against introduction of alien species constituting threat to biological diversity was discussed.

54. Is your country collaborating with trading partners and neighboring countries to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity in ecosystems that cross international boundaries? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) Yes, relevant collaborative programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, relevant programmes are in place (please specify below the measures taken for this purpose)	

Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighboring countries.

Since 2004 Poland has been participating in the NOBANIS project (NOrdic-BAltic Network on Invasive Species, http://www.sns.dk/nobanis), financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The project aims at development of the network of databases including information on alien species in the countries bordering the Baltic Sea, Norway, and Iceland. The database "Alien species in Poland" (http://www.iop.krakow.pl/ias) will be one of the system elements.

55. Is your country developing capacity to use risk assessment to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity and incorporate such methodologies in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA)? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but programmes for this purpose are under development	
c) Yes, some activities for developing capacity in this field are being undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further information on capacity development to address threats of invasive alien species.

The decisions pertaining to the consent for intentional introduction of alien species are issued after having performed assessment of risk that an introduced species might pose to native biological diversity. However, the methods for risk assessment are not specified. The risk posed by alien species is taken into account in environmental impact assessments for planned ventures and strategies to a small degree.

56. Has your country developed financial measures and other policies and tools to promote activities to reduce the threats of invasive species? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures and policies are under development	
c) Yes, some measures, policies and tools are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures and tools are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development of financial measures and other policies and tools for the promotion of activities to reduce the threats of invasive species.

In the *National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity with the Action Plan* adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2003, the estimated costs and possible sources of financing tasks related to reduction in threat posed by alien species in 2003-2006 have been specified. The total costs were estimated at 1 700 000 PLN.

The phytosanitary and veterinary supervisory services have their separate funds and their main aim is to protect plant and animal production. This is the case also for forest protection services.

Scientific research on alien species in Poland is financed by the funds of the Committee for Scientific Research. The Ministry of the Environment finances the project "Developing the principles for dealing with species alien to the native flora and fauna" (project completion date: July 2005).

Box XLVI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

All the actions taken in Poland to resolve the problem of alien species invasion contribute to implementation of Article 8(h) and Decisions VI/23 and VII/13 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. At the same time they contribute to achievement of the targets specified in the Strategic Plan of the Convention for 2002-2010, and also achievement of the "2010 Targets", and particularly Target 6 (Control threats from invasive alien species). The action taken are also important to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and particularly Operating Goal 9 (implementation of the principles of sustainable development into national policies and programmes and stopping decline of natural resources) under the Main Goal 7 ("Ensuring ecological stability").

One of the most important achievements of the current reporting period aiming at mitigating effects of alien species invasion was adopting the *National strategy for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity with the Action Plan* by the Council of Ministers in 2003. Thus a step towards achievement of targets specified in the Strategic Plan for the Convention was made (adopting effective strategies, plans and national programmes constituting the national bases for implementation three targets of the Convention and specifying clear national priorities) and achievement of the "2010 Targets" of the Convention (Goal 6: Control threats from invasive alien species). In the Strategy, invasions of alien species were recognised as one of the eight main threats to biological diversity in Poland. For instance, over 30% of all the fish species and over 10% of all the mammal species in Poland are alien species that have been intentionally or unintentionally introduced. The issue of alien species invasion is noticeable for the native flora. According to the most recent data, the Polish flora is made up by approximately 2 935 established species, including 445 species of alien origin. Around 290 of them are classified as kenophytes, that is, plants that have migrated into the territory of Poland after 1500. Almost a half of them invade seminatural and natural habitats and almost one fourth of

them – considerably expand their ranges.

"*The National Strategy…*" identifies the key tasks that should be performed to prevent invasion of alien species. They directly implement Decision VI/23 of CBD concerning enforcement of Article 8(h) and the accompanying Guiding Principles. Those tasks include:

- exploring sources and routes of alien species expansion,
- assessment of alien species impact on native species and ecosystems,
- developing a programme of prevention against new introductions,
- developing a programme of elimination, stopping expansion and population number control for alien species that have been already introduced into Poland,
- implementation of the developed programmes of prevention against introduction and population number control of species that have been already introduced.

The first step towards effective resolution of the problem of alien species should consist in identifying the scale of the problem in Poland. Actions addressing that problem have been taken in Poland for a long time. Research on alien species have been carried out in a number of academic centres and by many organisations. Prior to ratification of CBD by Poland, those actions were not of a character of a co-ordinated programme for comprehensive evaluation of the scale of threat with biological invasions. Alongside implementation of the Convention provisions concerning collection of data on alien species, those actions took the form of a co-ordinated programme. In 1999 the Institute of Nature Conservation commissioned by the Ministry of the Environment developed the database "Alien Species in Poland". The first version of the database included some 250 most important alien species in Poland. Among others the scale of threat each of the species posed to biological diversity in Poland was determined and it was assessed whether it was necessary to control its population numbers specifying the methods for the species control. In 2003, thanks to the grant of the US Department of State, a part of the data in the database was translated into English and published on the Internet (www.iop.krakow.pl/ias). That has directly contributed to implementation of Decision VI/23 (providing access to information on alien species). In 2003-2005 the information in the database has been supplemented. At present, there are about 600 alien species in it. The work on the new database structure complying with the recommendations of the Global Invasive Species Program (GISP) and Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) is under way. In 2004-2005 also the database of Polish experts dealing with alien species was developed.

International exchange of information on alien species and regional co-operation with respect to resolving the problem is another recommendation of Article 8(h) implemented in relation to work on the database "Alien Species in Poland". Within the framework of the project financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers, the base has been included into the Nordic-Baltic Network on Invasive Species (www.sns.dk/nobanis). The main aim of that network is exchange of information on alien species at the regional scale (Baltic Sea basin and Nordic Countries). In the future the Polish database will be also included into the developing Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN). Such initiatives contribute to achievement of the targets of the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity (including problems related to biological diversity into sectoral as well as supra-sectoral plans, programmes and policies at the regional and global levels, improvement of executive capabilities thanks to scientific-technological co-operation).

The main problem hindering implementation of the CBD decisions on collecting, making available and exchanging of information on alien species ion Poland is still a very modest financial support for projects in that field.

Conducting the project financed by the grant from the Committee for Scientific Research in 2004 – 2006 constitutes an important step towards comprehensive assessment of the threat that alien species pose in Poland. A number of Polish scientific institutions playing the key roles in research on alien species take in that project entitled "Invasive alien species in Poland and conservation of biological diversity" and co-ordinated by the Institute of Nature Conservation PAS and the Institute of Botany PAS in Kraków. The project aims among others at determining pathways and vectors of alien species invasions.

The information on alien species in Poland collected so far makes it possible to continue implementation of Article 8(h) (and tasks to be implemented according to the National Strategy...) through development of a programme for elimination, stopping expansion and population number control of alien species that have been introduced earlier. In March-July, 2005 the Institute of Nature Conservation, PAS commissioned by the Ministry of the Environment has been conducting the project entitled "Developing the principles for dealing with species alien to the native flora and fauna". The project aims include among others the following:

1. Compiling a list of alien species whose ranges in Poland are expanding.
2. Determining the spatial scale and expansion rate of alien species and their population number changes.
3. Compiling a list of alien species constituting threat to the native flora and fauna along with assessment of the scale and type of threat that those species pose to the native biological diversity.
4. Suggesting the methods for mitigating adverse effects of alien species in Poland, including:
   - methods for controlling population numbers of species adversely affecting the native flora and fauna,
   - possibilities of commercial use of alien species.
5. Compiling a list of alien species that have not been found in Poland yet which most probably will reach the Polish territory in the nearest future as their expansion is under way elsewhere in Europe and assessment of possible threat they could pose to native biological diversity.

Completion of the project will directly contribute to achievement of the "2010 Target" (Goal 6: Control threats from invasive alien species, Target 6.2. Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species). Results of those project will constitute the basis for developing a comprehensive strategy aiming at resolution of the problem of alien species in Poland.

According to Decision VI/23 and the accompanying Guiding Principles, implementation of effective legal regulations aiming at prevention against new introductions and mitigating effects of occurrence of already introduced species is an important element of such a strategy. The first step towards establishment of such a system is review and evaluation of the respective legal regulations in force. Unfortunately, such an assessment has not been performed in Poland yet. The alien species issue is regulated by a few legal acts which have been recently amended. New versions of the legal acts to a much fuller extent than the old ones pertain to the issue of alien species. In spite of that, there are still some gaps and shortcomings in the Polish legal system related to the issue. One of the examples is the fact that intentional introductions are regulated by three separate legal acts: intentional introductions of most species are subject to the regulations on nature conservation. Fish are the exception: introduction of alien fish species into freshwater are regulated by the Inland Fisheries Act (1985), whereas introductions into sees – the Fisheries Act (2004). The acts differ in the terms used. In the Nature Conservation Act the term "alien species" is used whereas in the Inland Fisheries Act the term "species which does not occur in Poland" is used. On the other hand in the Fisheries Act there is a general provision on fry stocking without discrimination into native and alien species. The fact that there is no definition of an alien species at all leads to considerable arbitrariness in interpretation of the existing regulations which make the applied measures less effective. Another important gap in the legal system is that regulations pertaining to introduction of alien species do not regulate the issue of plants used for establishment and maintaining green areas and in forestry. A lack of any provisions concerning the criteria for recognizing species as dangerous or harmless in the legal regulations is yet another gap that makes the ban on import of possibly dangerous alien species to Poland unforceable.

The measures taken in Poland to resolve the problem of alien species follow not only from obligations related to ratification of CBD by Poland (Article 8(h), "2010 Target", "Millennium Development Goals", but also other conventions in which the issue is the priority. That contributes to achievement of targets specified in the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity: co-operation in all respective instruments and international processes is promoted to enhance policy consistency.

Those Conventions include Bern Convention. Poland actively participated in work on the "European Strategy on IAS" prepared by that Convention Secretariat. The Strategy has been adopted at the meeting of the Convention Standing Committee. As the Strategy was prepared in very close connection with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to CBD (among others, the Guiding Principles to Decision VI/23), implementation of the Strategy is also closely related to implementation of Article 8(h). Such a solution directly contributes to achievement of one of the Strategic Targets specified in the Strategic Plan for CBD (other international processes actively support implementation of the Convention in line with their respective framework rules).

Another Convention signed by Poland is the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments. The Convention aims at preventing against accidental introduction of alien species with ship ballast waters and sediments. As it is a relatively new document, actions taken in Poland are of preliminary character. In the future implementation of that Convention provisions will be directly related to implementation of CBD Article 8(H) in Poland.

Recently, a particular increase in activity with respect to alien species took place within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Although the main aim of the Convention is

protection of crop plants and plant production against pests, more and more attention is paid also to alien pest species and threat they pose to natural diversity. Phytosanitary service in most countries, including Poland are provided with very well organizational, legal and financial instruments, making use of that staff for protection biodiversity against invasion of alien species a very effective solution. In Poland the discussion about such a possibility has started after the workshop "Invasive alien species and IPPC" organized in 2003 by the IPPC Secretariat in which representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of the Environment took part. Future development of co-operation between the two ministries with respect to alien species will contribute to achievement of the targets of the Strategic Plan for the Strategy (taking into account problems related to biological diversity in respective national plans, sectoral and supra-sectoral programmes and policies).

Problems with implementation of Article 8(h) result first of all from insufficient priority given to the problem of alien species which leads to limited financing and imperfect organizational and legal solutions. There are problems with involving other important sectors in tackling the problem (except for environmental protection), such as veterinary supervision, forestry and fishery. Those sectors provided with adequate organisational and legal instruments for counteracting the adverse effects of alien species are focused to a large degree on the economic aspect of the problem whereas the issues of conservation of native biological diversity are not found too important. At the same time one should expect conflicts between nature conservation needs and economical activities, for instance, when attempting to implement consistent legal regulations pertaining to introduction of alien fish species into Polish waters.

Very low social awareness with respect to the issue of invasive species is a very important constraint to effective implementation of Article 8(h).

Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions

GURTS

57. Has your country created and developed capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to GURTs.	

Status and Trends

58. Has your country supported indigenous and local communities in undertaking field studies to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)	
a) No	X
b) No, but support to relevant studies is being considered	
c) Yes (please provide information on the studies undertaken)	

Further information on the studies undertaken to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and priority actions identified.

Akwé:Kon Guidelines

59. Has your country initiated a legal and institutional review of matters related to cultural, environmental and social impact assessment, with a view to incorporating the Akwé:Kon Guidelines into national legislation, policies, and procedures?	
a) No	X
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, a review undertaken (please provide details on the review)	
Further information on the review.	

60. Has your country used the Akwé:Kon Guidelines in any project proposed to take place on sacred sites and/or land and waters traditionally occupied by indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)	
a) No	X
b) No, but a review of the Akwé: Kon guidelines is under way	
c) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the projects where the Akwé:Kon Guidelines are applied.	

Capacity Building and Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities

61. Has your country undertaken any measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities to be effectively involved in decision-making related to the use of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/16)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes being developed	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities.	
The State supports development of "local" (indigenous) communities through transferring power to the community, district, province levels which makes it possible for locals to participate directly in making local laws, development and implementation of plans and strategies pertaining to their place of residence. Regional public initiatives are more and more often involved in protection of natural and cultural values of the region and search for solutions making such protection possible. Besides, in 1998 Poland has signed in Aarhus the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. The Convention provisions have been introduced first of all into the Environment Protection Act. According to the Convention	

provisions, many administrative procedures, including accepting applications and granting permits, environmental impact assessment for ventures, programmes and plans takes place in close co-operation with local communities. According to Article 74 par. 3 of the constitution of the Republic of Poland *everybody has the right to information on the state of the environment and its protection.* That is the universal law, that is, irrespective of the place of residence or age.

Production, protection and promotion of high quality food play more and more important role in the European Union. One of the basic methods for implementation of the Quality policy in the Community is awarding food products with certificates confirming high quality, origin from a specific region and traditional production methods. The system of protection and promotion of regional and traditional products is one of the most important factors affecting sustainable development in rural areas and implementation of the assumptions of the 2nd pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy. The Programme contributes to diversification of employment in rural areas creating non-agricultural positions and increasing incomes of farmers. That is of considerable importance, particularly within the less favoured areas (LFA) preventing emigration from those areas. Thanks to the system of protection and promotion of regional and traditional products, also rural cultural heritage is protected which considerably contributes to increased attractiveness of rural areas and development of agri-tourism.

Availability of the EU financial means also favours grassroot initiatives focusing local communities around problems which are important to them. The LEADER programme and its planned successive editions best fits in with the needs for biological diversity conservation in rural areas. Under the mechanism, financial support is granted for development and then implementation of selected programmes activating rural communities. The role of the State is limited to dissemination of that instrument and encouragement to apply it.

62. Has your country developed appropriate mechanisms, guidelines, legislation or other initiatives to foster and promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in decision making, policy planning and development and implementation of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at international, regional, subregional, national and local levels? (decision V/16)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are under development	
c) Yes, some mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the mechanisms, guidelines and legislation developed.

In Poland an executing programme has been worked out following the content of Thesis 185 of the „Second National Environmental Policy" adopted by the Council of Ministers on the 13th of June, 2000 and by the Parliament on the 23rd pf August, 2001. According to the Programme, after the Second National Environmental Policy has been adopted, the Minister will develop an executing programme containing, among others, instructions and guidelines for including environmental issues into sectoral programmes, time schedules of tasks resulting from the national environmental policy, particularly duties imposed on the public administration and also estimates of costs of achieving the environmental policy goals. The Second National Environmental Policy specified only goals to be achieved (short-term until 2002 and medium-term until 2010) and tools and instruments for achieving them, however, it did not contained specific tasks to be performed.

Below the tasks aiming at nature conservation and biological and landscape diversity conservation concerning activities to preserve traditional farming practices are listed:

- Activities to maintain the traditional heterogeneous agricultural landscape;
- Maintaining the traditional farming practices in valuable natural areas;
- Legal and financial support for those farming forms which do not affect natural balance, first of all integrated agriculture
- Activities to improve environmental awareness of local communities and local authorities,

improvement of social communication with respect to understanding targets of conservation of nature and biological conservation.

The Ministry of the Environment, Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture, Province Governors and self-governmental bodies are responsible for those tasks

The legal system enables registration of local organisations which are interested in preservation of the traditional knwoledge. Such organisations as International Coalition to Protect the Polish Countryside conduct many projects in co-operation with other organisations , e.g., the campaign to protect Polish countryside which aims at winning support both in Poland and abroad, organise conferences and seminars, publish articles and pamphlets. A dozen or so traditional and ecological farms from the Stryszów area make up the "Malopolska Group of Ecoproducers "Urodzaj". In spite of selling agricultural products, farmers representing the "Urodzaj" group host tourists and conduct educational classes: "Occupations that are going extinct" – a series of workshops for children promoting traditional craftsmanship. The workshops take place at the ICPPC ECOCENTRE International Coalition to Protect the Polish Countryside (ICPPC) and at the ecological farms co-operating with ICPPC.

Issues related to protection of regional products and those produced with traditional methods are covered by legal regulations of the European Union, namely, in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2081/92 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs as amended and Council Regulation (EEC) and in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2082/92 on certificates of specific character for agricultural products and foodstuffs as amended.

63. Has your country developed mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities with specific provisions for the full, active and effective participation of women in all elements of the programme of work? (decision V/16, annex)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are being developed	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all elements of the programme of work.	
The existing ethnic groups and communities take part in all spheres of life having the same rights as all other citizens of Poland. The Constitution of Poland guarantees citizens equality before the law irrespective of nationality, race, religion or gerund.	

Support to implementation

64. Has your country established national, subregional and/or regional indigenous and local community biodiversity advisory committees?	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes	

65. Has your country assisted indigenous and local community organizations to hold regional meetings to discuss the outcomes of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and to prepare for meetings under the Convention?	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details about the outcome of meetings)	
Further information on the outcome of regional meetings.	

66. Has your country supported, financially and otherwise, indigenous and local communities in formulating their own community development and biodiversity conservation plans that will enable such communities to adopt a culturally appropriate strategic, integrated and phased approach to their development needs in line with community goals and objectives?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the support provided.	

Box XLVII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Poland has initiated actions aiming at preservation and conservation of knowledge and practices applied by local communities having traditional life style favoring conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Traditional farming practices having effect on conservation of biological diversity such as mowing meadows within wetland areas, maintaining traditional farming such as grazing and sheepherding, breeding and use of traditional animal breeds, such as use of Hucul horses for work in forest instead of mechanical equipment, traditional methods of river regulation with the use of fascine are some examples. The issues related to protection of local practices and knowledge are reflected in actions to protect landscapes or restitution and maintaining traditional forms of utilising biological resources pertaining to traditional craftsmanship, e.g., wickerwork craft.

The existing ethnic groups and communities take part in all spheres of life having the same rights as all other citizens of Poland. The Constitution of Poland guarantees citizens equality before the law irrespective of nationality, race, religion or gerund. Ethnic groups and communities have the right to create associations, foster their own traditions, religious practices and representation in respective bodies, they have duties towards the State equal to all other citizens, including the duty to protect the natural environment. The State supports development of local communities through transferring power to the community, district and province levels which makes it possible for locals to participate directly development and implementation of plans and strategies pertaining to their place of residence. Regional public initiatives are more and more often involved in protection of cultural values of the region and search for solutions making such protection possible. In Poland there are no legal acts regulating the term of traditional knowledge as property and the resulting benefits.

The Strategy is addressed to the state administration of various levels and to self-governmental authorities which in Poland contribute to preservation of traditional forms of farming and preserving traditional practices of indigenous communities through implementing mechanisms encouraging local

communities to participate in various programmes. The Strategy is to trigger initiatives of local communities and make them participate more widely in decision-making processes. That principle of the Strategy, that is, Principle of Socialization means deeper involvement of NGOs which more and more often launch various projects and programmes of protection of practices applied by local communities, such as an attempt to patent Highlander's cheese, so called "oscypek", in activities to conserve biological diversity.

The tasks included in the Action Plan of the Strategy to develop and implement conservation programmes for native animal genetic resources of selected native breeds and resources of old local plant varieties and consequently preserving traditional practices have been already initiated in Poland. Through ecological agriculture and agri-environmental programmes farmers obtain subsidies for such activities.

The described activities such as maintaining traditional farming practices, activities to preserve traditional heterogeneous agricultural landscape and activities to improve environmental awareness in local communities contribute to achievement of the 2010 Target.

The activities described above contribute also to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in agriculture. They also effectively encourage indigenous and local communities to participate in decision making processes and to develop the policy concerning application of traditional knowledge and conservation and sustainable use of traditional and indigenous farming systems and managing them and also enhance indigenous models of agricultural production.

Article 9 – *Ex-situ* conservation

67. On Article 9(a) and (b), has your country adopted measures for the *ex-situ* conservation of components of biological diversity native to your country and originating outside your country?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the measures adopted for the *ex-situ* conservation of components of biodiversity native to your country and originating outside your country.

The Plant Gene Bank, Pathogen Gene Bank, Forest Gene Bank Kostrzyca in Kostrzyca (LBG) as well as botanical gardens and arboreta take part in *ex situ* conservation of plant biodiversity. *Ex situ* conservation of wild fauna takes place in Poland in zoological gardens, aquaria, centres for animal breeding and private collections.

The tasks of botanical gardens include:

- developing and maintaining collections of plants directly transferred from natural sites or reproduced from seeds taken from the nature;
- reproducing plants and preparing material for possible reintroduction or transfer to replacement sites of a given taxon or its population.
- collecting seeds from natural habitats which are subsequently offered for exchange within the framework of *Index Seminum*;
- operating the bank of gene resources.

Zoological and botanical gardens are obliged to the following:

1. participation in scientific research aiming at conservation of endangered species living in the wild;
2. education within the scope of plant, animal and fungi species conservation, including issues of biological diversity conservation;
3. growing plants and breeding animals threatened with extinction to conserve them *ex situ*, and then introducing into the environment under programmes for conservation of those species;
4. storing animals and plants under conditions complying with their biological needs

5. keeping breeding documentation

The following actions and programmes conducted by botanical gardens deserve special attention:

- collecting and evaluating selected grass species – in 1999 – 2004 3027 ecotypes have been acquired from expeditions and seed exchange. 1271 objects representing 610 species have been collected. 1983 seed samples have been transferred to the gene bank in Radzików (Botanical Garden of the Plant Breeding & Acclimatization Institute – Bydgoszcz);
- collecting and evaluating selected dicotyledonous species – in 1999 – 2004 6075 crop plant seed samples have been acquired. 440 samples were transferred to the gene bank in Radzików. Collection contents as of 2004: 12 963 objects including: 1498 – medicinal, 1201 – honey, 2699 - spice, 151 – dye, 68 – fibre, 11 287 – ornamental and 219 – protected and endangered (Botanical Garden of the Plant Breeding & Acclimatization Institute – Bydgoszcz);
- collecting plants suitable for rehabilitation – 47 objects have been acquired in 1999 – 2004. Collection contents: number of objects 170. 31 seed samples have been transferred to the gene bank in Radzików (Botanical Garden of the Plant Breeding & Acclimatization Institute – Bydgoszcz);
- operating the bank of protected and endangered species of the Polish flora – collection contents in 2005 - 353 objects representing 95 species (Botanical Garden of the Polish Academy of Sciences - Warszawa).

The task of the Gene Bank located in the Botanical Garden of the Plant Breeding & Acclimatization Institute – Bydgoszcz (KCRZG IHAR) is collection, e*x situ* preservation and recording plant genetic resources. In 1976-2004 during field expeditions of KCRZG IHAR, 3937 plant samples of crop plants have been collected. In 1996-2004 a number of expeditions were initiated in consultation with gene banks in the neighbouring countries aiming at inventorying and collecting local populations of crop plants in those countries. 3645 plant species have been collected which are stored in the country of their origin and in the gene banks in Poland.

There are devices for long-term storing of seed samples at KCRZG IHAR. The long-term storage facility is used first of all for collections of crop plant gene resources. Collections of orchard plants as well as collections of hop, potato and garlic are stored vegetatively in the form of plantations. Potato varieties are stored *in vitro*. New technologies for long-term storage of plant gene resources are developed such as cryo-storage of tissues of species reproduced vegetatively.

There has been the Pathogen Gene Bank at the Institute of Plant Protection since 1995 whose aim is to preserve and make available pathogens of crop plants. Also collections of symbiotic bacteria of leguminous plants are covered with protective measures.

Seeds of protected and endangered plant species are stored in liquid nitrogen in the Botanical Garden – Centre for Biological Diversity Conservation of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Ex situ protection of forest genetic diversity in various forms covers the whole country and meets the needs for reproduction material of native origin, also in years of crop failure. That network covers:

- 21 seed extraction plants;
- 43 regional gene banks (seed stores);
- 7 seed testing stations;
- 4 seed quality monitoring stations.

Forest Gene Bank Kostrzyca in Kostrzyca (LBG) holds a very special position in the strategy for *ex situ* conservation of biological diversity. There are genotypes stored in LBG in the form of tissue cultures and generative organs of endangered and threatened populations of tree and bush populations, mainly from the area of disastrous forest dying in the Sudeten Mountains and genotypes of the oldest trees in Poland (over 200-250 years, depending on the species). Also endangered plants of forest ground flora are stored in the bank. There is an arboretum and a container forest nursery in the LBG producing tree seedlings of local origin stored in the gene bank which are used for restitution of species which have gone extinct at the time of the ecological disaster in the Sudeten mountains. LBG Kostrzyca performs its basic task – conservation of genetic resources of particularly valuable tree species – through collecting and storing their seeds according to the *Programme of preserving forest genetic resources and selective culture of forest trees in Poland* in 1991-2010.

The programme is an annex to Regulation no. 8 of the Director General of the State Forest of 25.01.1993 on conducting the "Programme for preserving forest genetic resources and selective breeding of forest trees in Poland in 1991-2010" (DG-11-713s-3/93).

LBG has also initiated work related to implementation of the *Programme of testing offspring of exclusive seed tree stands, specimen trees, seed plantations and plantation seed cultures* following regulation no. 85 of the Director General of the State Forests of December 31, 2004.

By force of Decision 361/0365/RD/05 of the Director of the Forest Reproductive Material Office has been included into the Register of Forest Reproductive Material suppliers and is entitled to trade in forest reproductive material.

At the Forest Research Institute research on the forms of *ex situ* conservation of forest genetic resources is carried out which is subsequently developed and used at LBG – with the cryogenic methods, embryogenesis and tissue cultures. In Poland, *ex situ* conservation of wild fauna species is conducted by zoological gardens, aquaria, centres for animal breeding and private collections.

There are 14 zoological garden registered in Poland and nine of them are members to the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA). All the Polish zoological gardens take part in the European Endangered Species Breeding Programmes (EEP) and collect data for studbooks of endangered species. They also take part in the International Species Information System (ISIS). Also, the gardens breed species which are extinct in the wild (EW), critical endangered (CR) and endangered (EN). The European Endangered Species Breeding programmes (EEP) established by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria are co-ordinating breeding programmes involving keeping and analysing of studbooks. In 2004 Polish zoological gardens took part in 102 EEP programmes (76 mammal species, 18 bird species, 4 reptilian species and 4 programmes for invertebrates), of which 70 (approximately 69 %) represent the endangered ones according to IUCN and four pertain to species occurring in Poland (bison, European mink, otter and white-tailed eagle). DFor 51 species the European Stud Book (ESB) was kept. (36 mammal species, 15 bird species), including two native species: brown bear and black stork.

The collections of Polish zoos include 1579 vertebrate anbd invertebrate species of which 46 species (121 mammal species, 29 bird species, 4 reptiles, one amphibian species and one invertebrate species) are recognized as threatened according to the Polish Red Book. Five of indigenous species are found exclusively in zoological gardens. These are: the European mink, griffon vulture, black-throated diver, green lizard, and common Atlantic sturgeon.

Irrespective of *ex situ* conservation of wild species, *ex situ* conservation of livestock animals is conducted. As a result of formalization of activities within that scope, in 2001 the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development designated institutions entitled to storing and collecting biological material of livestock animals and fish covered with conservation of genetic resources. Those institutions included: National Research Institute of Animal Production in Cracow (for cattle and sheep), Centre for Horse Reproduction at Stallion Stud Sp. z o.o. in Lack (for horses), Department of Molecular Andrology at the Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research in Olsztyn PAS (for rainbow trout) and the Institute of Ichthyobiology and Aquaculture PAS in Golysz (for carp).

Currently, *ex-situ* banks are operated for Polish red cattle, sheep breeds wrzosówka and swiniarka, rainbow trout and carp. 40 850 semen samples and 1923 embryos of the Polish red cattle breed and 1460 semen samples and 36 embryos of swiniarka and wrzosówka sheep breeds have been collected at the Research Institute of Animal Production within the framework of the earlier programmes for preservation of livestock animal genetic material. The semen bank of rainbow trout (about 40 thousand semen samples) has been operated since 1999 and for carp (10 thousand semen samples) - since 2001 (National Report on the State of Animal Genetic Resources, 2002).

In recent years establishment of collections of local fruit trees by various institutions and organisations are gaining in popularity.

68. On Article 9(c), has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions.

Botanical gardens and arboreta take part in conservation pf biological conservation taking the following measures: plant reproduction in the gardens and preparing material for possible reintroduction and transfer a given taxon or its population to replacement sites. Among others Polish endemic (*Cochlearia polonica*) was saved from total extinction in the Botanical Garden of PAS in that manner. Also the population of the yellow marsh saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*) was saved from extinction – the species included in the European Red List of Endangered Plants and Animals – through transferring plants from their site threatened with destruction to the Botanical Garden in Zakopane. The population of water shamrock (*Marsylea quadrifolia*) whose only natural site in Poland stopped to exist survived exclusively due to *ex situ* conservation (only in botanical gardens – Arboretum in Bolestraszyce).

Since 1999 weed species threatened with extinction have been collected during collection expeditions of KCRZG of Plant Breeding & Acclimatization Institute. In 2004 rare weed species growing on limestone soil were collected: *Bupleurum rotundifolium*, *Neslia paniculata, Euphorbia exigua*. Also seeds of *Agrostemma githago* – the species occurring in rye fields, rarely found in Poland in recent years were collected. They are currently reproduced and studied which is a stage preceding their reintroduction. The preservative collection of weeds is kept also by the Club of naturalists (Swiebodzin).

For many years also a number of restitution programmes of endangered animal species have been under way, among others, restitution of peregrine falcon, reintroduction of the lynx in Kampinos National Park, reintroduction of the eagle owl in Wolinski National Park, reintroduction of Apollo butterfly in Pieniny National Park, conservation of the European bison, conservation and reintroduction of the swamp turtle, conservation and reintroduction of some fish species (e.g., Atlantic sturgeon, vimba), reintroduction of the spotted souslik and edible dormouse (PTOP "Salamandra". There is work under way on conservation of seals of the Polish zone of the Baltic Sea. However, sitll not enough species are covered with programmes of restitution or respective projects are conducted at an insufficient scale.

69. On Article 9(d), 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?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the 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.

Collecting species for *ex-situ* conservation purposes from natural habitats is regulated by respective legal regulations contained among others in the following legal acts: on Nature Conservation (2004), on the Inland Fisheries (1985), on Fisheries (2004), Hunting Law (1995).

In particular, legal regulations specify close seasons, acceptable manners and scales of obtaining specific species and the requirement of obtaining consent of respective bodies to collect them.

In Poland there are rules of collecting and transferring genetic resources codified by gene banks which are based upon the *"International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer"* FAO 1994. According to them it is required to notify the destination country about the intended collection of material, obtaining its consent and sharing the collected materials so that they remain in the country of origin and also notifying about the obtained study results in the future.

Box XLVIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;

b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;

c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;

d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Poland has initiated multi-facet studies aiming at *ex situ* preservation of native and alien biological diversity. The Plant Gene Bank, Pest Gene Bank, Forest Gene Bank Kostrzyca in Kostrzyca (LBG) take part in conservation of *ex situ* biological conservation, as well as botanical gardens and arboreta. In Poland *ex situ* conservation of wild fauna is conducted by zoological gardens, aquaria, centres for animal breeding and private collections.

The obligation to respect requirements of ex situ conservation of endangered species follow directly from the *National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity with the Action Plan,* which includes among others the following tasks:

•Preparation and issuing appropriate legal acts providing the basis for *ex situ* conservation of crop plant genetic resources and recognizing those resources as the national heritage.

•Development and implementation of programmes for conservation of threatened varieties utilised in agriculture.

•Establishing the National Bank of Plant Genetic Resources.

The described measures lead to achievement of the 2010 Target, in the part concerning *ex situ* conservation of plant and animal species endangered with extinction in natural habitats and old animal varieties and breeds of importance for biological diversity.

However, there are a number of constraints to implementati0on of the initiated actions:

- Poland does not have a general, comprehensive plan for *ex-situ* conservation. Individual institutions establish their own collections and gather data on threatened, rare or endangered species by themselves. Research carried out by individual institutions are most often focused on a single geographical area (e.g., the Botanical Garden of Warsaw University – Mazurian Lake District, Botanical Garden of the Polish Academy of Science – Lower Silesia, etc) which makes the information flow and co-ordination of research activities more difficult.
- Another serious problem is a lack of constant subsidies to individual institutions which are granted on a yearly basis. The already poor financing situation is worsened by the fact that expenditures on conservation are reduced each year, often by over 10 percent. The money reaches the addressees as late as in the second quarter of the year and thus during the first months of the year all conservation work is performed "on credit". That adversely affects potential for research, taking inventories and collecting genetic resources in the field, valuation of the existing collections.
- One more obstacle making it more difficult to implement the programme is the ongoing genetic erosion of crop plants. Finding old varieties on the site of their traditional occurrence is more and more difficult. Collecting samples requires ever increasing time effort and consequently – increased costs. The erosion results from a number of reasons, *inter alia*, from changing age structure in rural areas following migration of young people to cities. Often elderly people are not capable of producing seeds and young people are often focused on pure profit and then farming old, low-yield varieties does not make any sense.

- Yet another problem is a lack of competent scientific staff. Only for a few years and only at some universities (e.g., Warsaw Agricultural University) is the "Biodiversity" subject in the biology curricula. Earlier graduates do not have comprehensive knowledge of *ex situ* conservation of genetic resources.
- Also, the flow of information on biological diversity among individual institutions is restricted, particularly that on the activities conducted. That is the reason for insufficient use of earlier research and analyses. Information on *ex situ* conservation is available on the Internet to insufficient degree.

Summing up, the established legal and political bases make it possible to implement efficiently programmes and strategies for *ex situ* conservation of genetic resources. However, many urgent tasks remain unfulfilled, including restructuring of financing *ex-situ* conservation of genetic resources, improvement of co-ordination of work conducted in that field and flow of related information. Another important task is to make the general public aware of significance of biological diversity through educational programmes in the education system or information in the media.

Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

70. On Article 10(a), has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making?	
a) No	
b) No, but steps are being taken	
c) Yes, in some relevant sectors (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, in most relevant sectors (please provide details below)	

Further information on integrating consideration of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making.

The principle of sustainable use of natural resources has been laid down in a number of all-Poland documents. That was described in detail responding to question no. 12.

71. On Article 10(b), has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the measures adopted relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity.

Use of natural resources is controlled by a number of legal regulations. That legal system includes, among others, permits for utilization of geological resources, fishing and hunting use, water supply and sewage disposal consents, etc. The system of controlling use of natural resources is particularly well developed in forestry. All the related activities, including resource exploitation at the level of forest districts are conducted in line with approved forest management operating plans.

The system of supervision over utilisation of natural resources has not been fully developed and implemented in agriculture. The agri-environmental programmes that have been implemented from this year initiate construction of the system of economical incentives encouraging to farming ion a sustainable manner and respecting the needs of biological diversity, however, it is too early to evaluate the mechanism.

Changes in spatial development are subject to analyses performed by competent self-government

bodies.

Use of biological resources is subject to supervision by the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, other state control bodies and governmental and self-governmental bodies.

The requirement of submitting an annual report on implementing that act to the Parliament laid down in the Act on Forests, with special emphasis on the use of forest resources and maintaining forest sustainability is an example of state supervision over utilisation of biological resources.

72. On Article 10(c), 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?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements.

Under Polish circumstances traditional (customary) use of biological diversity is of limited scope. Measure taken to maintain those traditions are focused on implementation of the agri-environmental programmes which among others aim at maintaining traditional forms of extensive farming.

73. On Article 10(d), 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?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biodiversity has been reduced.

State activity related to support for local communities in preventive measures taken for degraded areas are restricted mainly to agriculturally used areas. They include among others afforesting of degraded arable lands, protecting or establishing water bodies, conservation or development of boundary strips and mid-field woodlots. The range of those activities is still limited. Another important measure consists in activities to improve water balance and quality of surface and ground waters.

State financial support in activities aiming at liquidation of point and dispersed soil pollution is a special example of preventive measures taken for seriously degraded areas. The pilot project of the World Bank entitled "Environment protection in rural areas", whose aim was to reduce pollution from agriculture through appropriate storing and management of animal manure. The pilot programme jointly financed by the World Bank, NEFCO (*Nordic Environment Facility Corporation*), GEF (*Global Environment Facility*), European Union under the PHARE LSIF'99 programme and the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management covered 24 municipalities in the vicinity of Torun, Elblag, Ostroleka, and Lomza and three districts: Wegrów, Ostrów and Sokolów. In 2000-2003 a total of 940 containers for liquid manure and 439 plates for storing manure were constructed. Besides, 866 fertilization schemes for farms of total area of 22.2 thousand ha and 749 management plans for farms have been prepared in relation to effective farming.

74. Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessment of potential indicators and incentive measures is under way	
c) Yes, indicators and incentive measures identified (please describe below)	X

Further comments on the identification of indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Because of the area where they operate, as well as intensity of changes they cause in the environment, farmers are those who have the greatest impact on biological diversity. Therefore, they are addressees and beneficiaries of many actions particularly within the framework of agri-environmental programmes that are conducted for maintaining biological diversity. As regards the agri-environmental packages, those farmers who are beneficiaries are addressees of many measures taken. Activities related to maintaining extensive grasslands that consists in returning to continuing to mow meadows of high natural values or maintaining extensive pastures related to restoring or maintaining extensive grazing in valuable semi-natural pastures consist in compensating farmers for losses resulting from continuing the traditional manner of grassland management. Due to a very short time of implementing agri-environmental programmes it is hard to rate their effectiveness. Certainly, wide promotion is necessary among farmers and training a sufficient number of agricultural consultants to ensure effectiveness.

75. Has your country implemented sustainable use practices, programmes and policies for the sustainable use of biological diversity, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, programmes and policies are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on sustainable use programmes and policies.

Programmes implemented in the field of agriculture are an example of activities related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and at the same time connected to poverty alleviation. The most important measures taken include subsidies for farmers who have decided to afforest areas representing the poorest soil classes, for implementation of agri-environmental programmes and continuation of agricultural use in areas of less favourable natural conditions. The package of the Programme for Development of Rural Development, the programme for low production farms is the activity aiming at ensuring temporary financial support for small farms to increase their investment potential and consequently reach their economic sustainability.

Support for low-production farms consists in paying bonuses during the period of five years. The support is addressed to farms whose economical size based upon the standard gross margin falls into the range of 2-4 ESU. After joining the programme, a beneficiary has to undertake farm restructuring following the targets which will be specified in the development plan for a low production farm. After three years of plan implementation, selected "partial targets" related to the general target of farm restructuring have to be achieved. Also the National Agri-Environmental Programme indirectly contributes to achievement of the target to prevent poverty in farms encouraging to return to extensive use of agricultural lands which have been recently excluded from farming due to low profitability.

76. Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please describe below)	

Further comments on the development of mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity.

In fact including the private sector into activities related to sustainable use of natural diversity has a very long tradition. Legal protection is applied among others to privately owned lands and according to the Polish legal system, written consent of owners is required for national parks and nature reserves. Thus, land owners agree and accept protective measures to be taken that result from protection plans for those areas. However, the recent decline in the number of protected objects which are the most important to biological diversity conservation (nature reserves, ecological grounds) covering private lands should be stressed. That results from a lack of effective economic and legal mechanisms allowing for introduction and execution of limitations to land use and also performing active conservation. With respect to Natura 2000 sites, the Nature Conservation Act (2004) has introduced a new economic mechanism providing the basis for compensating lost incomes in farming, forest, hunting or fishing activities providing it results from introduction of limitations in those areas or the necessity for taking preventive measures.

Inclusion of the private sector into activities for nature conservation has gained in importance in Poland from the time of starting the agri-environmental programmes. That is directly related do subsidies that an owner may receive due to specific environmental-friendly forms of management.

According to the legal regulations, forest management in privately owned areas is conducted according to simplified forest management plans and is subjected to supervision of the self-governmental authorities or State Forest Administration. Greater involvement of private persons in activities aiming at sustainable use of biological diversity in forest should be associated with forest-environmental programmes which are to be initiated in the future period pf EU programmes

Also buyout of lands within areas covered with legal protection by NGOs is a good example.

However, effective mechanisms encouraging the private sector to conduct far-flung activity of that type are lacking.

77. Has your country initiated a process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)	
a) No	
b) No, but the principles and guidelines are under review	X
c) Yes, a process is being planned	
d) Yes, a process has been initiated (please provide detailed information)	

Further information on the process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.

Principles and guidelines from Addis Ababa for sustainable use of biological diversity are currently analysed at the Ministry of the Environment.

78. Has your country taken any initiative or action to develop and transfer technologies and provide financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some technologies developed and transferred and limited financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many technologies developed and transferred and significant financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development and transfer of technologies and provision of financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.	

Biodiversity and Tourism

79. Has your country established mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please specify below)	X
d) Yes, existing mechanisms are under review	
Further comments on the establishment of mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity.	

The problem of natural environment resistance to the impact of tourism on biodiversity is subject to fragmentary studies and observations. Individual elements of that issue are dealt with mainly as a response to the demand resulting from various management plans for recreational areas. Also, tourist capacity of individual ecosystems is estimated during preparation of other local plans and strategies for development.

Monitoring of the impact of tourism on biological diversity is conducted locally by scientific institutions and universities, mainly within areas of national parks and nature reserves. The modes of access to individual fragments of protected areas might be modified should serious threats to the environment have been recorded (e.g., in mountain national parks).

The number of people visiting national parks is subject to regular reporting by the Central Statistical Office.

80. Has your country provided educational and training programmes to the tourism operators so as to increase their awareness of the impacts of tourism on biodiversity and upgrade the technical capacity at the local level to minimize the impacts? (decision V/25)	
a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please describe below)	X
Further comments on educational and training programmes provided to tourism operators.	

The issues concerning the impact on biodiversity are included in curricula of the studies educating prospective employees in the tourist sector.

Apart from the above, periodical training sessions are arranged for tourist operators dedicated to, e.g., environmental awareness and environmental protection. Some of them are commissioned by the Department of Tourism of the Ministry of Economy and Labour within the annual competition whose aim is among others dissemination of knowledge of sustainable tourism and training and educating professional and voluntary staff in the tourist sector. However, in general there is no training oriented directly towards the impact of tourism on biological diversity.

The main governmental programme implemented in Poland that covers the environmental aspect of tourism is the programme "Conscious development of landscape and conservation of historical landscape". Its aim is to enhance the role of cultural heritage, civilisational and natural environment in the educational processes and emphasise cultural and natural environment to extend the tourist offer. The project has been recognised as one of the instruments for implementation of the "*Strategy for Development of Tourism in 2001-2006*".

There is also a non-governmental programme "Clean tourism" conducted by the Foundation "Partnership for the Environment". The main objective of the programme is to improve competitiveness of companies representing the tourist industry through initiating activities in the field of environmental protection and also providing companies with opportunities for involving in long-term projects for environmental protection as well as local communities including participation in developing tourist products on the basis of Greenways.

81. Does your country provide indigenous and local communities with capacity-building and financial resources to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management? (decision VII/14)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are being considered	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments in the capacity-building and financial resources provided to indigenous and local communities to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management.

82. Has your country integrated the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development in the development or review of national strategies and plans for tourism development, national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, and other related sectoral strategies? (decision VII/14)

a) No, but the guidelines are under review	X
b) No, but a plan is under consideration to integrate some principles of the guidelines into relevant strategies	
c) Yes, a few principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	
d) Yes, many principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	

Further information on the sectors where the principles of the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development are integrated.

In general, the principles of sustainable tourism are laid down both in the *National Strategy* and in the Strategy for Tourism Development in *2001-2006,* in which it is adopted that tourism development may take place only when in line with the requirements of nature conservation and environment protection. Consequently, in regional and local programmes for tourism development environment capacity and the need for sustainable use have to be taken into account and those forms of tourism should be preferred, which favour biological diversity conservation. However, there are conflicts between visions of individual tourism development in local communities and the needs of nature conservation. To a variable degree that applies to the whole territory of Poland but particularly in the mountains and lake districts. So, enforcing of the guidelines have not been completed yet.

Box XLIX.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Actions related to implementation of Article 10 have been successively taken since the early 1990s. Significant progress in the field of sustainable use of biodiversity resources have been achieved particularly in the sectors of forest management and agriculture. Favourable trends are also recorded in tourism and in water management (as a result of implementation of the Framework Water Directive). On the other hand, marine economy still faces special challenges.

All the actions taken are in line both with Strategic Plan of the Convention, 2010 Target, Millennium Development Goals, and targets adopted in the *National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity* and other all-Poland and sectoral documents.

Article 11 - Incentive measures

83. Has your country established programmes to identify and adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the programmes to identify and adopt incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The system of stimuli and incentives promoting sustainable use of biological conservation is implemented and developed on a regular basis although it concerns mainly agriculture. In that sector agri-environmental programmes have been implemented, that is, a system of subsidies for farmers who observe principles favouring biodiversity conservation and a system of subsidies for continuing agricultural use in less favoured areas. The legal basis for granting those subsidies are two regulations issued by the Council of Ministers in 2004: on the detailed terms and course of granting financial support for farming in the areas where unfavourable conditions of farming occur covered with the Plan of Rural Development, and on the detailed terms and course of granting financial support for agri-environmental enterprises and improvement of animal wellness, covered with the Plan of Rural Development. Interest in those mechanisms considerably differs depending on the part of Poland and also depends to the same degree on farmers' activity and the level of their awareness

as activity of local agricultural consultants. In many regions non-farmed lands have disapeared from the landscape which might be ascribed to effectiveness of the new economic incentives in agriculture. So far it has been difficult to rate average effectiveness of those incentives for all the country, also due to a very short time of programme implementation (they have started this year). Popularisation of the programmes, assessment of their functioning and dissemination of implementation results among farmers is necessary.

Similar support, also within the framework of actions set out in the Plan of Rural Development is granted for afforestation of areas excluded from farming. Interest in that mechanism is very high, somewhat hindered by a lack of local spatial development plans required for areas of planned afforestation. So far no effective mechanism against afforestation of valuable nature areas has been developed yet.

Financial support by the national and provincial funds for environmental protection and water management are granted also for investments in farms which reduce their environmental impact (e.g., purchase of tanks for collecting liquid natural fertilisers. Also that support mechanism arpuses considerable interest among farmers.

For several years programmes of construction of small ponds and water bodies in rural areas to increase retention have been financed by target funds although the scale of those action is still insufficient. There is an urgent need for developing and implementing economic mechasnisms supporting water management in agricultural lands (e.g., restoration or construction of damming structures, retaining water on swampy and moist meadows).

There is also a system of exemptions or reductions in tax on land and forest tax (paid for local self-governments) in the areas covered with legal protection (national parks and nature reserves) and protective forests. Also all areas classified as ecological grounds in geodetic registers are exempted from taxation.

In spite of the fact that the system of economic incentives, including pro-environmental tax system is quite extensive, it requires improvement.

84. Has your country developed the mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas? (decisions III/18 and IV/10)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, review of impact of mechanisms available (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanism or approaches to incorporate market and non-market values of biodiversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes.	

85. Has your country developed training and capacity-building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives? (decision III/18)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place	
d) Yes, many programmes are in place	

86. Does your country take into consideration the proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures as contained in Annex I to decision VI/15 when designing and implementing incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision VI/15)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the proposals considered when designing and implementing the incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of bio diversity.	

87. Has your country made any progress in removing or mitigating policies or practices that generate perverse incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (decision VII/18)	
a) No	
b) No, but identification of such policies and practices is under way	X
c) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified but not entirely removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified and removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
Further information on perverse incentives identified and/or removed or mitigated.	
The need for providing 7.5% share of energy from renewable sources in electric power production by 2010 resulting both from the *National Environmental Policy for 2003-2006 with the perspective for 2007-2010* (2002), and the *National Energy Policy until 2025* (*2005)* aroused considerable interest in construction of wind farms on the coast and establishment of extensive willow plantations in river valleys. Both actions do have significant impact on biological diversity (e.g., killing birds) and lead to very significant landscape transformation; in the case of willow plantations they additionally lead to significant changes in water conditions and local flora and fauna. Preventing such ventures within protected areas, e.g., in landscape parks, is possible through provisions of conservation plans. The same tool may be used for excluding valuable nature areas from afforestation. Preferring traditional methods for agricultural management and ecological farming not only in legally protected areas instead of intensification of agricultural production takes place through promoting agri-environmental programmes financially supporting the two types of agricultural production.	

Box L.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on: a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.
The issue of a system of economic and social incentives favouring conservation of biological diversity has been considered in Poland for years. Effective solutions are currently implemented within the framework of adapting agriculture to the EU requirements. However, the system requires expanding to cover other sectors of the economy. All the actions taken are in line both with Strategic Plan of the Convention, 2010 Target, Millennium

Development Goals, and targets adopted in the *National strategy for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity* and other all-Poland and sectoral documents.

Article 12 - Research and training

88. On Article 12(a), 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?

a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the programmes for scientific and technical education and training in the measures for identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Implementation of tasks related to scientific and technical education and training necessary for identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its elements is performed along two lines.:

- Formal, supervised by the minister responsible for education, executed within the public and private educational systems at all the education levels, from primary schools to universities:
- The so called "non-formal" one, in general supervised by the minister responsible for the environmental issues that include various training sessions, courses and other arrangements addressed to institutions and people interested in environmental issues.

Formal teaching is in line with the syllabi approved by the Ministry of National Education and Sport, which obliges to introduce issues of conservation and use of biological diversity at all the levels of educations; in the primary and secondary schools within the framework of integrated teaching, at universities in the form of lectures, seminars and classes whose scope depends on the university type.

Within the framework of non-formal education various courses and specialized training sessions are organized which aim at improvement of qualification of people professionally dealing with biodiversity conservation and use as well as actions, campaigns and other undertakings addressed to the general public. The framework for those activities have been specified in the *National Strategy for Environmental Education*, developed by the Ministry of the Environment in 2001. Its provisions are expanded and specified in the *National Programme of Environmental Education* developed at the same time.

In spite of a good system of ecological education, both common ecological education of adults and education of social groups whose activity affects biological diversity most (foresters, farmewrs, water mangement service, marine management service, employees of local self-governments and councillors, tourism operators) require intensification.

89. On Article 12(b), does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The research on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use have been carried out in Poland within a wide range of fields, from the humanities through life science to the technical sciences. The great majority of research is conducted in biological, agricultural and forest sciences.

In 2001-2004 over 100 research 1-3-year long programmes related to biological diversity were started each year. They were conducted by institutions of the Polish Academy of Science, universities of various types including technical, agricultural, and medical ones, research and development institutes supervised by various ministries and also research units of national and landscape parks, regional directorates of State Forests and forest divisions, botanical gardens, zoos, and occasionally also by other organizations, including NGOs. Some of them are conducted in co-operation with foreign partners (e.g., within EU and NATO programmes).

The main source of financing those research projects is the State Budget through the Ministry of Science and the Ministry of Science and Information Society; to a lesser degree the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Provincial Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Ekofundusz" Foundation and foreign agencies (e.g., UNEP/GEF, pre-accession aid funds of the European Union, contributions of foreign partners.

However, systemic support for research on those aspects of biological diversity which are important to conservation effectiveness does not fully meet the needs within that scope. That particularly pertains to the basic physiographic studies (floristic, faunal, and phytosociological) which are not among priorities in the system of financing science. The result is poor knowledge of distribution of many species and natural habitats, including rare, endangered and requiring special protected ones.

90. On Article 12(c), 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?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the use of scientific advances in biodiversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

One of the main principles in Poland is to act basing on the sound scientific knowledge. That is confirmed by the basic political documents, both at the state and sectoral levels. The administration and services responsible for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of its resources keep on making sure that the most recent scientific achievements are utilised in all activities in the field to the maximum extent. Outstanding scientists are invited to take part in decision making concerning management of biological diversity through participation in consulting and advisory bodies working at administration of various levels either on a permanent basis or established *ad hoc* for specific tasks. In order to ensure a constant flow of the most recent information and to participate in the scientific progress, Polish scientific centres and individual scientists take part in various forms of international co-operation. That activity is supported by the State.

In spite of a quite good co-operation between science and nature conservation, there are noticeable problems in some fields with implementation of scientific achievements. That applies for instance to

forest management based first of all on tradition and not contemporary knowledge of forest ecology and also for conservation of aquatic ecosystems often focusing just on selected ecosystem elements and not considering ecological-functional relationship. Some scientific studies are just of cognitive character and often do not formulate enforceable conclusions.

Box LI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Education in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is one of the most important issues in the general environmental education of the Polish society. Its significance to development of the aware civil society having environmentally friendly attitude on the one hand and developing well educated staff for environment protection on the other hand are emphasised in the basic strategic documents: *The State Environmental Policy in 2003-2006 with perspective for 2007-2010* and *National Strategy for Environmental Education (NSEE)*, adopted in 2001 to be implemented by the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of National Education and also the *National Programme of Environmental Education,* which is an expansion of *NSEE* providing bases for strategy implementation.

The two latter documents provided the bases for introducing the principles pf conservation of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its resources into school curricula at all levels of education.

The National Strategy for Environmental Education has also specified the framework of activities conducted out of the school system: various courses, training and other undertakings addressed to the general public. They are organised by units of the Ministry of the Environment, self-governments, universities and research institutes, scientific societies, NGO's and others. Diversified quality of those educational forms constitute some problem as usually they are developed on the basis of authors' own programmes and they are not subjected to official verification due to a lack of appropriate procedures.

Scientific research constitutes the substantive basis for performing tasks related to conservation and sustainable use of biological conservation. According to the provisions set out in the State Scientific Policy, environmental protection and environmental safety are one of the research priorities in Poland. Most of scientific projects in this field (according to estimates some 70-85%) are financially supported by the Ministry of Science and Information Society from the state budget.

The scope of those project is very diversified. The main focus is on identification and evaluation of biological diversity at the level of a population and small and medium-sized ecosystems (approximately 30% of all the projects), genetic-biochemical variation of individuals and populations (over 15 % projects), preparing monographs of taxons of various ranks, catalogues and guides for species identification (10% of projects). Less common scientific works include those related to active conservation and restitution of species, genetically modified organisms, biotechnology, biological diversity at the level of large ecological systems (natural landscapes, ecological corridors).

Almost a half of scientific projects concerning conservation and use of biological diversity conducted in Poland during the last five years is of applied character. They constitute a sound basis for solving problems arousing at the meeting point between sustainable use of biodiversity resources and meeting the civilisational needs on a current basis, particularly in the physical economy, agriculture, forestry and water management.

Supporting activities related to education and training and scientific research and implementation of scientific achievements take t closer to achieve targets no 2 and 4 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention particularly in relation to enhancement of the national potential for implementation of the priority tasks specified in the national strategy for conservation of biological diversity and implementation of Cartagena Protocol on biosafety. Those activities are an important advance towards achievement of the "2010 Target", particularly in relation to general targets nos. 5, 7 i 8, and also in implementation of the National Strategy and implementation of the Action Plan concerning biological diversity. They also contribute to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The main constraints to implementation of the Convention provisions include:

- a lack of certification (verification) procedures for training and courses programmes and consequently their diversified level depending on the institution resulting in a diversified qualifications of those who have completed courses;
- relatively low funds intended for scientific research and at the same time clear preference for projects providing a chance of prompt economical success in competitions for grants and thus a danger of insufficient financial means for projects on biological diversity.

Article 13 - Public education and awareness

91. Is your country implementing a communication, education and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation in support of the Convention? (Goal 4.1 of the Strategic Plan)

a) No	
b) No, but a CEPA strategy is under development	
c) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a limited extent (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the implementation of a CEPA strategy and the promotion of public participation in support of the Convention.

Although a CEPA strategy specific to the Convention has not been developed, its outline strategy concerning communication, education and public awareness are found in the document entitled the "National Strategy for Education: The Sustainable Development through Education" adopted by the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of National Education in 1997. In 1999-2000 the Strategy has been upgraded and adapted to changes taking place in Poland in relation to the Polish reforms and in 2001 the "*National Strategy for Environmental Education"* has been adopted by the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of National Education. In 2001 the Executive Programme to the Strategy specifying the Strategy provisions commissioned by the Minister of the Environment was prepared and approved. The document not only specifies educational tasks ascribed to various entities (among others to governmental and self-governmental bodies) but also prospective sources of financing individual tasks. The main goal of the documents mentioned above was promoting education for sustainable development through the following measures: making the public aware of relationships between issues of economic and social development and environmental issues and creating environment friendly behaviour patterns. That is also to prepare the society for making decisions concerning the environment. The wide scope of environmental education is more specifically oriented towards issues of biological diversity in individual provisions of the Law on Nature Conservation of 16.04.2004. In the Act general regulations covering nature conservation goals "developing appropriate human attitudes towards the nature through education, informing and promotion in the field of nature conservation" is emphasised. In Article 4 of the Act it is laid down that "public administration bodies, scientific and educational bodies and also media are obliged to conduct educational, informational, and promotional activity in the field of nature conservation." According to the Act, national park and landscape park staff are responsible for informing and promotion in relation to nature conservation, including operating nature museums, educational and informative centres and publishing informative and promotional materials. More detailed provisions concerning education are also included in the *National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity along with the Action Plan* adopted in 2003. As regards operational actions, educational tasks for each of the sectors are assumed in the Strategy.

The obligation to provide information and involbving the genral public iin activities related tio environment protection, inclusing biodiversity conservation, follows from the provisions of the Environment Protection Act (2001). The oblication has been introduced in Poland in the early 1990s. The Environment Protection Act specifies a list of programmes, conclusions, administrative decisions, permits, etc. issued under the Act and many other environmental regulations which are accessible to general public. Many administrative procedures take place with participation of the general public representatives and the obligation to invite to co-operation, submitting applications or consultations

results hboth from legal provisions and tradtions of nature conservation in Poland. Representatives of various groups of intrerest are members to different consulting and opinion-leading bodies of the nature conservation service. The procedures closely related to diversity conservation in which social communication is ensured includes the procedure for working out plans for protected areas. Interested persons have the right to propose motions, familiarizing with study results and expressing opinions in the course on work on protection plans.

92. Is your country undertaking any activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness as contained in the annex to decision VI/19? (decision VI/19)

a)	No	
b)	No, but some programmes are under development	
c)	Yes, some activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
d)	Yes, many activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on CEPA.

One of significant conditions for Program success is providing appropriate funds. Appropriate educational programmes may be implemented thanks to the system of financing working both at the national and local levels. Such national projects as, e.g., large campaigns, publications, competitions of environmental knowledge, equipping educational centres in national parks are financed by the National Fund of Environmental Protection and Water Management, projects of more local character may be financed by the Provincial and Municipality Funds for Environmental Protection and Water management. In 1989-2004 1689 projects in the field of education were financially supported by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management. They included among others subsidies for 60 centres for environmental education in national or landscape parks and regional educational centres, 70 programmes of active education, organisation of other 530 seminars and conferences, organizing over 150 competitions and 100 events disseminating environmental knowledge. Apart from environmental funds, also educational activities accompanying projects financed by GEF in the programme of small grants, e.g., in the field of promoting conservation of genetic diversity in agriculture through conservation of old varieties and breeds play an important role. The system of supporting environmental activity of NGOs also fulfils an important function in enhancement of community participation in conservation of biological diversity. In 2004, following the strategy of the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management for years 2003-2007, a new inter-sectoral programme has been initiated whose aim was to support current operations of environmental organisations within the scopes of among others interventional, informational and educational activities. With respect to education of staff dealing with biological diversity, courses, training and workshops are organised by the Centre for Teachers' Training subordinated to the Ministry of Education and Sport, NGOs and postgraduate studies provided by university centres.

93. Is your country strongly and effectively promoting biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level? (decision VI/19)

a)	No	
b)	No, but some programmes are under development	
c)	Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	
d)	Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the promotion of biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level.

The role of the media in promoting issues related to biological diversity is specified in the basic documents – both in the *National Strategy for Environmental Education* and in the Nature Conservation Act (16.04.2004). In the latter document, in Article 4 concerning duties of various agencies other than public administration and scientific institutions it is indicated that also media should conduct educational, informative and promotional activity in the field of nature conservation. To a large degree the task is fulfilled by the public TV and Polish Radio within the framework of its mission of broadcasting informational, commentary and popular science programmes, and particularly nature films. For instance, programmes concerning various forms of biological diversity, types of threats and methods for conservation as well as those promoting good practice in farming are broadcast in the block of Educational TV programmes. Actions conducted by media are significantly supported by production of programmes financed or co-financed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management. Within the scope of subjects dedicated to biological diversity, production (as a result of competition) of the film series "National Park Film Collection" deserves special attention. In 2000-2005 most of the planned films dedicated to 23 Polish national parks have been shot. Also films dedicated to protected species (e.g., white-tailed eagle, wolf, bats, protected fungi species) or forms of nature conservation (e.g., The World of Baltic). Also the series dedicated to promoting nature conservation in rural areas and good farming practice was created (20 episodes of the series Green Poland). The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management financially supported shooting and multiple broadcasts of a total of 47 nature films and 32 cyclic radio (e.g., Green Chance, Landscape Parks). Festivals such as Wlodzimierz Puchalski's Festival organised by the Educational Film Production Company in Lódz or the Wag Brothers' International Festival of Nature Films are an additional form of promoting production of valuable nature films. Awarded films are presented on TV and distributed on video cassettes.

As regards press, the National Found for Environmental Protection and Water Management helps finance annexes to large daily newspapers such as Rzeczpospolita and newspapers addressed to specific groups of recipients such as Gazeta Rolnicza (“Farming Gazette") or Przeglad Wedkarski (“Angler's Review”).

There are also specialised magazines published which are dedicated to various aspects of biological diversity "Przyroda Polska [Polish Nature], "Parki Narodowe and Rezerwaty Przyrody" [National Parks and Nature Reserves], "Poznajmy Las" [Learn the Forest].,

At the local level the arousing issues are presented by local Press which is represented in Poland by a few hundred titles. Since 2001 the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and the Association of Local Newspapers has been organising the annual competition for local newspapers having the greatest impact on environmental awareness of the general public. The analysis of articles submitted for the competition shows that a number and significance articles dedicated to various aspects of biological diversity grow each year.

The 2004 study of environmental awareness of Poles indicates that they find the media the most important source of information about the environment.

Whereas programmes popularizing nature values are common, the issues of threats and practical activities for nature and the necessity for change in social attitudes to preserve it are still insufficiently presented.

94. Does your country promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the efforts to promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level.

Actions at the local level are conducted with participation of municipalities, regional educational centres and local voluntary associations as well as local media. Actions, programmes and everyday education in schools (particularly those which were awarded the Green Certificate – a quality symbol granted to educational institutions for the whole of environmental activity) play an important role here. There are also many local educational centres and non-profit organisations operating throughout the country which deal with environmental education. In 2004, verification and inventory of the educational potential at local centres have been performed commissioned by the Minister of the Environment. One hundred best ones have been presented in the published “Guide to the

selected centres and organizations dealing with environmental education in Poland." At the local level, local press (see page 93) and regional TV centres play an important role. Many educational programmes are also initiated by municipality authorities (which are also originators of all-Poland events such as festivals of environmental songs) or regional organisations such as a cultural-natural event Uroczysko.

Promotion of social communication was also manifested by invitation of local communities to take part in activities which are indirectly or directly related to biological diversity conservation and use. That first of all comprises consulting local communities about development of local protection plans for protected areas and public debates on the concepts applied in local spatial management plans.

Co-operation with local authorities concerns first of all presentation of their opinions in relation to planned protected areas and then plans for protection of protected areas. On the other hand all planning documents prepared by self-governmental in relation to general aspects of biological conservation and use are subject to the procedure of approval by nature conservation service.

Co-operation with local communities is also developed by nature conservation service and state forest service both with respect to environmental education and dissemination of information about natural resources.

95. Is your country supporting national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness? (decision VI/19)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities supported (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many activities supported (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the support of national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness.

Activities conducted to implement the priorities of the Global Imitative on Education and Public Awareness are far flung, and completion of some tasks is much more successful than others. Those most successful ones includes preparation of handbooks, teaching AIDS, and programmes of courses to train teachers and educators and environmental education teachers. The Bibliography of Environmental Education in 1992-2003 prepared by the University Centre for Environmental Studies includes a few hundred of publications related to environmental education at various levels and addressed to various occupational groups issued in Poland (7). A considerable part of those materials was co-financed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management. Improvement of professional qualifications of the Staff responsible for education is possible thanks to training of teachers provided both in the form of various courses and workshops and regular post-graduate studies. For instance, till 2004 over 100 teachers have completed the three-semester postgraduate studies "Methods and substance of environmental education" provided by Warsaw University Centre for Environmental Studies. A few dozens of teachers and educators have completed trainers' courses at the Centre for Environmental Education Training conducted at the University of Warsaw along with the British organization the Field Study Council who may now train others. Similar activities are conducted also in other university centres. Following the Initiative recommendations, also school curricula have been modified in recent years to cover biological diversity issues. However, the curriculum base approved by the Ministry of Education and Sport covered those issues somewhat restricted to the traditional nature conservation. As regards partnership established with journalists and media dealing with communication of issues related to biological diversity, there are workshops organized for journalists as well as competitions and prizes established by the Minister of Environment. Also, the association of environmental journalists EKOS operates which attracts media to issues related to biological diversity. Activities at the international scale include distant learning programmes supported among others in the form of interactive websites "Education for Sustainability" within the Minerva Programme and involvement of Warsaw University in World Conservation Learning Network initiative started by IUCN.

The priorities which have not been sufficiently developed so far include improvement of synergy between research and practice within the scope of social communication.

96. Has your country developed adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness?	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the development of adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness.

Conditions for effective development of programmes and initiatives in the field of education, communication and public awareness are provided by appropriate legal regulations, ensuring a financing system, development of staff capable of conducting CEPA activities and developing an appropriate educational base. With respect to the legal aspect, conditions for conducting CEPA are provided through adopting such legal acts as the National strategy for environmental education or Nature Conservation Act (2004). Another legal condition is access to the information in the field of environment protection. It is ensured under the Convention of Aarhus on access to information and justice in the field of environment protection as well as the Environmental Protection Act (of 27.04.2001). Every individual and legal entity have the right to get access to information and that is one of the bases making it possible for citizens to be active in relation to biodiversity conservation issues.

Financing of education is provided by the system of the Fund of Environmental Protection and Water management (national, provincial and at the municipality level), European funds, a possibility of making use of tax exempt by public utility organizations provided in 2004, and most of the organizations dealing with environmental education represent that very organization type.

The facilities include over 150 local regional centres for environmental education and organizations dealing with education.

Environmental education staff include members to NGOs, school teachers, university faculty members in the field of environmental protection and staff of the national or landscape park educational centres. Training them takes place during conferences, workshops, postgraduate studies and Internet training (see p.92)

Development of education with the use of the Internet is gaining in importance – particularly for special websites and portals intended for supporting teachers and educators (e.g. www.ekoedu.uw.edu.pl). In 2003 the Ministry of The Environment has prepared "Environment multiplied by 200 on the Internet - A Guide to Green Net". There are sound bases for an increase in potential in the fields of education and access to information, however, sometimes there are no conditions for development of facilities and staff serving the purpose of communication in nature conservation.

97. Does your country promote cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness at the national, regional and international levels? (decisions IV /10 and VI/19)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the promotion of cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness, at the national, regional and international levels.

Poland is both a participant and initiator of numerous bilateral and international programmes in the field of education on biological conservation. Bilateral programmes concern e.g. co-operation with the neighbouring countries such as co-operation within the framework of Polish-German Group for environmental education. Polish-British co-operation in the field of programme exchange is manifested, among others by establishment of the Centre for Training Instructors of Environmental Education at Warsaw University. The multilateral programmes include the UNESCO educational programme Baltic Sea Programme, Globe and Green programmes in which numerous Polish school

participate. Numerous Polish universities and NGOs are partners or co-ordinators of educational programmes of the European Union such as Minerva or Socrates. Poland is also an initiator of programmes – in 2001-2004 The NATO Pilot Study "Forms of Environmental Education in the Armed Forces and their Impact on Creation of Pro-environmental Attitudes" was under way, in which representatives of 17 countries took place. OTOP (The Polish Society for the Protection of Birds) along with Bird Life International coordinate the just starting programme Spring Alive intended for young birdwatchers. Educational programmes are also conducted by Polish branches of international organisations: REC, WWF. Polish organizations being members to the World Conservation Union (IUCN) (Polish IUCN Committee) declared participation in the Count Down 2010 Initiative. Also programmes concerning communication by the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication were conducted. Summing up, considerable activity of existing co-operation and exchange within educational programmes should be emphasised, initiated both within the framework of official international agreements and direct contacts between universities, NGOs and local self-governemnts.

98. Is your country undertaking some CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention?

a) No (please specify reasons below)	
b) Yes, some activities undertaken for some issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, many activities undertaken for most issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for all issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention.

All the strategic documents refer to the *Second State Environmental Policy* and its to Executing Programme, and also "The National Strategy for Biological Diversity Conservation", which defines priorities within those sectors of economy which are somehow related to biological diversity. However, promotion of those issues leading to actual inclusion of those issues into practice and inter-sectoral co-operation is often limited as a result of a lack of interest of the parties, unsuitable modes of communication, incapability of defining economic incentives. Clear successes are noticeable mainly in the CEPA actions for the private sector related to tourism and particularly – agri-tourism. In those fields it is relatively easy to show the parties' own interests in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Examples of good practice with respect to inter-sectoral communication are provided by GEF/SGPP programmes in the field of conservation of genetic diversity in agriculture combining them with programmes of fighting poverty, resocialization and social adaptation of marginalised groups.

99. Does your country support initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes as well as into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision IV/10 and Goal 4.4 of the Strategic Plan)

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biodiversity conservation in their practice and education programmes as well as their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

The "*National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity*" adopted in February 2003 identifies measures to be taken in various sectors of the national economy. Policies and sectoral plans should cover the Strategy provisions in reference to individual sectors of the economy, e.g., conservation of agricultural biological diversity has been included in the "Programme

of rural development", and the instruments for implementation of conservation measures are agri-environmental programmes.

The agricultural sector is responsible for preparing the system of consulting and developing programmes of training of farmers including ecological farming. So far, the training has been carrying out to insufficient extent although some centres function perfectly, e.g., Centre for Farming Consultancy in Minikowo and Regional Centre for Environmental Education in Przysiek. Also, relevant non-profit organisations play an important role in promoting education related to ecological farming, e.g., IUCN Foundation Poland.

In the military sector, the Strategy recommends to develop development and implementation of the biological diversity conservation principles within areas utilised by the Polish army. Ministry of National Defence and Ministry of the Environment are responsible for supervision over that task. The appropriate recommendations are also included in STANAG 7141, which is a NATO document specifying the environmental standards in the member countries.

Biodiversity issues are included in various forms of environmental education carried out in the army. Competitions promoting environmental practice and knowledge organised on a permanent basis are one of them (the Army protects the environment and the reading competition).

With respect to the sector "science", dissemination and popularisation of knowledge resulting from the conducted research and nature monitoring, particularly when they contribute to improvement in the level of public environmental awareness are recommended. Among others various journals serve the purpose (co-financed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management such as Ochrona przyrody [Nature Conservation], Parki narodowe [National Parks] or Aura).

The sector „Forestry" is to be responsible for effective ecuation on nature and forests for the general pubklic. The activities are taken first of all within the Forest Promotional Complexes. See p. 182 for more information on the scope of the planned activities planned.

The sectors "Education" and "Higher education" will analyse and verify school curricula in force with respect to wider inclusion of biological diversity issues. To some degree that is reflected in the document "The core curriculum of general education" amended in 2004. Concluding, one may say that issues related to biological diversity are included in the sectoral and inter-sectoral policies and also to a varying degree in activities of various stakeholders and the process is gaining in impetus.

100. Is your country communicating the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and establishing appropriate linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in the implementation of your national CEPA programmes and activities? (decision VII/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some programmes developed and activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes developed and many activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the communication of the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and the establishment of linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

As regards communication of "Target 2010", the main initiative has been taken over by the greatest environmental organisations and scientific institutions dealing with nature conservation (e.g., the League for Nature Conservation, Polish Ecological Club, Institute for Nature Conservation PAS, State Council for Nature Conservation) making up Polish IUCN Committee, conducting the IUCN Programme "Countdown 2010" for Central Europe along with Warsaw IUCN Bureau. Also members to the IUCN Commission on Communication and Education take part in the initiative. Joining and signing the initiative by the President of IUCN during the Conference of the Parties in Malahide in May 2004 means integration of efforts of all the entities dealing with nature conservation to decrease the rate of losing biological diversity including intensification of educational and informational activities. One of the examples of such activities was the all-Poland conference on Nature Conservation organised by IUCN under the auspices of the Main Nature Conservation Officer at the

Ministry of the Environment in February 2005, dedicated to the overview of achievements setting directions of the priority activities. Also the organised exhibitions, e.g., the photographic one dedicated to Polish National Parks organised by the Minister of the Environment, folders and informational pamphlets prepared by national parks as well as informational folders on the NATURA 2000 network and informational materials on the CITES Convention published by the Ministry of the Environment in two last years contributed to fulfilment of the Communication Programme purpose. Also other institutions and organisations initiated similar actions, e.g., the University of Warsaw organised a series of lectures dedicated to various aspects of biological conservation and information on the 2010 Target. Topics related to biological diversity are also dealt with in relation to activities commencing the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development – conferences, workshops for teachers or thematic educational portals (e.g., www. ekoedu.uw.edu.pl). Also educational materials dedicated to biodiversity such as CD Biological Diversity in Poland refer to sustainable development. A wide range of educational actions is presented every year during an overview event EKOMEDIA-FORUM organized under the auspices of the Ministry of the Environment. In 2005 education for sustainable development itself will be the overview slogan.

In spite of generally very well developed ecological education in relation to biological diversity, actions concerning popularisation of the 2010 Target have to be recognized as insufficient.

Box LII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;

b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;

c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;

d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Implementation of Article 13 is a constant process so its progress should be considered in the context of the whole of activities that have been conducted since the act of signing of the Convention and in many respects its tradition dates back to the end of the 19th C. All the Polish documents related to implementation of the Convention (Second National Environmental Policy, National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity along with the Action Plan, Nature Conservation Act) contain appropriate recommendations concerning education and development of public awareness. Those provisions are expanded in the document National Strategy for Public Awareness "Through Education to Sustainable Development" of 2001 and its executing plan assigning respective tasks to individual entities and anticipating the programme of financing. The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and its Provincial equivalents are still the main financing institutions. Financing of educational programmes accounts for some 1.8% of the total environmental expenditures of the Fund. Thanks to that over 42 TV and radio programmes were prepared (including the series on the Polish National Parks), educational publishing houses are financed (a few hundred of them were established by 2004), educational centres in national and landscape parks have been established (there are over 150 educational centres of various types in Poland) and numerous conferences and training sessions on biological conservation are organised. A programme dedicated to supporting environmental organisations thus providing them with long-lasting bases for operating and offering education has been a new element of the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management activity (since 2004).

Many local actions are financed directly by municipalities. In recent years also the role of the European funds has gained in importance, also those intended for programmes of environmental education. The GEF-programme of small grants contributes to enhancement of environmental awareness, which reaches social groups that are often inaccessible to other programmes such as HiV carriers or people returning to the society from the dregs of the society. The initiated activities are conducted by various entities such as educational centres at landscape or national parks, university centres or NGOs. Those non-formal educational centres effectively support institutions of formal education which introduce issues related to the Convention to their core curricula to a smaller extent. That is to be improved by the initiative of the most important entities dealing with nature conservation – institutions and non-profit organisations – members to the Polish IUCN Committee – related to education within the framework of the IUCN Programme Countdown–2010.

Concluding, the educational base has been continuously extending – both in terms of quality and quantity and the executing potential of organizations dealing with education has been steadily growing. A number of publications dedicated to biological diversity grows each year, as well as a number of people having appropriate educational qualification. When evaluating the immense scale of those activities – it is difficult to assess their impact on the society as there are no many clear indices for effectiveness measurement. The working ones are related mainly to educational effects achieved by school students. There are surveys conducted in this field and popularity of school competitions related to environmental knowledge shows growing knowledge and awareness of biological diversity. Another group whose awareness of diversity is growing are farmers as a result of informational activity related to implementation of the agri-environmental programmes and courses related to ecological farming. Also the army is a social group whose environmental awareness is growing due to the NATO environmental standards (STANAG) and common education. Data for other groups are lacking. The most recent one (originating from the fourth of the research waves initiated in 1992), the panel study on environmental awareness of Poles, shows (in comparison to the period of 1992-2002) a decline in interest in environmental issues, however, the sense of personal responsibility for condition of the environment is growing and local self-governments are recognized as institutions who are to take care of the environment. That indirectly evidences the social perception of condition of the environment as not as bad as other social problems. The surveys also show that the role of media as the main source of knowledge of the environment is gaining in importance. That may result from extending the scale of media involvement in activities promoting biological importance. That is evidenced by the results of competitions dedicated to development of environmental awareness in local press and a growing number of TV programmes and radio broadcasts dedicated to the environment, including biological diversity. With respect to target 4 of the Strategic Plan one could generally say that the measures taken lead to better understanding of biological diversity and all the related priorities are more or less achieved. However, the National Strategy for Ecological Education requires more detailed expansion in the field of the special character of biological diversity.

Target 4.3 seems to be easier to achieve than other ones as local communities identify themselves with the needs for local actions than the global targets that they often found abstract. Target 4.4. is achieved most effectively in those fields of the sector which directly benefit from participation in the Convention, that is, farmers making use of the agri-environmental programmes and representatives of the sector of tourism, agri- and ecotourism.

As regards meeting the respective tasks recommended by the Conference of the Parties, particular successes are worth emphasizing in meeting requirement 9.82 of those recommended by the Conference of the Parties. Initiating activities for development of executing capacity within the scope of communication of education and public awareness resulted in considerable development of educational facilities, training numerous staff of teachers and trainers of environmental education, creating a pathway of financing NGOs and publishing a large number of handbooks and teaching aids. Also the system of exchange of professional knowledge at the domestic and international levels and also the system of acquiring of information and distant learning with respect to environmental education are expanding thanks to development of new portals and websites.

The system of co-operation with media also operates well.

The described activities lead to implementation of the 2010 Target through promotion of appropriate types of individual and public behaviour types, a change in the model of private sector attitude, at least in the fields and areas having the greatest impact on retaining biological diversity.

The actions taken both within the area of formal and non-formal education also contributed to implementation of the sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals helping to fight poverty (e.g., GEF projects).

A lack of clear support provided by the Ministry of Education and still traditional perception of nature conservation as activity restricted to protected areas and species are the most significant constraints to implementation of Article 13. Conservation of whole biological diversity also out of protected areas and its sustainable use arouses interest of few NGOs. A lack off specific local sources of financing making it possible to conduct small local projects and actions is an additional constraint. Additionally, the role of social communication is still underestimated (and not only information) which manifests itself also by poor knowledge of its methods and a lack of professionals in the field. It often results in rejecting solutions related to biological diversity conservation by local populations which are not appropriately prepared for them.

Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

101. On Article 14.1(a), has your country developed legislation requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity?

a)	No	
b)	No, legislation is still in early stages of development	
c)	No, but legislation is in advanced stages of development	
d)	Yes, legislation is in place (please provide details below)	X
e)	Yes, review of implementation available (please provide details below)	

Further information on the legislation requiring EIA of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biodiversity.

Poland has implemented the Council Directive of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Directive 97/11. Currently (since 2001), the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act have been in force in which the procedure for environmental assessment of planned ventures similarly to the EU solutions as well as the manner of identifying an entity and scope of such assessment are specified. For some ventures, preparing a report on environmental impact of the venture is required and its scope is specified by the Environment Protection Act. Also conservation of biological diversity and other related elements (landscapes, protected objects, water conditions, soil, etc.) are included. The level of analysis accuracy to meet the report needs is not specified.

The obligation to perform environmental impact assessments in case of possible threat of a planned venture to the Natura 2000 network has been introduced into the Nature Conservation Act (2004). Amendment to the Environment Protection Act which comes into force July 2005, changing the Nature Conservation Act impose obligation of preparing a report on environmental impact for planned ventures that could have significant effect on Natura 2000 sites, both those submitted to the European Commission and those planning, till the moment of confirming or rejecting them by EC. In the new regulation requirements of investors and designers with respect to meeting the obligations resulting from the Nature Conservation Act are stressed much stronger, particularly in relation to Natura 2000 sites. The amendment to the Act extends the obligation to run the procedure on environmental impact assessment to proposals for policies, strategies, plans or programmes which are not directly related to Natura 2000 sites or not follow from protection of Natura 2000 sites if implementation of those policies, strategies, plans or programmes may significantly affect such a site. However, the amendment does not specify the scope of the report which is necessary in the EIA procedure.

Each year the Ministry of the Environment prepares a number of expertises in the form of recommendations for local administration and other industries concerning procedures of environmental impact assessment for planned ventures. A part of those documents pertain to the necessity of including aspects related to biological diversity conservation into the procedure. In 2004 the expertise was prepared entitled *The System of Environmental Impact Assessments within the Natura 2000 European Ecological Network sites in selected EU countries and Poland*. the evaluations were prepared as well as a distinct expertise pertaining to protection of marine areas administered by the Republic of Poland (Polish territorial waters are of particular importance to conservation of biological diversity in Baltic, also according to Helsinki Convention).

At the beginning of the year, the *"Stance of the Ministry of the Environment on the procedures related to environmental impact assessment for projects submitted for subsidising from the Cohesion Fund"* was elaborated. In the material, detailed interpretations of the regulations and the procedure in relation to identified problems concerning ventures implemented with the use of Cohesion Fund financial means within Natura 2000 sites are presented. Thus, the material available on the Ministry of the Environment websites constitutes the guidelines. Those guidelines have been developed for projects for which application for financing from the Cohesion Fund and structural funds were submitted, however the Ministry of the Environment recommends their common use for all other procedures related to environmental impact assessment when impact of the planned venture on the existing and designed Natura 2000 sites is suspected.

A lack of specified scope and the level of minuteness of the analyses related to diversity conservation

to meet the needs of reports on environmental impact assessment causes that those issues are still not sufficiently dealt with. That shortcoming was subject to analyses and comments of the Committees for Environmental Impact Assessment and also European Commission bodies with respect to planned ventures that might impact on Natura 2000 sites. Supervision of those bodies will be force improving quality of studies related to biological diversity.

102. On Article 14.1(b), has your country developed mechanisms to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity?

a)	No	
b)	No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c)	No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d)	Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the mechanisms developed to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity.

The Environment Protection Act (2001) introduces the obligation to perform EIA for projects on policies, plans, programmes, and strategies (so called strategic environmental impact assessments), which are prepared in line with the provisions of respective acts and whose implementation may have impact on the environment. One of the obligatory elements of those assessments is preparing a prognosis of environmental impact. The legal regulations does not specify the scope and the level of information minuteness required in the prognosis making the decision within that scope depending on negotiations with the body which prepares the project or programme plan with the environment protection authority (the Chief or Provincial Sanitary Inspector in this case). Legal regulations control only conditions for preparing environmental impact assessment for projects of local development plans (Ordinance of the Ministry of the Environment on the detailed conditions that the prognosis of environmental impact assessment for projects on local development plans should meet (2002). The prognosis for a project or plan is subjected to judgment by an environment protection body.

103. On Article 14.1(c), is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction?

a)	No	
b)	No, but assessment of options is in progress	X
c)	Yes, some completed, others in progress (please provide details below)	
d)	Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on the bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biodiversity outside your country's jurisdiction.

The procedures related to transborder environmental impact of ventures and projects, strategies, policies, programmes, and plans are specified in the Environment Protection Act (2001). The Act specifies the procedures both when the impact may originate from the Polish territory and when the source of impact is located out of the Polish borders and its effects may be recorded within the Polish territory. The procedure includes the method for notifying on possible environmental impact of a venture or plan, invitation to participate in the procedure, the manner of consulting the report on environmental impact of a venture or plan and the course of submitting comments and motions by a country taking place in the procedure.

Throughout the last decade Poland has attempted to establish the functional area of "Green Lungs of Europe" covering the north-eastern borderland of Poland and extensive areas in Baltic States and Byelorussia characterised by high natural values and the highest indices of biological diversity. There

would be stricter limits for environmental permits but also promotion and support in maintaining, e.g., extensive farming. Activities to achieve that goal are under way although their results are not fully satisfactory. Projects of similar character are related to the borderline regions. Bilateral areas along the eastern border of Poland are of special importance as they cover very valuable natural habitats (either protected or unprotected) divided among Poland and Russia (obwód Kaliningradzki), Lithuania, Byelorussia and Ukraine and also Slovakia. A dozen or so such areas have been designated and the strategy for further actions has been agreed with the neighbouring countries aiming at maintaining high standards of nature conservation within their borders, including not reducing biological diversity. Similar initiatives on both sides of the southern and western borders are formalized within the simultaneously established and co-operating national parks.

Activities related to activities of living resources of the Baltic Sea are of considerable importance. Very extensive projects and formal actions within that scope related to Helsinki Convention are recognized as being in line with the Baltic obligations.

Introducing the Natura 2000 network in Poland (in fact at the end of 2004) resulted in the need for co-operation in many borderline sections where the Natura 2000 sites neighbour those established by the EU member countries or particularly valuable areas in non-member countries. Poland faces special challenges in case of river valleys being the richest carriers of biological diversity.

As regards environmental impact assessments, Poland is gradually agreeing principles of cooperation with the neighbours in the spirit of Espoo Convention (transborder assessments). Following the obligations resulting from Article 6 of Espoo Convention, Poland signed the agreement with the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (2004). The greatest interest was generated by talks concerning work on signing similar agreements with the Federal Republic of Germany, Russiann Federation, Slovakian Republic, and Czech Republic. Proceedings related to investments that might significantly affect the environment in the neighbouring countries includes also an analysis of possible depletion of biological diversity. Such agreements have been actually made with Germany and the Czech Republic (the main agreement documents were prepared in 2004).

104. On Article 14.1(d), has your country put mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your territory to biological diversity in the territory of other Parties or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction?

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	Work and activities of such character exclusively related to Espoo Convention (see above). However, the Convention requires mutuality thus it is difficult to implement unilaterally restrictions no matter how much needed they are. In spite of that, Poland several times used arguments related to conservation of biological diversity for actions intended by the neighbouring countries, which

	might deplete biodiversity (e.g., wind farms in Baltic, power lines in mountains, hydrological changes in border rivers).
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place based on current scientific knowledge	

105. On Article 14.1(e), has your country established national mechanisms for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	X
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on national mechanisms for emergency response to the activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biodiversity.

There are no special procedures developed and there are no distinct systems of comprehensive supervision. That function should be provided by and to a large degree it is provided by a set of instruments for environmental assessments (for ventures, integrated permits, strategic plans and programmes and for Natura 2000 sites). Functions related to supervision are actually fulfilled by the Environmental Protection Inspectorate, which is, however, much overloaded with work. In theory, combination of all those instruments should ensure a high level of biological diversity conservation. However, in practice it is not necessarily the case.

The procedure of agreeing local spatial development plans being in force since 2001 is a very useful tool helping conserve biological diversity. The so called eco-physiographic document being a field large-scale documentation containing both component identification (abiotic and biotic) and landscape and natural community valuation is obligatory. Such a document should also contain identification of taxons and sites requiring special protective measures. A prognosis of the environmental impact of plan provisions is an important part of a spatial development plan.

Routine operations of environmental organisations, particularly those focusing on conservation of specific animal or plant species groups or conservation of the most valuable natural areas are a permanent element of supervising biodiversity conservation. There are several tens of such organisations in Poland but only a few are actually of all-Poland character. The Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP) is an a special organisation which goes beyond activities of a society of nature lovers and deals with conservation of sites of bird occurrence (feeding and nesting grounds, migration routes), thus dealing with active biological diversity conservation. OTOP is often a party in EIA procedures when significant threats to bird habitats are anticipated. Other important organisations include: Nature Conservation League, Polish Ecological Club, Club of Naturalists Salamandra, North-Podlasie Society for the Protection of Birds, WWF and other associations established to protect specific valuable natural sites.

106. Is your country applying the Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environment-Impact-Assessment Legislation or Processes and in Strategic Impact Assessment as contained in the annex to decision VI/7 in the context of the implementation of paragraph 1 of Article 14? (decision VI/7)

a)	No	
b)	No, but application of the guidelines under consideration	
c)	Yes, some aspects being applied (please specify below)	X
d)	Yes, major aspects being applied (please specify below)	

Further comments on application of the guidelines.

The Ministry of Environment prepared recommendations to include aspects of biodiversity conservation into environmental impact of planned ventures in the form of a special expert analysis (2004). Recommendations are not of obligatory character – they constitute a commentary on the very general provision. Similar recommendations will also pertain to strategic assessments (of policies, plans, programmes and strategies). Recommendations concerning the needs for including the needs of NATURA 2000 sites into EIA reports are under preparation.

Recommendations of the Ministry of the Environment to meet the obligation to treat the environment as a whole with special emphasis on ecosystem functioning in IPPC procedures (integrated permits) are of a similar character. The first recommendations in this matter were issued at the turn of 2005.

Documents pertaining to protected areas are a very important source of recommendations concerning conservation of biological diversity and thus they should be compulsorily used for the EIA procedures (we mean here first of all protection plans).

107. On Article 14 (2), has your country put in place national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity? (decision VI/11)

a)	No	
b)	Yes (please specify the measures)	X

Further comments on national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity.

The issue of the obligation to compensate for losses in nature has been included in the amended Environmental Protection Act (2005) and they may be imposed on all the ventures for which it is necessary to obtain the so called decision on natural preconditions to implement a venture. In case of adverse impact of a venture or plan on a Natura 2000 site, compensation is obligatory. There are no detailed recommendations how such compensation should be implemented under Polish conditions. EIA reports should contain a recommendation and an outline of such compensational measures – a specific project should be approved in the course of an administrative procedure (by provincial nature conservation authorities).

Currently work on implementation Directive 2004/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage is under way at the Ministry of the Environment (Department of Environmental Policy). The Directive aims at introducing the system which unambiguously defines financial liability of entities causing environmental damage for taking preventing and remedying measures. According to the implementation plan for the Directive, it is planned among others to amend the Environment Protection Act (2001) or possibly nature Conservation Act (2004) through introducing the obligation of the responsible entity to take measures to prevent or remedy damages to habitats and protected species caused by that entity and introducing the procedure of risk estimation as a basis for defining the range of necessary actions and liability of a district governor should the required actions are not initiated. The deadline for adaptation of that Directive to the Polish legal regulations is 30 April, 2007.

108. Has your country put in place any measures to prevent damage to biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being developed	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures in place to prevent damage to biological diversity.

The necessity for taking measures counteracting adverse impact of implementation of specific investments on biological diversity follows from the provisions laid down in the Environment Protection Act. However, in spite of the obligation to include the so called mitigation measures in the procedure of preparing reports on environmental impact assessment (EIA), the environmental issues have been so far treated as a minor problem. The amendment to the Environment Protection Act (of July, 2005) has extended the scope of assessment of the impact of investments on biological diversity, including the necessity to include proposals for measures reducing the adverse effects and compensation measures in an EIA report.

109. Is your country cooperating with other Parties to strengthen capacities at the national level for the prevention of damage to biodiversity, establishment and implementation of national legislative regimes, policy and administrative measures on liability and redress? (decision VI/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but cooperation is under consideration	X
c) No, but cooperative programmes are under development	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on cooperation with other Parties to strengthen capacities for the prevention of damage to biodiversity.

In several cases the central administration responds to external signals, e.g., those given by international organisations, concerning adverse effects related to conservation of biological diversity. The IUCN report on threats to avifauna had such effect in 2005. There are no formal procedures making some signals or suggestions directly affect the substantive contents of the EIA procedures. There are also no constraints to taking into account such sources of information. Polish stances on specific issues of nature conservation may be used in a similar manner. Formal procedures and detailed agreements in this field do not fulfil that role.

Box LIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Maintaining a high standard of biological diversity conservation to a large degree relies on the system of environmental assessments. Besides, that role is played by species conservation, preservation of

natural habitats and spatial planning. It should be emphasized that those three spheres are traditionally taken into account while making environmental assessments of ventures, policies, plans, and strategies (strategic documents).

As regards the local development plans, the EIA procedure emphasises those provisions that set out rigors protecting all the environment components including the nature as a whole and as a diversity resource.

If an EIA procedure is well prepared, it should ensure conservation of biological diversity within areas located within the zone of possible impact of a planned or existing venture/ facility thanks to presenting several variants, an analysis of so called environmental variant, listing recommended mitigating measures. The EIA report and respective decisions have to contain reference for the conventions ratified by Poland also those related to nature conservation. Besides, people, institutions and organisations dealing with nature conservation (e.g., nature conservation officers, environmental organisations, bureaus of conventions on nature conservation and environment protection, etc.) take part in the EIA procedures).

There are gaps in the system as there are a number of human activities which undoubtedly have impact on biological diversity which have not been included into the so called qualification list of ventures that might significantly affect the environment.

In 2005 work on covering those situations is to be initiated, at least for Natura 2000 sites. The most significant flaw of the system is poor quality of numerous assessments and procedures and the biodiversity aspect is treated in an unsatisfactorily manner more often than others. The problem has been identified and measures are being taken to improve quality of the EIA and related procedures which is of special importance. The change in the EIA procedure of 2005 has led to simplification of the EIA procedure, greater compliance with the EU Directives and connection to the duties resulting from conservation of the Natura 2000 sites. That should improve substantive quality of documents required the legal regulations and increase the role of that system in biodiversity conservation at the national and local scales.

The above measures as well as other activities related to development of the EIA system in Poland to an increasing extent meet the Millennium Development Goals and provisions of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly in relation to conservation of species and habitat diversity. The detailed targets are expanded much less. The main problem is still insufficient substantive level of EIA procedures and reports themselves. The subject of nature, similarly as health is still insufficiently dealt with.

Article 15 - Access to genetic resources

110. Has your country endeavoured to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Parties, on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms, in accordance with paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of Article 15?	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the efforts taken by your country to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Parties, on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms.

Poland's stance is that plant genetic resources should be made available to as broad extent as possible. The main international document in this field is the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture ratified by Poland 7.02.2005. The 31st FAO session in which Poland took place has adopted the final text of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on 3.11.2001. That is the result of seven year long negotiations on the revision to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Good practice which is commonly applied also in Poland is making use of the codified principle of collection and transfer of genetic resources, which are based upon the *"International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer",* FAO 1994. They require to notify the target country on intended collection of materials, to obtain its consent and to share the collected material so that they may be left in the country of origin and to notify on the future study results. In Poland permit to collect genetic Resources was granted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (providing it pertained to crop plants or arable land).

At present issues concerning wild plant species are to a limited degree regulated by the *Nature Conservation Act*. That concerns mainly collecting biological material (individuals) from legally protected species in the wild. With respect to species covered with strict protection, the Minister of the Environment grant the consent whereas for species covered with partly protection – the Province Governor. Collecting of plant species not covered with legal protection does not require permits. However, organisations or private individuals intending to collect genetic resources in Poland customarily apply for permit to the Minister of the Environment.

111. Has your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Parties, in accordance with Article 15(6)?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the 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.

Ratifying the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Poland has committed itself to develop a system enabling various types of co-operation with countries of origin of the resources in research and modification of plant material as well as development of scientific staff and access to equipment.

112. Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and of the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources, in accordance with Article 15(7)?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place (please provide details below)	

f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the type of measures taken.

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture guarantees that Poland will commit itself along with other countries to develop a fair system of sharing knowledge resulting from research and profits originating from market use of genetic resources.

113. In developing national measures to address access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, has your country taken into account the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on national measures taken which consider the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing as set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Poland has ratified the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Treaty contains 35 articles and two annexes. Annex I is a list of crop plants available within the framework of the multilateral system. There are 35 crop plant species and 29 species of fodder plants.

Within the multilateral system, countries shall ensure easier access to genetic resources. Access is provided only to genetic resources for food production (use for pharmaceutical purposes/non-food is excluded). That access means access to information on the material. Access to breeding material covered with copyrights depend on the owner's will.

114. Is your country using the Bonn Guidelines when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and/or when negotiating contracts and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for access and benefit-sharing? (decision VII/19A)

a) No	X
b) No, but steps being taken to do so (please provide details below)	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

Please provide details and specify successes and constraints in the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines.

115. Has your country adopted national policies or measures, including legislation, which address the role of intellectual property rights in access and benefit-sharing arrangements (i.e. the issue of disclosure of origin/source/legal provenance of genetic resources in applications for intellectual property rights where the subject matter of the application concerns, or makes use of, genetic resources in its development)?

a) No	
b) No, but potential policies or measures have been identified (please specify below)	
c) No, but relevant policies or measures are under development (please specify below)	
d) Yes, some policies or measures are in place (please specify below)	X
e) Yes, comprehensive policies or measures adopted (please specify below)	

Further information on policies or measures that address the role of IPR in access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

Poland has ratified the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for implementation of the commitment.
The Plant Variety Protection (2003) regulates issues of plant variety legal protection and in particular:

1) the procedure and mode of granting and invalidating the right to preservation of newly bred or discovered and developed by a breeder varieties and also making commercial use of it;
2) the scope of the legal protection.

The European Community and Poland are willing to support introduction of the system which will oblige those who apply for patents to reveal sources of the utilised genetic resources and related traditional knowledge.

116. Has your country been involved in capacity-building activities related to access and benefit-sharing?

a) Yes (please provide details below)	
b) No	X

Please provide further information on capacity-building activities (your involvement as donor or recipient, key actors involved, target audience, time period, goals and objectives of the capacity-building activities, main capacity-building areas covered, nature of activities). Please also specify whether these activities took into account the Action Plan on capacity-building for access and benefit-sharing adopted at COP VII and available in annex to decision VII/19F.

Poland takes part in international discussions in the forums of FAO and the European Union concerning development of an international fund for genetic resources.

Box LIV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

The problem of access to the genetic resources is a relatively new issue in Poland and so far has not been recognised as the priority by the decision makers. Also financial means designated for that purpose are limited.

Poland has signed the International Act on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. After ratification of the Treaty no significant measures at the national level have been taken that would aim at developing the legal framework determining the rules of access to genetic resources. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for co-ordination of work.

At present those issues are regulated to a limited degree by the *Nature Conservation Act.* That pertains mainly to collecting biological material from the wild (individuals) of species covered with legal protection. In such cases the consent to collect protected plant or animals is granted by the Minister of the Environment. Collecting of animals occurring out of protected areas and not covered with protection does not require permits. However, organisations or private persons intending to collect genetic resources in Poland customarily also apply for permission to the Minister of the Environment.

Breeders' right are protected in Poland under the Plant Variety Legal Protection Act (2003) (Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention.
However, it is necessary to introduce the codified rules of collection and transfer of genetic resources into the legal system, which should be based upon the "International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer" FAO 1994 and introducing Material Transfer Agreements (agreements specifying the manner of using materials by users) in gene banks which specify that the material transferred is intended for research or breeding purposes.

All the measures taken comply both with the Strategic Plan of Convention Targets 2010 and Millennium Development Targets as well as with the targets adopted in the *National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Resource* and in other national and sectoral documents.

Ratifying the International Act on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Poland has made a number of commitments resulting from the spirit of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Implementation of the Treaty provisions requires development and implementation of the appropriate legal acts providing the basis for *ex situ* conservation of genetic resources of crop plants and recognizing those resources as the national heritage. The above task has been specified in the Action Plan of the National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Conservation.

Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology

117. On Article 16(1), has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other 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?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.

Ratifying the International Treaty on Plant genetic resources for Food and Agriculture, Poland committed itself to implement provisions making it easier to transfer technologies which are of importance to conservation of biological diversity.

118. On Article 16(3), has your country taken measures so that Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative arrangements are in place	
g) Not applicable	

119. On Article 16(4), 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?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	

Further information on the measures taken.

Box LV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article specifically focusing on:
a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.
International co-operation is a an important aspect of material and technology exchange. International co-operation between scientific institutions as well as among researchers representing various scientific fields related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity prosper. That is exemplified by co-operation initiated by the European botanic gardens within the scope of *ex situ* conservation of endangered plant species. Since 1981 Poland has been participating in work on conservation of plant biological diversity within IPGRI (International Protection of Genetic Resources Institute). The ECP/GR (European Conservation Programme for Genetic Resources) which constitutes a platform for implementing all the activities related to conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe. The Programme is divided into working groups dealing with individual plant groups. The groups are of international character, Polish experts are included on recommendation of the National Co-ordinator for the working group activities. Co-operation includes importing seed samples for domestic centres for plant breeding and exporting seed samples to foreign centres for plant breeding, gene banks, and for educational purposes. The IHAR National Centre for Plant Genetic Resources provides access to the IHAR gene bank databases on the Internet (http://ihar.edu.pl/gene_bank). The European databases for *Secale, Dactylis, Festuca* and *Lupinus* are kept. Courses and training sessions for scientists from third party countries organised.

Programme of Work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation

120. Has your country provided financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation? (decision VII/29)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the provision of financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation.
In January 2000, the European Commission has started the initiative aiming at defining a field in which scientific discoveries and financial resources of the European Union could be made use of in the most effective manner, in which the national and European policies will be conducted in a consistent way and the flow of knowledge and employees will take place with no restrictions – that is how the European Research Area been established. The basic quality of the European Research Area is its openness. Some guidelines for adopting the specific policy of developing co-operation in the field under discussion have been established under the Framework Programmes of the European Union such as Quality of Life (5PR) or ERA (6PR).

121. Is your country taking any measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation? (decision VII/29)	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures being considered	X
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation.

One of the targets of the European Research Area is to provide the EU countries with the possiblity of making use of international co-operation in science and technology and pave the way for closer political and economic relationships with third party countries.

122. Has your country made any technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building? (annex to decision VII/29)	
a) No	X
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, basic assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, thorough assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building.

The Polish stand is that the main stress in environmental issues should be laid on activities that would be favourable both to the economy and the environment. In the forthcoming years, the member countries should focus on supporting implementation of new environmental technologies which often lead to reduction in costs thanks to limitation of power and raw material use at the same time resulting in improvement of company competitiveness and reduction in the unit pollution emission. Therefore Poland supports implementation of the Environmental Technology Action Plan (ETAP).

123. Has your country made any assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies? (annex to decision VII/29)	
a) No	X
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies.

According to the Act on Genetically Modified Organisms (2001), introduction of any genetically modified organism should be accompanied by a detailed assessment of hazards, which determines the environmental impact of a given modification on the related species and other species living in a

given habitat. The National Biosafety Programme is under preparation which is to provide the necessary level of environmental safety with respect to genetically modified organisms through implementation of the regulatory mechanisms (legal regulations), administrative structure, methodology of risk assessment and risk prevention and mechanisms of information exchange and public participation.

Assessment of possible impact of biotechnological methods applied in livestock animal breeding has been performed.

124. Has your country identified and implemented any measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation, including assessing capacity building needs? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place and being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation.

There is no comprehensive inventory of all the technologies applied in the country although such inventories have been performed in a number of individual fields, e.g., inventory with respect to restructuring of tree species composition within the areas of air pollution, impact on trees that has been performed for 50 years, the system of fishery statistics, inventory of the existing technologies of reproduction and cultivation of protected, threatened and endangered species, the database on *ex situ* collections of endangered and protected plant species in the Polish botanical gardens, inventory of game species constituting the basis for protection and hunting use of species.

125. Has your country taken any of the measures specified under Target 3.2 of the programme of work as a preparatory phase to the development and implementation of national institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation as well as access to and adaptation of technologies of relevance to the Convention? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	
b) No, but a few measures being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please specify below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please specify below)	

Further comments on the measures taken as a preparatory phase to the development and implementation of national institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation as well as access to and adaptation of technologies of relevance to the Convention.

The issue of access to technology, its transfer and technological co-operation is subject to regulations to a limited degree. There are a few legal acts that regulate selected aspects of technology exchange mainly in terms of ensuring state security. The *Act on detailed control of international trade in goods and technologies in relation to international agreements and obligations* regulates trade in dangerous goods and technologies, including organisms which have nucleic acid sequences of pathogens and originate from organisms indicated in the special list of the Minister of Economy. *The Law on international trade in goods and technologies of strategic significance* (2000) *to state security* regulates the principles of international trade in goods, technologies and services of strategic importance to state security and also retaining international peace and safety, principles of supervising and recording that trade and liability for illegal trade in those goods, technologies and services. The aim of the *Act on the system of compliance assessment* (2002) is, *inter alia*, liquidation of technical barriers to trade and enhancement of international trade in goods. *The Plant Protection*

Act (1995) defines the principles of introducing plants and plant products into the Polish customs area, and moving them out from the area and transferring plants and plant products under the transit procedure in relation to phytosanitary safety. *The Act on Genetically Modified Organisms* (2001) regulates GMO product export and transit, whereas the *Nature Conservation Act* (2004) defines the principles of transferring plants or animals, their parts or derivatives being subject to restrictions under international agreements across the state borders under the EU regulations, including species with the provisions of Washington Convention.

Box LVI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

The Ministry of Science and Information Society is responsible for co-ordination and stimulation of scientific research on new technologies, including biotechnologies as well as supporting international co-operation within that scope.

Poland has specialised scientific and technical staff capable of getting access to new technologies.

The main factor hindering implementation of appropriate technologies is a lack of financial means. For instance, no profit from animal breeding hinders investments and interest in new technologies.

Representatives of Polish science can participate in domestic and international conferences, symposia, and seminars where information exchange takes place, personal contacts are established, ideas of common research projects are conceived. To a growing extent the study results and databases are presented on websites accessible to the general public. Scientific research and technical intuitions are responsible for implementation of new technologies. Co-operation with numerous international scientific institutions is conducted. Poland has signed trade agreements with many countries, enhancing transfer of goods and technologies.

Article 17 - Exchange of information

126. On Article 17(1), has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources with a view to assist with the implementation of the Convention and promote technical and scientific cooperation?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	

The following question (127) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

127. On Article 17(1), do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries and include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?	
a) No	
b) Yes, but they do not include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	
c) Yes, and they include categories of information listed in Article 17 (2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	

Box LVII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;

b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;

c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;

d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Thanks to a 100-year long tradition of nature research including that on identification of biological diversity components within the current Polish territory, a great body of information (although it is still incomplete) has been collected making it possible to perform a cause-and-effect analysis of long term changes in biodiversity at the level of populations and ecological systems and for a few species - also at the genetic level. The main part of that information has been and still is collected in the form of publications. That information is accessible to the general public. Making use of them, exchange among centres and international exchange are not subject to any restrictions.

For over ten years the administration and environmental protection service as well as individuals have been collecting information on biological diversity in the form of databases. The analysis of information collections on the Polish Internet performed in 2004 to meet the needs of the project *Assessment of the national conditions for global environment management* (NFOS/UNEP) shows that there is no a single consistent source of information on biological diversity. That makes it difficult to get access to the data searched. Most often the databases are placed on the websites of institutions which have been appointed for collecting and analysing data on specific components of the environment as well as ministries, universities, institutes and scientific associations, NGOs, etc. Except for data of restricted accessibility due to state security, they are available to anyone.

Information availability is the circumstance that generally favours achievement of tasks resulting from the Convention, including achievement of the targets of the Strategic Plan for the Convention, progress in achieving the "2010 Target", implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan in relation to biological diversity, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Hindrances are caused by the following:

- no address list for databases on biological diversity which makes work with them difficult;
- occasional irregularities and considerable delays in collection upgrading;
- unavailability of collections (bases) collected by individuals, sometimes containing unique pieces of information.

Article 18 - Technical and scientific cooperation

128. On Article 18(1), has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation.

In Poland there is very well developed awareness of growing significance of international co-operation in science and technology in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological conservation. Various forms of co-operation are disseminated and supported by the governmental administration (mainly the Ministry of Science and Information Society), self-governmental administration, scientific associations, associations of practitioners, NGOs and others.

The most common forms of co-operation include:

- organization (co-organization) of international specialised scientific conferences, scientific-technical events;
- bilateral contacts between universities, industry scientific institutes, NGOs, as well as private researchers and practitioners;
- participation in common or international scientific projects;
- international exchange of students, scientists, and practitioners;
- international training;

Costs of that activity are covered from various sources: from the state budget, from domestic and foreign funds supporting international exchange and also by NGOs and non-institutional sponsors.

Its effects include transfer of knowledge, skills, technologies and technical solutions.

129. On Article 18(4), 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?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant methods are under development	X
c) Yes, methods are in place	

130. On Article 18(5), 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?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide some examples below)	X

Examples for the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention.

Examples of research programmes:

Processes of pollution transport in hydrophyte wastewater treatment plants (Polish/German project);

Challenges of Biodiversity Sciences (programme of the European Science Foundation);

Integrating Population Genetics and Conservation Biology: Merging theoretical, experimental and applied approaches (program European Science Foundation);

Development of Information System on Invasive Alien Species in Poland (USA grant, 2002)

Project Nordic-Baltic Network on Invasive Species (NOBANIS)

131. Has your country established links to non-governmental organizations, private sector and other institutions holding important databases or undertaking significant work on biological diversity through the CHM? (decision V/14)	
a) No	
b) No, but coordination with relevant NGOs, private sector and other institutions under way	
c) Yes, links established with relevant NGOs, private sector and institutions	X

The following question (132) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

132. Has your country further developed the CHM to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation? (decision V/14)	
a) No	
b) Yes, by using funding opportunities	
c) Yes, by means of access to, and transfer of technology	
d) Yes, by using research cooperation facilities	
e) Yes, by using repatriation of information	
f) Yes, by using training opportunities	
g) Yes, by using promotion of contacts with relevant institutions, organizations and the private sector	
h) Yes, by using other means (please specify below)	
Further comments on CHM developments to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation.	
The question does not apply to Poland.	

133. Has your country used CHM to make information available more useful for researchers and decision-makers? (decision V/14)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant initiatives under consideration	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on development of relevant initiatives.	
The Clearing House System on biological diversity has been developed on a regular basis. In 2004 it was thoroughly rebuilt following the example of CHM working within the framework of the Convention Secretariat and published on the Ministry of the Environment server. The system originally intended mainly for decision-makers and other people whose activities are directly or indirectly related to biological diversity. The main challenge is implementation of a system of CHM upgrading and further development including its relationships with other databases (e.g., those covering scientific research	

projects conducted in Poland or nature monitoring data and other sub-systems of the State Environmental Monitoring).

134. Has your country developed, provided and shared services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of the CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions? (decision V/14)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please specify services and tools below)	X

Further comments on services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions.

As it was already mentioned at Article 133, CHM in Poland is developed on a regular basis. The main challenge is to work out solutions that ensure its relationship with other databases, either already working or just being established. Also references to issues covered by other conventions and agreements on nature are necessary.

Box LVIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Awareness of the need for international scientific and technological co-operation in the field of conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its resources is common in Poland. Both government representatives and self-governmental activists as well as individual scientists and practitioners stress that. Among the directions of comprehensive exchange of knowledge, skills, and experience among domestic and foreign centres the following ones are mentioned as of particular importance to meeting obligations resulting from participation in the Convention:

- methods for studying and assessing (defining, describing) of condition of individual biological diversity levels and elements;
- selection of indices for identification and monitoring of biological diversity;
- new technological solutions (measuring devices, remote access methods) to be used in research on biological diversity;
- organization of collecting, processing and distributing information about biological diversity conservation and sustainable use;
- methods for maximising effects attained as a result of specific research programmes and implementation projects;
- methods for assessment of biological diversity use to be applied by municipality, district, and provincial self-governments;
- management of biological diversity in a municipality including;
  - identification of economic, legal and social mechanisms affecting sustainable use of biological diversity in a municipality;
  - assessment of the role of various users of municipality area in conservation of biological diversity.

In Poland, supporting development of international scientific and technological co-operation, exchange of knowledge, skills and expertise will make achievement of Target 2 of the Convention Strategic Plan easier, particularly with respect to an increase in the country potential for implementation of the priority tasks specified in the *National Strategy for Conservation of Biological Diversity*. Those activities

will be an important step towards achievement of the "Target 2010", in particular with respect to general goals nos. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 i 11, as well as implementation of the *National Strategy* and implementation of the Action Plan concerning biological diversity. They are also an important contribution to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The main constraint to effective implementation of projects related to international scientific and technological cooperation is a lack of sufficient financial means from the state budget for the whole sphere of science and also insufficient activity of institutions and scientific milieus and local self-governments in promoting their own activities in that field and in searching for sponsors among companies and individuals interested in development of such co-operation, e.g., due to their prospective own gains.

Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

135. On Article 19(1), 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?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation are in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy and subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place	

136. On Article 19(2), has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access by Parties, on a fair and equitable basis, to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Parties?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	

Box LIX.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

The issue of transfer of state-of-the art technologies to a large degree depends on observing intellectual rights by prospective users. One of the forms of securing intellectual rights is patenting. According to the provisions laid down in the legal documents of the European Union, an organisation submitting an application in the patenting procedure, will be obliged to inform about the used sources of gene resources and the related traditional knowledge.

The European patent law is shaped by international companies. In contras to other spheres of the European economic law, in large part developed through Council or Commission directives, the European patent law has been developed through multilateral agreements. They include the following

conventions:

- Munchen Convention of 5.10.1973 on the grant of European patents (European Patent Convention– CBE);
- Luxembourg Convention of 15.12.1975 on the European patent for the Community (Community Patent Convention – CBC);
- Luxembourg Agreement of 15.12.1989 on Community patents, which has also modified the letter of certain provisions of Luxembourg Convention;
- Decision of the Council of the European patent Organisation of 16.06.1999 Chapter VI entitled "Biotechnological inventions" has been added to the Implementing Regulations to the Munchen Convention

In Poland development of the patent system related to biotechnological inventions has started in 1992 with amendment to the Inventiveness Act of 1972. Lifting the ban on patenting chemical substances, pharmaceutical products and food products provided a possibility of patenting microorganisms. In the patent law, cell organisms such as bacteria, plant and animal species, fungi including yeast, algae, protozoa, hybrydoma, non-tissue organisms capable of self-copying in living organisms such as viruses, plasmids and phages are recognised as microorganisms (wider definition than the biological one).

Biotechnological inventions are assessed by the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland (UP RP) issuing patents on the basis of the "Industrial Property Act" (2000) and the European Patent Office (EPO) operating on the basis of the European Patent Convention (EPC) also known as "Munchen Convention". Polish legal regulations have been extended by the amendment of 6 June 2002 (Dz.U. no. 108 of 2002, item 945), which came into force on the 18th of October, 2002, specifying provisions related to biotechnological inventions. That amendment constitutes implementation of Directive no. 98/44/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 6 June 1998 on legal protection of biotechnological inventions (1998).

"Plant varieties or animal breeds or purely biological methods of obtaining plants or animals are not recognised as inventions" (Article 29.1.2) . "The method of plant or animal breeding that is referred to in par. 1 subpar. 2 is purely biological if it is composed of exclusively natural phenomena such as crossbreeding or selection". (Article 29.3)

Patenting of transgenic organisms which may constitute important threat to the environment remains a controversial issue. Patents have not been issued for plants and seed resistant to herbicides and the decisions was justified with the possible threat to the environment. In spite of often controversies related to common utilisation of achievements of natural science it is possible to patent biotechnological inventions. The development that took place in this field in the recent decade made it necessary to solve a number of many essential ethic issues which have been also reflected in the changes in the European patent law.

Usually, commercialisation requires long-term investments of high risk oriented towards international markets and thus appropriate legal regulations are the most important here as well as protection of intellectual property rights which should be harmonised through international legal regulations. Appropriate patent protection constitutes the basis for technology development and transfer.

The national law related to protection of intellectual property is modified according to recommendations of international organisations, e.g., UPOV (Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) and Directives of the European Union. Registered plant varieties and animal breeds are covered with the laws of intellectual property. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for that obligation.

Article 20 – Financial resources

Box LX.

Please describe for each of the following items the quantity of financial resources, both internal and external, that have been utilized, received or provided, as applicable, to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, on an annual basis, since your country became a Party to the Convention.		
	In 2003 (date of Central Statistical Office)	In 1998-2003 (date of Central Statistical Office) For 1996-1997 no data available
a) Budgetary allocations by national and local Governments as well as different sectoral ministries	Investment expenditures: 202 900 PLN	
b) Extra-budgetary resources (identified by donor agencies)	Environmental funds: Investment expenditures: 760 100 PLN	
c) Bilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	No data	
d) Regional channels (identified by donor agencies)	No data	
e) Multilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	No data	
f) Private sources (identified by donor agencies)	Investment expenditures: - own sources: - 2 453 800 PLN - credits and loans: 222 400 PLN - other 15 000 PLN	
g) Resources generated through financial instruments, such as charges for use of biodiversity	No data	
h) Total investment expenditures for biodiversity and landscape protection	3 700 000 PLN	33 600 000 PLN
i) Total expenditures for biodiversity and landscape protection – investment expenditures and current costs	74 400 000PLN	286 700 000 PLN

Box LXI.

Please describe in detail below any major financing programmes, such as biodiversity trust funds or specific programmes that have been established in your country.
The system of biological diversity conservation in Poland is extensive. It is composed of funds originating from domestic and foreign financial institutions. Financial means are intended for various activities aiming at nature conservation, including, among others: • Conservation of habitats and ecosystems; • *In situ* and *ex situ* species conservation; • Preservation and enrichment of biological diversity in protected areas with special emphasis on national parks, landscape parks and nature reserves; • Activities aiming at restoring small retention;

- Evaluations and research projects in the field of biological diversity;
- Monitoring of condition of the natural environment;
- Environmental education of the general public and training, workshops and conferences addressed to various audiences.

In financing environmental protection in Poland it is assumed that the highest costs are borne by direct polluters (the polluter pays principle). That is the reason why the share of the state budget in financing environmental investments is declining and financial obligations of economic entities using the environment and having impact on its condition are growing.

The system of financing environmental protection in Poland is based on the four-level system of funds for environmental protection and water management: national, provincial, district and municipality ones and penalties for exceeding the permissible pollution standard levels. The National Fund and provincial funds are incorporated bodies and thus they can grant loans and return of credit instalments constitutes one of the important sources of their incomes.

Financial means collected by the funds constitute a non-budget source of financing utilised by the Ministry of the Environment, marshal offices and self-governmental district and municipality administration.

The main source of financial means is the **National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management,** which implements the *State Environmental Policy* through financing investments and various ventures in environmental protection and water management within areas important in terms the process of adaptation to the standards of the European Union. The Fund finances implementation of projects within the framework of priority programmes which are upgraded each year, including those in the field of biological diversity conservation. In 2004 financial aid is provided for projects within the following priority prgrammes:

- **Nature and landscape conservation -** protective and re-naturation measures, activities mitigating effects of human impact within areas recognised as important for implementation of the *National Strategy for Biological Diversity Conservation*; conservation under *in situ* and *ex situ* conditions and reproduction and spreading plant and animal species covered with legal protection and endangered; buyout of land and equipment for direct conservation within the areas of national parks and nature reserves of international significance; measures taken to preserve valuable elements of the native nature and landscape through restoration of park and palace-garden layouts; development of facilities used for environmental education conducted by national parks, landscape parks and in forest promotional complexes;
- **Implementation of the Environment Monitoring Programme** – conducting research-gauge projects; developing modern methodology for research, assessment, and analyses of environment condition and their implementation through pilot programmes; supporting laboratory facilities of other scientific research institutions performing measurements within the framework of the State Environmental Monitoring; supporting of the State Environmental Monitoring computer systems;
- **Programme for extending forested areas and conservation of forest resource** – implementation of the Programme for forest gene resource conservation and selective breeding of forest trees in Poland for 1991-2010 and the National Programme for Augmentation of Forest Cover; restructuring of tree stands being affected by industrial emissions, in post-disaster areas, in forest promotional complexes and in experimental forests of universities, educating staff in forestry and restoration of fire sites and other post-disaster areas; conservation of forest ecosystems against damages caused by biotic and abiotic factors; modernization of forest nurseries in order to optimise forest nursery production; implementation of comprehensive programmes of restoration and reintroduction of tree and bush species and animals;

- **Programme for developing environmental-friendly attitudes and behavioural patterns in the general public and health prophylaxis among children and young people living in areas where permissible levels of environmental pollution are exceeded** – development of facilities used for implementation of educational programmes in approved environmental education centres; support for implementation of educational programmes within the scope of active environmental education and within the framework of informational-promotional campaign; assisting with performing cyclic educational TV and radio programmes broadcast all over Poland; supporting implementation of educational programmes through production of educational aids; promotion of issues related to environmental protection and supporting educational programmes through subsiding magazines and environmental inserts; support of publishing activity; supporting various forms of training animators of environmental education; support for all-Poland conferences and seminars of particular importance to environmental education, support for competitions and ventures disseminating environmental knowledge; support for education programmes conducted by national parks, landscape parks and forest promotional complexes;
- **Support for research and expert activity for environment protection** – among others tasks related to nature conservation and forest management, tasks related to improvement of the system of environment management, tasks related to international co-operation.

Financial assistance from the National Fund is available to a wide range of entities. Self-governmental bodies, companies, institutions and offices, universities, public health service institutions, NGOs (foundations, associations), state administration and individuals may apply for financial means.

In 2004, the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management granted subsidies totalling 41 958 thousand zl within the framework of the priority programmes concerning nature and landscape conservation and forestry, including those on investment and non-investment tasks in the field of nature and landscape conservation - 17 414 thousand zl (1.9% of the total expenditures of the Fund), and forestry - 24 544 thousand zl (2.6% of the total expenditures). E.g., the following tasks were subsidized:

- Rehabilitation of the natural landscape in Kampinos Forest through land buyout and management.
- Wastewater treatment plant with the system of retention and watering of plant collections at the Botanical Centre for Conservation of Biological Diversity PAS.
- Construction of the Centre for Education and Management of Kampinos National Park.
- Preservation of the natural state of ichtyofauna in river and lake ecosystems.
- Restitution of migratory fish in Poland.
- Ecosystem conservation in Gorce National Park.

Expenditures within the above priority lines have declined by approximately 13% in relation to 2003 and as much as 22% in relation to 2002 (in 2003 the total expenditures equaled 47 919 thousand zl, in 2002 – 53 764 thousand zl). For years water and air protection are absolute priorities in financial support provided by the Fund. Such a priority pattern results from considerable shortages in the environment protection technical infrastructure.

Experience gained during the first years of the National Fund operations were encouraging enough so that the Parliament of the Republic of Poland has established 16 **provincial funds for environmental protection.** As a result of the self-governmental administration reform, they have been aggregated into 16 units corresponding to the newly established provinces. The provincial funds apply similar principles of granting financial support as the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management. Those funds specify criteria and principles of granting financial means by themselves and they usually finance up to 50% of project costs. Similarly to the National Fund, provincial funds are entitled to partly amortise loans granted providing that specific principles are observed.

District and municipality funds for environmental protection and water management operate under **the** *Environmental Protection Act* (2001). Providing financial support from district and municipality funds is regulated by dispositions of respective self-governmental bodies on the principles of subsiding and the procedure of transferring financial means from the municipality and district funds.

The core function of district and municipality funds is subsiding ventures aiming at improvement of the state of the environment and increase in environmental awareness of local populations. Neither municipality nor district funds have legal personality, they function within the city or municipality offices.

Incomes of district and municipality funds come from fees and fines for removal of trees and bushes,

fees for waste disposal and fines related to inappropriate waste disposal and other fees for commercial use of the environment and changing it. Financial means from municipality funds for environmental protection are spent also on activities related to biological diversity conservation, including in particular environmental education and dissemination of environment friendly behaviours and principles of sustainable development, supporting projects related to the state environmental monitoring, establishment and maintenance of green areas, woods or bushes and parks, activities related to ecological agriculture including support for farms producing with the ecological methods located within protected areas, and others.

Environmental protection funds are used for financing a considerable part of projects and investments in the field of environmental protection including nature conservation. Non-repayable subsidies are granted for implementation of numerous projects and funds grant low-interest loans of relatively long grace and repayment periods and a possibility of abatement in case of completing the project timely and in line with the plan. Financial means accumulated by the environmental funds are also used for subsiding preferential credits granted by the Environmental Protection Bank (Bank Ochrony Srodowiska S.A) which considerably increases the chance of obtaining subsidies on environmental investments in Poland.

Financial support for implementation of projects in the field of biological diversity conservation is granted also by the **Ekofundusz Foundation**. The Foundation manages financial means coming from the so called debt eco-conversion, that is, swap of a part of Poland's foreign debt for supporting projects in the field of environment protection. Ekofundusz subsidies are granted in five priority sectors, including the *biological diversity conservation* sector. In the priority sectors investment projects at their implementation stage are financed and in the field of biological diversity also non-investment projects. Ekofundusz subsidy for implementation of nature conservation projects may be as high as 80% of the project costs.

With respect to biological diversity conservation, Ekofundusz supports activities aiming at conservation or restoration of ecosystems which are most valuable in terms of nature conservation and conservation of endangered plant and animal species or being keystone species. First of all the following projects are subsidised:

- Active nature conservation within national parks and nature reserves;
- Protection of the most valuable wetlands and an increase in water retention in forests;
- Revitalisation of degraded forest areas and tree stand re-building in national parks and their buffer zones to increase their biological diversity;
- Active conservation of endangered species of fauna and flora.

Apart from considering individual applications, Ekofundusz organizes a number of competitions and the winners are presented with awards in the form of substantial donations.

In 1996-2002 the number of projects financed by Ekofundusz in the field of nature conservation grew on a regular basis. In 2003 Ekofundusz completed 36 subsidised projects in that field. Since 2003 all the projects related to water protection have been assigned to the sector of Baltic conservation so that only enterprises directly related to activities for active nature conservation have remained in the nature conservation sector. In 2003 subsidies accounted over 10% of all the Ekofundusz expenditures for projects in the field of environment protection and equalled 16.2 million zl. In 2003 Ekofundusz organised six all-Poland competitions including three that pertained to nature conservation in national and landscape parks, conservation of endangered fauna and flora species and conservation of wetlands.

Scientific activity, including scientific research and other forms of activity related to biological diversity is conducted by scientific and research institutions, including those of the Polish Academy of Science, sectoral R&D units and universities of various types. To a large degree their activity is financed by the **Ministry of Science and Information Scoiety** – MNiI (formerly

Committee for Scientific Research), which is the main governmental body responsible for the scientific and scientific-technological policies of the state, operating under the Act on Principles of Financing Science (2004).

MNiI finances scientific research and developmental work using financial means intended for that purpose in the state budget according to the budgetary bill and established financing flows.

Financial means coming from international financial institutions constitute an important source of financing projects related to conservation of biological diversity. One of them is the **Global Environmental Facility.** Its aim is to achieve improvement of the state of the environment through subsidising programmes and projects contributing to solution of problems of global character in crucial areas such as, *inter alia*, conservation of biological diversity. For that field, the list including five operating programmes has been prepared pertaining in particular to:

- ecosystem conservation in arid and semi-arid regions;
- conservation of freshwater, marine and coastal ecosystems;
- conservation of forest ecosystems;
- conservation of montane ecosystems;
- conservation and rational use of biological diversity related to agriculture.

All the above GEF operating programmes in the field of biological diversity are substantively and formally justified both in the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, and in later sets of guidance being the effect of the successive meetings of the Conference of the parties to the Convention.

The Small Grants Program which has been established in 1992 on the initiative of the United Nations Developmental Program plays a special role in the GEF activities. The Small Grants Programme (SGP) is addressed mainly to NGOs and local communities and in terms of the contents it pertains mainly to projects within the priority areas of the Fund activity, including biological diversity. The programme constitutes a supplement to projects financed in the form of medium-sized or large donations. Conducting and co-ordination of activities under the Programme have been de-centralised by GEF and presently projects are conducted within the national frameworks.

In Poland, the Small Grants Programme has started in January 1994, in the Polish office of UNDP in Warsaw. Since the beginning of its activity in Poland, over 150 projects were subsidised under the Programme of total value 3.7 million USD. Some of the projects were financed jointly by SGP and the Ekofundusz Foundation.

The European Union funds are an important source of financing activities related to biological diversity conservation in Poland. In the field of environment protection, including nature conservation, ISPA and SAPARD funds are the most important.

ISPA Programme (Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession) aims at support of investments related to environment protection (mainly in the sectors of water-sewage management, air protection and waste management as well as transport). S**APARD Programme (Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development)** has been established because of insufficient rate

of development in rural areas of all the candidate countries. SAPARD financial means are used for investments in agriculture and food industry, development and improvement of infrastructure in rural areas, occupational training, activities aiming at diversification of business operations in rural areas. Beneficiaries of the Programme include municipalities, farmers and companies. Agri-environmental programmes are implemented in Poland under Action 5 of the *SAPARD Operating programme*. The aims of the programmes include donating farming practice that is beneficiary to nature conservation within rural areas including among others development of ecological agriculture, retaining biological diversity of species and habitats, preservation of livestock animal breeds and plant varieties, landscape development.

Financial support for activities related to conservation of biological diversity is granted by NGOs. International organisations dealing with nature conservation which contribute most to financing projects in Poland include WWF (World Wide Fund) and IUCN (The World Conservation Union).

137. On Article 20(1), has your country provided financial support and incentives to those national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention?

No	
Yes, incentives only (please provide a list of such incentives below)	
Yes, financial support only	X
Yes, financial support and incentives (please provide details below)	

Further comments on financial support and incentives provided.

The targeted funds (National/ Provincial Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management) are focused first of all on implementation of projects specified in the National Strategy and thus on financial support for the targets adopted in the Convention. Within the "nature conservation" priority, fulfillment of the tasks laid down in the National Strategy is financed from the targeted funds (National and Provincial Funds for Environment Protection and Water Management). However, when analyzing the priorities assumed by the National Fund in relation to the needs of biological diversity conservation in Poland, a lack of full consistency between them and classifying tasks not directly related to nature conservation as expenditures on nature conservation is noticeable (e.g., investments related to implementation of environment protection infrastructure in the facilities of the nature conservation service, that is, construction of a wastewater treatment plant in the premises of the National Park management). Moreover, as the experience of 2004 shows, subsidies for investment ventures considerably exceed expenditures on non-investment activities (conservation of the landscape and nature 73% and 27%, respectively, forestry – 61% and 39%). The targets of the *National Strategy* are implemented by other funds, e.g., EkoFundusz.

The next question (138) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

138. ■ On Article 20(2), 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 fulfill the obligations of the Convention?	
a) No	
b) Yes (please indicate the amount, on an annual basis, of new and additional financial resources your country has provided)	
Further comments on new and additional financial resources provided.	
The question does not apply to Poland.	

The next question (139) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

139. ■ On Article 20(2), has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable it to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?	
a) No	
b) Yes	X

140. ■ Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector? (decision V/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but procedures being established	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on processes to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector.	
The bodies supervising the targeted funds (National and Provincial Funds for Environmental Protection and Water Management) are supervisory boards established under the Environmental Protection Act (2001) and their duties include, *inter alia*, specifying financing priorities and supervision over expenditures and their effectiveness. Annual reports on their activity are a special tool for monitoring the expenditures. Financial means that are at disposal of the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management are connected to the state budget and thus they are supervised by the Parliament (budget approval and accepting the governmental report on budget execution). However, none comprehensive system of monitoring financial means allocated for biological diversity conservation has been established so far.	

141. Has your country considered any measures like tax exemptions in national taxation systems to encourage financial support to biodiversity? (decision V/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but exemptions are under development (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, exemptions are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on tax exemptions for biodiversity-related donations.

There are a number of solutions introduced into the Polish tax system that are to promote activities for conservation of biological diversity. One of the examples is exempt from taxes on land and from forest tax (paid to local self-governments) for areas covered with legal protection (national parks and nature reserves) and protective forests. Also all areas classified as ecological grants in geodetic registers are not subject to taxation. Adopting such a solution made it possible to reduce pressure of commercialisation on areas of high natural value.

142. Has your country reviewed national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance allocated to biodiversity, with particular attention paid to positive incentives and their performance as well as perverse incentives and ways and means for their removal or mitigation? (decision VI/16)	
a) No	X
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes (please provide results of review below)	

Further comments on review of national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance.

143. Is your country taking concrete actions to review and further integrate biodiversity considerations in the development and implementation of major international development initiatives, as well as in national sustainable development plans and relevant sectoral policies and plans? (decisions VI/16 and VII/21)	
a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	X
c) Yes, in some initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	

Further comments on review and integration of biodiversity considerations in relevant initiatives, policies and plans.

144. Is your country enhancing the integration of biological diversity into the sectoral development and assistance programmes? (decision VII/21)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, into some sectoral development and assistance programmes	X

(please provide details below)	
d) Yes, into major sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the integration of biodiversity into sectoral development and assistance programmes
Under Polish conditions that applies first of all to agriculture and is integrated within the framework of the system of financial support for farmers who conduct their activity within agri-environmental programmes. Due to a very short time of implementing them (from this year on) evaluation of the mechanism effectiveness is not possible yet.

The next question (145) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

145. Please indicate with an "**X**" in the table below in which area your country has provided financial support to developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.

Areas	**Support provided**
a) Undertaking national or regional assessments within the framework of MEA (decision VI/8)	
b) *In-situ* conservation (decision V/16)	
c) Enhance national capacity to establish and maintain the mechanisms to protect traditional knowledge (decision VI/10)	
d) *Ex-situ* conservation (decision V/26)	
e) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)	
f) Implementation of the Bonn Guidelines (decision VI/24)	
g) Implementation of programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (decision V/5)	
h) Preparation of first report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources (decision VI/17)	
i) Support to work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and development of regional and sub regional networks or processes (decision VI/27)	
j) Development of partnerships and other means to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the programme of work on dry and subhumid lands biological diversity (decision VII/2)	
k) Financial support for the operations of the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VII/9)	
l) Support to the implementation of the Action Plan on Capacity Building as contained in the annex to decision VII/19 (decision VII/19)	
m) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity (decision VII/27)	
n) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on protected	

areas (decision VII/28)	
o) Support to the development of national indicators (decision VII/30)	
p) Others (please specify)	

Further information on financial support provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The question does not apply to Poland.

The next question (146) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

146. Please indicate with an "**X**" in the table below in which areas your country has applied for funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), from developed countries and/or from other sources. The same area may have more than one source of financial support. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.

Areas	Applied for funds from		
	GEF	Bilateral	Other
a) Preparation of national biodiversity strategies or action plans	X		
b) National capacity self-assessment for implementation of Convention (decision VI/27)	X		
c) Priority actions to implement the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision V/9)			
d) *In-situ* conservation (decision V/16)			
e) Development of national strategies or action plans to deal with alien species (decision VI/23)			
f) *Ex-situ* conservation, establishment and maintenance of *Ex-situ* conservation facilities (decision V/26)			
g) Projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 (Education and Public Awareness) (decision VI/19)			
h) Preparation of national reports (decisions III/9, V/19 and VI/25)	X		
i) Projects for conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity (decision IV/4)			
j) Activities for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity (decision V/5)	X		
k) Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision VI/26)	X		
l) Implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative			
m) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity			

n) Others (please specify) - Clearing House Mechanism			

Further information on application for financial support.

The GEF financial means were intended for preparing the 1st national report (1998) and the *National Strategyfor conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity with the Action Plan* (1999), the National Programme of Biological Safety (1999), the Programme of agricultural biological diversity conservation (within the framework of the Enabling Activities) (2003), and also for development of the Clearing House Mechanism for Biological Diversity (1997).

Box LXII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;

b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;

c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;

d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

f) constraints encountered in implementation.

The system of financing environmental protection, including conservation of biological diversity is exceptionally well developed in Poland. Irrespective of the state budget, the targeted funds operate (at the national, provincial and municipality levels) and there are other sources. They finance investment and non-investment projects in line with the priorities adopted in the strategic documents (including those in the National Strategy). In the face of the necessity for reducing an important backlog in the environment protection technical infrastructure, the problem with availability of those means is posed by a relatively low priority given to applications directly related to conservation of biological conservation. Another problem is formal or procedural barriers hindering or preventing entities acting for nature conservation from acquiring non-budget financial means. Apart from providing sufficient financial means to achieve the targets adopted by the Convention, also their effective spending is an important problem.

Poland makes use of the recently available EU mechanisms (e.g., the LIFE-Nature programme) of financial support for conservation of biological diversity to an insufficient degree.

All the measures taken are consistent with the Strategic Convention plan, 2010 Target and Millennium Development Goals as well as with the targets adopted in the national Strategy for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and in other All-Poland and sectoral documents.

D. THEMATIC AREAS

147. Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the thematic programmes of work of the Convention (marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands and mountain biodiversity).	
3 = High Challenge	1 = Low Challenge
2 = Medium Challenge	0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome
N/A = Not applicable	

Challenges	**Programme of Work**					
	Agricultural	**Forest**	**Marine and coastal**	**Inland water ecosystem**	**Dry and subhumid lands**	**Mountain**
(a) Lack of political will and support	2	1	3	2	N/A	2
(b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	1	1	2	2	N/A	2
(c) Lack of main-streaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	1	1	2	2	N/A	2
(d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	1	1	1	1	N/A	1
(e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	1	0	1	1	N/A	1
(f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	1	1	1	1	N/A	1
(g) Loss of traditional knowledge	2	N/A	1	1	N/A	1
(h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	1	1	2	1	N/A	1
(i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	2	2	3	2	N/A	2
(j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	2	1	2	1	N/A	1
(k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	1	1	1	1	N/A	1
(l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	2	2	3	2	N/A	2

(m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	2	2	2	2	N/A	2
(n) Lack of economic incentive measures	2	2	3	2	N/A	2
(o) Lack of benefit-sharing	2	2	3	3	N/A	2
(p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	2	2	3	3	N/A	2
(q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	2	2	3	2	N/A	2
(r) Lack of effective partnerships	2	2	3	2	N/A	2
(s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	2	1	2	2	N/A	2
(t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	0	0	2	1	N/A	1
(u) Poverty	1	1	1	0	N/A	0
(v) Population pressure	1	1	2	1	N/A	1
(w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	1	1	2	1	N/A	1
(x) Lack of capacities for local communities	1	1	1	1	N/A	1
(y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	1	1	2	1	N/A	1
(z) Weak law enforcement capacity	1	1	1	1	N/A	1
(aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	1	1	1	1	N/A	1
(bb) Others (please specify)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Inland water ecosystems

148. Has your country incorporated the objectives and relevant activities of the programme of work into the following and implemented them? (decision VII/4)

Strategies, policies, plans and activities	No	Yes, partially, integrated but not implemented	Yes, fully integrated and implemented	N/A
a) Your biodiversity strategies and action plans			X	
b) Wetland policies and strategies		X		
c) Integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans being developed in line with paragraph 25 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development		X		
d) Enhanced coordination and cooperation between national actors responsible for inland water ecosystems and biological diversity	X			

Further comments on incorporation of the objectives and activities of the programme of work

In Poland, during the last 5 years, a number of documents providing legal basis for the sustainable management of surface water resources and for the sustainable use of biological diversity have been newly elaborated or amended.

A detailed document concerning the basic one entitled *The National Environmental Policy for 2003-2006 with the perspective on 2007-2010*, was accepted in 2002 and describes the problem from the ecological point of view, specifically the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity. It is called the *National strategy for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity* with *The action plan*, which was accepted by the Council of Ministers in 2003. It concerns mainly the surface waters and wetlands. Wetlands are also the main object of *The strategy for wetland conservation in Poland,* whose project was prepared in 2004.

The basic legal deed concerning problems related to the issue of waters is the *act The Water Law (2001);* it regulates the water management according to the sustainable development rule, particularly the formation and protection of water resources, use of waters and management of water resources. The final implementation of the document is being delayed, mainly due to the lack of an earlier national strategy of water management (the project of the document is now being adjusted). The *Water Law* is also criticized for not being fully compliant with the EU Framework Water Directive and for allowing several national actors to control the waters (lack of an integrated water management system). In result, it is difficult to determine and enhance coordination and cooperation between authorities responsible for inland water ecosystems and biological diversity.

149. Has your country identified priorities for each activity in the programme of work, including timescales, in relation to outcome oriented targets? (decision VII/4)

a) No	
b) Outcome oriented targets developed but priority activities not developed	
c) Priority activities developed but not outcome oriented targets	X

d) Yes, comprehensive outcome oriented targets and priority activities developed	

Further comments on the adoption of outcome oriented targets and priorities for activities, including providing a list of targets (if developed).

The National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity with The Action Plan lists particular targets to be achieved in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of water ecosystems, as well as describes the priority activities, timescales of their realization, costs and financial sources. The group of activities of the highest priority (obligatory at the current stage) consists of:

- implementing programmes for and increase in catchment basin retention and renaturation of hydrological system, including bringing back to life natural ox-bows, restoration of small water bodies, protection water flow between ecosystems, protecting moors, marshes, forests and bushes as natural retention areas;
- elaborating, within framework of the plan of water management in the area of river basins, propositions concerning improvement of catchment basin water resources and restoration of devastated river valleys (moors, marshes, oxbow lakes);
- realization of nature monitoring, including tasks connected with international commitments;
- inventory of devastated water and marsh ecosystems;

Many of the targets listed in the *National Strategy* and concerning ecosystems, which are the object of the Ramsar Convention, are mentioned in more detail in the amended project *Strategy of protecting wetlands in* Poland, prepared in 2004 under the auspices of the Ministry of the Environment. It consists of seven strategic targets concerning the necessity for national conservation of wetland habitats:

- introducing changes into the legal system, so that the rules in various documents would prevent from degradation and help protect and use in a sustainable manner wetlands in a complex and consonant way;
- designating priority areas, which need to be protected and renaturated;
- producing an effective system of monitoring wetlands;
- providing conditions for taking protective measures and sound management within wetlands;
- creating an effective financial system for protecting water and marsh areas;
- creating forms and mechanisms of cooperation between institutions protecting water and marsh areas, as well as synchronizing the activities within the confines of international commitments and national strategies and programs;
- ensuring proper education and promotion of wetland values, threats to those ecosystems and the need for conservation.

150. Is your country promoting synergies between this programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level? (decision VII/4)	
a) Not applicable (not Party to Ramsar Convention)	
b) No	
c) No, but potential measures were identified for synergy and joint implementation	X
d) Yes, some measures were taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	

Further comments on the promotion of synergies between the programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level.

The analysis of fulfillment of tasks under the Biological Diversity Convention and Ramsar Convention performed in 2004-2005 (*Assessment of the domestic conditions for managing global environment*) indicated many fields in which joint measures could be taken improving effectiveness of implementation provisions set out in the two Conventions. That applies first of all to the following:

- priority measures, the same for both conventions;
- use of scientific research and advisory base (stock-taking, monitoring, research, consulting);
- improving social conscience (education and spreading knowledge);
- transferring technologies;

151. Has your country taken steps to improve national data on: (decision VII/4)

Issues	Yes	No	No, but development is under way
a) Goods and services provided by inland water ecosystems?			X
b) The uses and related socioeconomic variables of such goods and services?			X
c) Basic hydrological aspects of water supply as they relate to maintaining ecosystem function?	X		
d) Species and all taxonomic levels?	X		
e) On threats to which inland water ecosystems are subjected?	X		

Further comments on the development of data sets, in particular a list of data sets developed in case you have replied "**YES**" above.

ad;

a) self-government administration and associations develop local and regional databases on recreational and tourist use of reservoirs (sailing, canoeing)

b) promoting data base concerning fish caught by anglers (species, quantity, age); they ar-e carried out for reservoirs within protected areas and those used by the Polish Angling Association;

c) carrying out research programmes orientated towards elaborating models of calculating infrangible flows of different kinds of waters and their sustainable use;

d) in Poland, research on surface waters covers analyses of species composition of all the hydrobiont groups; results are stored in dispersed data bases, as well as published in commonly accessible specialist journals;

e) in 2000-2004 biological monitoring of surface waters was carried out (as an element of the National Environment Monitoring); its results are available in the national data base of PMS (National Environment Monitoring);

f) threats resulting from water pollution are registered at PMS; information is gathered and made available in the PMS data base, as well as in the annual reports on the environment's condition;

152. Has your country promoted the application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems? (decision VII/4)	
a) No, the guidelines have not been reviewed	
b) No, the guidelines have been reviewed and found inappropriate	
c) Yes, the guidelines have been reviewed and application/promotion is pending	X
d) Yes, the guidelines promoted and applied	

Further comments on the promotion and application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

Methods of quick assessment of surface water biological diversity were elaborated for the needs of biological monitoring and partly implemented during its realization between 2000 and 2004. They were mainly indicatory methods; they enabled evaluation of water ecosystem condition, as well as biological diversity on the grounds of analyzing species and groups of organisms that play the main role in the ecosystem functioning (for example, presence of aerobic species, role of predators in the nekton, etc.). Nowadays, this monitoring has been suspended until a new method is elaborated, which corresponds to the commitments resulting from joining the EU by Poland.

Box LXIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Poland is a country with very low and decreasing renewable water resources (on average, around 1 400 m^3 per inhabitant per year). This condition forces the authorities to take care of water resources and water ecosystems, as well as biological diversity. As a result, various activities, which are to protect and enable sustainable use are undertaken. The most important ones include the following:

- developing the law, strategy and programs, which guarantee supplying the nation with clean water as well as stability of biological diversity;
- developing, supporting and implementing scientific research, international cooperation and technology exchange, which help protect water and its ecosystems;
- organizing and developing surface water and biological diversity monitoring and assessment systems, supporting establishment and development of water resources' and water ecosystems' data base;
- broadening necessary knowledge and shaping social attitudes enabling implementation of the targets;
- promoting and supporting pro-environmental activities carried out by local self-governments,

groups of manufacturers and consumers, and NGOs;

- promoting and supporting traditional forms of water use: fishing, tourism, recreation;
- promoting and supporting activities, which lead to reduction in water pollution;
- restoring natural sequences of habitats and ecological processes from the springs up to the mouths of devastated rivers and keeping them in the others; restoring natural spatial structure (horizontal and vertical) in lakes;

The above activities lead, in surface waters and their ecosystems, to fulfillment of targets resulting from the Biological Diversity Convention, as well as to achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention and to improvement in achieving the "2010 goals", mainly thanks to:

- reinforcing the sustainable use of biological diversity resources of the waters; (General Goal 4);
- stopping and afterwards restoring natural water habitats (General Goal 5);
- improving the quality condition of surface waters, obtaining a biological diversity, that is able to adopt itself to possible climate changes (General Goal 7);
- improving and differentiating biological resources to a level, which enables local communities to obtain them in traditional ways (General Goals 8 and 9);

These activities contribute to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the areas of lake districts and river basins, particularly to guarantee their sustainable development;

Constraints encountered in implementation are caused by:

- no catchment basin management plans for water basins leading to the fact that permits for water use are granted by local self-governments in an uncoordinated way, with no consideration given to the systemic aspect of catchment basins;
- general deficit of financial funds, which prevents form implementation of strategies and programs, development of scientific research, technology transfers and preserving traditional qualifications and professions;

Marine and coastal biological diversity

General

153. Do your country's strategies and action plans include the following? Please use an "**X**" to indicate your response. (decisions II/10 and IV/15)	
a) Developing new marine and coastal protected areas	X
b) Improving the management of existing marine and coastal protected areas	X
c) Building capacity within the country for management of marine and coastal resources, including through educational programmes and targeted research initiatives (if yes, please elaborate on types of initiatives in the box below)	
d) Instituting improved integrated marine and coastal area management (including catchments management) in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loads into the marine environment	X
e) Protection of areas important for reproduction, such as spawning and nursery areas	X
f) Improving sewage and other waste treatment	X
g) Controlling excessive fishing and destructive fishing practices	X
h) Developing a comprehensive oceans policy (if yes, please indicate	

current stage of development in the box below)	
i) Incorporation of local and traditional knowledge into management of marine and coastal resources (if yes, please elaborate on types of management arrangements in the box below)	
j) Others (please specify below)	
k) Not applicable	

Please elaborate on the above activities and list any other priority actions relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

a) Marine and coastal system protected areas are slowly being developed, also within the Natura 2000 network. It is planned, that new areas within the confines of the Baltic System Protection Area (BSPA) will be created;

b) Management of coastal areas is rather effective. In case of seawater, there are still too many conflicts resulting both from superimposing competences and from a different idea about the functions of these areas;

c) There are very few attempts to introduce the ecosystem approach and following that – appropriate management of marine and coastal areas. There are no helpful activities in the sphere of education in this matter;

d) So far, integrated management of coastal zone has been considered purely theoretically in some scientific milieus, however it has not been implemented yet;

e) Officially, fish spawning grounds have been designated in Poland, actually, that does not affect the fishing industry. Areas important to marine mammals (seals, porpoises) are not actively conserved either;

f) The problem of reducing the amount of polluted water flowing into the Baltic Sea, is one of the most important goals in the national environmental policy. With respect to marine biological diversity, the emphasis is too strong when compared to other, not so often stressed threats;

g) Officially, this kind of control should be practiced. However, practically, it does not have any influence on the adverse effects of fishing (for example, the problem of small fish);

h) Poland does not conduct research in this matter;

i) The problem does not appear to have any adverse effects in Poland;

Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

154. 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	X
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management.

Integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems concerns the marine industry, but the current stage of implementing it is very limited.

155. Has your country implemented ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal resources, for example through integration of coastal management and watershed management, or through integrated multidisciplinary coastal and ocean management?	
a) No	
b) Early stages of developme nt	X
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of application of the ecosystem to management of marine and coastal resources.	
Ecosystem approach to marine economy is subject to discussion mainly in the scientific milieu dealing with the issue of nature conservation in Baltic.	

Marine and Coastal Living Resources

156. Has your country identified components of your marine and coastal ecosystems, which are critical for their functioning, as well as key threats to those ecosystems?	
a) No	X
b) Plans for a comprehensive assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
c) A comprehensive assessment is currently in progress	
d) Critical ecosystem components have been identified, and management plans for them are being developed (please provide details below)	
e) Management plans for important components of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of assessment, monitoring and research relating to marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as key threats to them	
This problem is discussed to a very limited extent. For example, the Marine Station belonging to Gdansk University and located at the Hel Peninsula carries out activities connected with conservation of seals and porpoises, as well as performs monitoring of by-catches.	

157. Is your country undertaking the following activities to implement the Convention's work plan on coral reefs? Please use an "**X**" to indicate your response.

Activities	**Not implemented nor a priority**	**Not implemented but a priority**	**Currently implemented**	**Not applicable**
a) Ecological assessment and monitoring of reefs				
b) Socio-economic assessment and monitoring of communities and stakeholders				
c) Management, particularly through application of integrated coastal management and marine and coastal protected areas in coral reef environments				

d) Identification and implementation of additional and alternative measures for securing livelihoods of people who directly depend on coral reef services				
e) Stakeholder partnerships, community participation programmes and public education campaigns				
f) Provision of training and career opportunities for marine taxonomists and ecologists				
g) Development of early warning systems of coral bleaching				
h) Development of a rapid response capability to document coral bleaching and mortality				
i) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded coral reef habitats				
j) Others (please specify below)				
Please elaborate on ongoing activities.				
That does not apply to Poland.				

Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

158. Which of the following statements can best describe the current status of marine and coastal protected areas in your country? Please use an "**X**" to indicate your response.	
a) Marine and coastal protected areas have been declared and gazetted (please indicate below how many)	
b) Management plans for these marine and coastal protected areas have been developed with involvement of all stakeholders	X
c) Effective management with enforcement and monitoring has been put in place	
d) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas is under development	X
e) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas has been put in place	
f) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas managed for purpose of sustainable use, which may allow extractive activities	X
g) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas which exclude extractive uses	
h) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas is surrounded by sustainable management practices over the wider marine and coastal environment.	
i) Other (please describe below)	
j) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of marine and coastal protected areas.
Gradually, 20-year protection plans for the marine protected areas are being developed. Soon, conservation plans for the designated sites of the Natura 2000 should be completed. The procedure of preparing them is based on cooperation with all interested stakeholders. Developing the system of marine protected areas has not been finished, yet. Currently, plans to include two new areas (Lawica Slupska and Lawica Odrzana) into the BSPA are being prepared. During the following years it is necessary to carry out a detailed valuation of natural resources in other areas of the Baltic region belonging to Poland.

Mariculture

159. Is your country applying the following techniques aimed at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity? Please check all that apply.	
a) Application of environmental impact assessments for mariculture developments	
b) Development and application of effective site selection methods in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management	
c) Development of effective methods for effluent and waste control	
d) Development of appropriate genetic resource management plans at the hatchery level	
e) Development of controlled hatchery and genetically sound reproduction methods in order to avoid seed collection from nature.	
f) If seed collection from nature cannot be avoided, development of environmentally sound practices for spat collecting operations, including use of selective fishing gear to avoid by-catch	
g) Use of native species and subspecies in mariculture	
h) Implementation of effective measures to prevent the inadvertent release of mariculture species and fertile polypoids.	
i) Use of proper methods of breeding and proper places of releasing in order to protect genetic diversity	
j) Minimizing the use of antibiotics through better husbandry techniques	
k) Use of selective methods in commercial fishing to avoid or minimize by-catch	
l) Considering traditional knowledge, where applicable, as a source to develop sustainable mariculture techniques	
m) Not applicable	X
Further comments on techniques that aim at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.	
In Poland, the problem of marine farming practically does not exist. The Seal Restitution Center, taken care of by the Marine Station, belonging to Gdansk University, located in the Hel Peninsula, may be a special exception. One of its aims is to breed the endangered species in order to strengthen the Baltic populations. There are plans to extend these actions to help other endangered species, also fish.	

Alien Species and Genotypes

160. Has your country put in place mechanisms to control pathways of introduction of alien species in the marine and coastal environment? Please check all that apply and elaborate on types of measures in the space below.	
a) No	
b) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from ballast water have been put in place (please provide details below)	X
c) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from hull fouling have been put in place (please provide details below)	
d) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from aquaculture have been put in place (please provide details below)	X
e) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from accidental releases, such as aquarium releases, have been put in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of activities relating to prevention of introductions of alien species in the marine and coastal environment, as well as any eradication activities.

Ad b) In 2004, Poland signed the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediments document, obligating itself to implement the resolutions of the Convention, whose aim is to protect against invasion of alien species transported by ballast waters. The Convention did not become effective. The activities connected with putting the Convention resolutions into effect are still at an initial stage in Poland.

Ad d) According to the recently amended Fishery Act (2004) 2001, carrying out breeding, fish farming and fish hatchery in Polish marine areas, requires a permission and needs to be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture. If the planned investment would be dangerous for the marine environment, such permission is not given. Threat or danger may be understood as the possibility of escaping from the farm. The permission may be cancelled if the investment is carried out against the rules stated in the permission or the enterprise causes harm to the marine environment.

Box LXIV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Activities undertaken to implement the marine ecosystems in the Baltic areas belonging to Poland are very limited and insufficient. Problems concern both the substantive problems and those related to competence. Implementing NATURA 2000 became an impulse for discussion in this matter. Thanks to Nature 2000 a few new marine protected areas have been created. Tasks, which the authorities of these areas are facing will require changes in the legal system.

It is difficult to state, that tasks, which are being achieved, contribute in an important way to the implementation of goals stated in the *National strategy of protection and moderate biological diversity* use, as well as goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, "2010 Goals" and the Millennium Development Goals.

Until now, international organizational and legal regulations, concerning the introduction of alien species into the marine environment, were not sufficiently developed. Until now, research has been carried out on an initial scale. We assume that in the future, together with the growth of effectiveness in

international problem-solving (for example, putting into effect the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments document), research in this field will be intensified and will lead to the achievement of goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, as well as the "2010 Target".

Agricultural biological diversity

161. ? Has your country developed national strategies, programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components? (decisions III/11 and IV/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but strategies, programmes and plans are under development	
c) Yes, some strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on agrobiodiversity components in national strategies, programmes and plans.

Since the beginning of the process of industrial transformation of our country, a number of programme documents have been created, important for Polish agriculture and agricultural policy. We can mention:

- Strategy for agriculture and rural areas (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 1990);
- Coherent Structural Policy for Rural Areas and Agriculture Development (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 1999);
- National Environmental Policy for 2003 – 2006 (Ministry of the Environment, 2002);
- National Programme for Augmentation of the Forest Cover (Ministry of the Environment, 2003);
- National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (Ministry of Environment, 2003);
- National Development Plan 2004 – 2006 (Ministry of Economy, Labor and Social Policy, 2003).

The aim of the above documents was to define the directions of agriculture and rural area development, together with a long-term activity strategy. The above documents are consistent mainly because of the same goal: to define the sustainable development in rural areas.

Among the main ideas of the *Coherent Structural Policy for Rural Areas and Agriculture Development*, pressure is put on improving the sustainable development in rural areas, protecting natural resources together with rural cultural heritage. This document assigned the ways of using pre-accession funds of the SAPARD Program and was a guideline for future programs.

The aims of sustainable development in Poland have been specified in the Second National Environmental Policy (accepted by the Council of Ministers on the 13th of June, 2000). They focus on providing conditions for implementation of sustainable social and economic strategies. The document states that priority will be given to well performed economic practices and environment management systems, which will enable associations between the economic and ecological effects. It was also mentioned, that biological and landscape diversity protection is important for guaranteeing ecological safety of the country. The main aims in this matter are:

- guaranteeing protection and reasonable use of soil resources existing in Poland; z
- improvement of the environment's condition, elimination or reduction in threats to biological and landscape diversity conservation;
- preservation, restoration and enrichment of nature resources;
- attaining common approval to preserve the whole Polish natural and cultural heritage;

The National Development Plan 2004 – 2006 (NPR) is a document accepted by the Council of Ministers on the 11th of February 2003. It determines the strategies for social-economic development of Poland in its first years of membership to the EU. The National Development Plan constitutes the basis for planning particular intervention fields, as well as long-term regional and horizontal operating

programmes. Currently, the National Development Plan for 2007-2013 is being prepared.

The Rural Area Development Plan (PROW) pursue the goals, priorities and roles, which support activities concerning sustainable rural development. The plan consists of activities classified into the so called Second Pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy and is co-financed by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund and the national budget. Elaborated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Rural Development Plan for 2004-2006 was approved by the European Commission on the 6th of September 2004.

The legal basis for the Rural Area Development Plan is as follows:

- Council Regulation (EC) no. 1257/1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund;
- Commission Regulation (EC) no. 445/2002 laying down detailed rules for application of Council Regulation (EC) no. 1257/1999
- Council Regulation (EC) no. 1783/2003 amending Rugulation (EC) no. 1257/1999.

As of the 1st of January 2002, by virtue of a document issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, due to organizational changes in farming, the National Coordination Center for Animal Genetic Resources, was moved from the National Research Institute of Animal Production, which is now responsible for activities related to conservation of livestock animal genetic resources. The decision was confirmed by the regulation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development concerning the institution entitled to conducting or co-ordinating activities related to conservation of genetic resources of livestock animals (2004).

Until 2004, supporting activities concerning genetic animal resource conservation, was entirely financed from the Ministry of Agriculture funds.

Since 2005, activities connected to conservation of livestock animal genetic resources and supported by the state, are based on two sources of financial aid:

- Task 4: Supporting agri-environmental enterprises and animal wellness under the Rural Development Program for 2004-2006

- Budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (annual decrees concerning the rates of funding for various institutions and associations active in the agriculture field)

Under Activities 4, the G01 package Conservation of local breeds of livestock animals, the following species and breeds are covered with protection:

G01a Cattle: Polish Red cattle, White-backed cattle;

G01b Horses: Polish horses, Hucul ponies, Malopolska breed horses, Silesian breed horses;

G01c Sheep: Polish Wrzosówka sheep, Polish Swiniarka sheep, Polish Olkuska sheep, Polish coloured mountain sheep, Coloured Merynos sheep, Uhruska sheep, Wielkopolska breed sheep, Zelazienska breed sheep, Polish Korideil sheep, Kamienicka breed sheep, Pomorskie breed sheep;

The other breeds/varieties and lines of swine, poultry, fur-bearing animals, fish and bees are financed according to old rules, from the Ministry of Agriculture budget.

Protection of plant genetic resources is subsidized following the annual regulation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the subsidy rates for various entities acting for agriculture (2004). Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute in Radzikóww is the coordinator of the program, in which 13 different research organizations are involved.

162. ? Has your country identified 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? (decision V/5)	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
c) Yes, some measures identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures identified (please provide details below)	

Further information on ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the *In-situ* and *Ex-situ* conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.

The GURT techniques are mostly joined together with genetically modified organisms. The "terminator's" technique was supposed to guarantee the breeder or owner of the specimen control over the sowing material and a sufficient reimbursement thanks to having the only right to breed the certain specimen. Recently, these techniques have been given up and there are no signs of using them.

Evaluation of these techniques differed. It was feared, that there might be potential flow of genes to other specimen or wild species. Advocates of this method claimed that the GURT technique guarantees safe cultivation of genetically modified plants because seeds of the following generation do not sprout. Because of possible hazard to the environment, the GURT techniques should be treated as techniques of genetic modifications. In all cases, an evaluation of threats to people and the environment, within the framework of the National Biosafety Program, should be carried out.

The National Biosafety Program in Poland has been prepared thanks to the support of the United Nations Environmental Program and the Global Fund for Environment, in the form of pilot project GF1200-98-84 "The National Biosafety Programme". The Act on Genetically Modified Organisms, aiming at regulation of issues related to utilisation of live modified animals has come into force on the 26th of October, 2001. In the document concerning harmonization of the Polish law with the European Union law, the following was defined as priority 22.7: "Establishment of the system monitoring use of live modified organisms".

Including the above, this project mentioned above supports special aspects of implementing biosafety in Poland and supplements other activities currently financed by the EU. In particular, the project's goals include:

- Supporting the national infrastructure, necessary for evaluating threats and monitoring living modified organisms (LMO),
- Strengthening and developing, where necessary, a biosafety program, especially in the sphere of evaluating threats and risks, controlling and monitoring, administrative law and management.
- Strengthening information exchange through developing the integrated data base included in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH),
- Providing possibilities for general public to participate in issues concerning biosafety.

Similar tasks could be found in a twin-project „The biosafety system in Poland'" (Project Phare no. PL2001/IB/EN03), which was a part of the implemented Phare programme of supporting institutional development. Practically, this project guaranteed Poland support in the task, which was being implemented and whose goal was to improve administrative qualifications in the sphere of biosafety.

Together with a number of enterprises undertaken at the national and international level (Project UNEP-GEF), the project contributed to the development of the national biosafety system, adequate to the EU standards. It includes controlled use of genetically modified organisms (GMO), their intended release into the natural environment. Strengthening the institutional potential was achieved thanks to:

• proper staff training,

• improvement of research and technical qualifications of particular laboratories, expected to ensure analytical help mainly to institutions responsible for the research;

• implementation of an electronic information system for the needs of the administrative activities in

the sphere of genetically modified organisms

• initiation and implementation of actions improving social awareness of the issues concerning biosafety;

Annex to decision V/5 - Programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

Programme element 1 – Assessment	
163. Has your country undertaken specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity such as on plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are in progress (please specify components below)	X
c) Yes, assessments completed (please specify components and results of assessments below)	

Further comments on specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity.

In October 2002, Poland delivered the National Report on the Condition of Genetic Animal Resources, to FAO within the framework of activities related to preparation of the First Report on Condition of Genetic Animal Resources in the World. The report is one of the tasks related to evaluation of the Convention tasks programme in the field of biological diversity in agriculture.

The range of the programme for conservation of genetic resources of livestock animals has been extended in recent years. In 2003, the protection program covered the native white-backed cattle. This took place after an analysis and confirmation that it was genetically different from the black and white cattle.

In 2005, Malopolska breed and Silesian breed horses were also added to the program for conservation of the horse genetic resources, due to the declining number of horses in the populations and risks of losing their gene bank.

Within the fifth program entitled "Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources, Action 14 Support for research infrastructures", the project 'European Information Structure On Plants' Genetic resources' was implemented, in which all the European countries participated. The goal of the program was to create a technical structure, that would enable preparation of the national data base of genetic resources, as well as preparation of the European Catalogue of Genetic Resources EURISCO containing passport details of all organisms on the *ex-situ* conservation. Currently, the catalogue contains 920147 organisms.

A continuation of the EPGRIS project, actually its improvement is found in the project, whose aim is to establish the European Genebank Integration System (AEGIS). The aim of the project is to ensure conservation and utilisation of the existing diversity in Europe, through providing long-term storage, providing high quality of the material, easy access to them, avoiding duplicates and better use of currently available appliances. It is expected that the project will enable:

- Division of responsibility for the collected materials among countries and institutions;
- Identification of the existing institutional and national resources, which may be included into the European Gene Bank;
- Evaluation of the condition of unique genetic resources in Europe on the ex-situ conservation.

PGR Forum (European Crop Wild Relative Diversity Assessment and Conservation Forum) is a topic web financed within the Fifth EU Framework Programme. PGR Forum's aim is to evaluate the taxonomic and genetic change of wild species related to crop plants in Europe and develop sufficient methods for conservation of these species.

The PGR Forum goal is to create an information system, which would ensure access to data on wild species related to cultivated plants. This database will contain all socially and economically important species originating from Europe and species related to them. One of the most important results of those activities, will be an analysis of currently undertaken tasks and recommendations on how to implement the in-situ and ex-situ conservation of genetic resources of wild species related to crop plants in Europe. Evaluation of the protection methods, particularly on in-situ conservation, is the main element of the project. A list of wild species related to crop plants together with the priorities in their

conservation is being compiled.

164. Is your country undertaking assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity referred to in Annex I of the Convention (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance)?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are under way	X
c) Yes, some assessments completed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments completed (please provide details below)	

Further comments on assessment of biodiversity components (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance).

Agri-environmental programs need to be monitored with respect to their influence on the environment.

The final assessment will specify the effects of the Plan, basing on the indices illustrating achievements in related to implemention of the Plan goals and will provide an analysis of the influence of the Plan on rural areas. The assessment of the implementation and effects of the support is provided according to Article 54-57, Commission Regulation no. 445/2002, observing the rules laid down in Article 40-43, Council Decree (WE) no. 1260/1999.

Agri-environmental programs provide various options with respect to activity packages, whose effects should be conservation and/or upgrade of the natural values of: (a) individual fields, (b) farm areas, (c) the whole rural landscape. In order to assess effectiveness of the measures taken, it is necessary to have a well-designed monitoring system.

Within the “Evaluation of the needs related to creation of optimal conditions for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity” project, which can be found in the United Nations Environmental Program, a comprehensive monitoring system has been evaluated. It consists of the following segments:

a) landscape monitoring;

b) semi-natural flora monitoring;

c) segetal assemblage monitoring;

d) bird monitoring;

e) reptile monitoring;

f) invertebrate monitoring.

The monitoring system of agri-environmental programs, introduced in the programme, includes an integrated set of mutually complementing evaluations of different aspects of natural environment condition, with particular regard to biological diversity evaluation. It is a completely original approach, though based on standard, widely and regularly used methods for evaluating particular types of ecosystems and species groups.

It must be also stressed that there are no good European models of agri-environmental monitoring programs or widely used agricultural practices, which, after more or less significant modifications, could be good enough to be put into practice in Poland. There is also a lack of good and widely used nature indicators of rural sustainable development because most of them, either developed by OECD or by the European Union, rely on statistical data, usually of an economic character and adapted to a different spatial scale.

165. Has your country carried out an assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for food production and food security?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessment is under way	
c) Yes, assessment completed (please specify where information can be retrieved below)	

Further comments on assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities.

One way of carrying out activities in this matter is seeking and popularizing regional food products, based on the use of local materials. That activity is supported and promoted by the Polish House of the Regional and Local Product, founded in 2001. Its aim is to take care of native food products, regional handicraft and craftsmanship.

The Ministry of Agriculture has prepared the "Identification and promoting strategy for traditional products", which has been approved by the Convent of the Provincial Marshals of Poland.

In Poland, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is the authority responsible for leading the registration system for products of specific geographical origin and specific, traditional quality, as defined by the EU rules. According to the Act on *Registration and protection of names and designations for agricultural products, foodstuffs and traditional products* (2005), The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for approving, evaluating and delivering to the European Committee proposals for registering original names, geographical designations and specific names. Apart from regulations concerning registration of names at the EU level*, The Act* presents the List of Traditional Products. The product is listed if its quality or specific character and features result from traditional methods of production.

Production, protection and promotion of high-quality food products is gaining now a much more important role in the EU countries. One of the basic ways of implementing the quality policy in the EU, is labeling with marks of high-quality agro and food products originating from certain regions, as well as the ones produced with a traditional method. It leads to diversity in employment in the rural areas, creating non-agriculture sources of income in rural areas and an increase the income of manufacturers of agricultural products.

The issues of protection of regional products and the ones produced by traditional methods are defined in the EU law, in the Council Regulation (EEC) no. 2081/92, on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs, as well as in the Council Regulation (EEC) no. 2082/92, on certificates of specific character for agricultural products and foodstuffs.

An excellent initiative turned out to be the competition entitled „Our culinary heritage", organized by the biweekly magazine "Fashionable Housewife", "Agro-Smak" project and the Cooperation Fund, in co-operation with the media (Agricultural Programme editorial office of the Polish Radio I). The main aim of the competition is to identify and collect information on original, regional food products, produced at farms by local manufacturers. The competition is also to increase awareness of obtaining the income and developing traditional food production, based on local resources and using traditional technologies in rural population.

166. Has your country been monitoring an overall degradation, status quo or restoration/rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity since 1993 when the Convention entered into force?	
a) No	
b) Yes, no change found (status quo)	X
c) Yes, overall degradation found (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below)	

Further comments on observations.

Assessment of changes in agriculture is based mainly on the statistical data of the Central Statistical Office or on research carried out on a group of farmers, who handle the agriculture accountancy. Special records are also a valuable source of information.

Introducing rules of the market economy in the last decade, as well as changes in the level and structure of agriculture production caused serious decrease of the production organization level. It must be also stressed, that the level of production as measured by NPK consumption, has declined, too. It was caused by simplification of crop rotation, which is connected to concentration of grain cultivation.

Development of ecological agriculture should be rated high. It is supported through subsidies, as well as through the "Medium-term Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development". The number of ecological farms in Poland systematically increases, especially throughout the recent years, when the act on ecological agriculture and subsidies ecological farms has come into force. There are 3760 farms in the program which is 64% more than in 2003. The area of the controlled ecological farms was 105 000 ha, which is around 1% of the area and 0.23% of the total number of farms in Poland.

The number of registered crop plant varieties is the indicator commonly used for monitoring biological diversity in agriculture all over the world. In Poland, the number of registered varieties systematically increases. In 2004, there were 1195 varieties of crop plants in the registers of the Main Centre of Research on Crop Plant Varieties. This positive trend only partly corresponds to the increase in the actual genetic diversity. There is a common opinion that modern specimen are more likely to be related one to another, when compared with the old specimen, because the farming process may cause narrowing of the gene pool. Also a higher share of foreign varieties in the process of selection may account for an increase in the number of varieties. The number of registered varieties indicates only a potential diversity, which not always corresponds to the actual diversity in crop fields. Seed production does not increase along with an increasing number of new varieties.

Since 1996, the National Coordination Center for Animal Genetic Resources has been carrying out monitoring of the population size of breeds, which are protected under the Protection of the Farm Animal Resources Programme. The National Database is operated and it is currently being upgraded within the EFABIS project (European Farm Animals Biodiversity Information System) financed by the European Commission, in which EAAP, FAO, Germany and France take part.

Programme element 2 - Adaptive management	
167. Has your country identified management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive, and mitigate the negative, impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, technologies and policies being identified	
c) Yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	

Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies.

In 2001, as a result of the agreement between the United Nations Environmental Program and the National Foundation for Environmental Protection, the project entitled “The evaluation of the needs for

creation of optimal conditions for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity" has been implemented. This project is in a sense an extension of the earlier research. The basic aim of the project was to evaluate the needs connected with creating new conditions for conservation, increase and sustainable use of biological diversity resources in the areas of high natural values, with special regard to farming. These tasks will provide an ideal possibility of moving the biological diversity issues to a higher level of minuteness, especially to a level of the specific sector approach.

Programme element 3 - Capacity-building	
168. Has your country increased the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainable agricultural biodiversity and to develop strategies and methodologies for *In-situ* conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) Yes (please specify area/component and target groups with increased capacity)	X

Further comments on increased capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders.

In September 2002, a conference of the Polish Association for Animal Production was held which was devoted only to the problem of conservation of animal genetic resources in relation to dissemination of the issues of animal genetic resources conservation. In recent years, the Native Breed Exposition was held during the National Farming Exhibition, within the framework of POLAGRA-FARM.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development organized regular raining sessions for consultants who will support the implementation of the Rural Development Program, especially agri-environmental programmes. Comprehensive training materials concerning this topic have been prepared. The National Coordination Center for Genetic Resources participated in training sessions and the preparation of materials for consultants.

Building the potential of rural societies was supported by activities of various non-government organizations, which implement projects connected with biological diversity protection in agriculture, such as Social Ecological Institute, Low Silesian Eco-development Foundation, the Barka Foundation, Northern Podlasie Society for the Protection of Birds and many others. The National Coordination Centre for Animal Genetic Resources and the National Centre for Plant Genetic Resources have cooperated for many years with these organizations when implementing projects concerning the introduction of native breeds and their use.

In 1995-2005, 22 projects concerning old breeds and varieties have been implemented from GEF small grant project. They included 7 projects on conservation of animal breeds, 4 - fertilizers and 11 - old varieties crop plants and fruits. Those projects have been implemented by small local communities or transferred to those communities. The list of projects is the following:

1. Biodiversity protection of the Spotted Gold Pig – „Barka" Mutual Aid Foundation;
2. Biodiversity protection of old specimen of fruit trees – „Barka" Mutual Aid Foundation;
3. Conservation of genetic resources of endangered species of farm animals – The Solidarni Plus Association;
4. In-situ and ex-situ conservation of old varieties of fruit trees and traditional processing methods – Association of the Lower Vistula Friends;
5. Preserving program of the original breed of the green legged little chicken – Lower Silesian Eco-development Foundation;
6. Introduction of bumble-bees into agricultural practice through developing farming of chosen species under controlled conditions – part I – The Polish Ecological Club;
7. Restoration of multidirectional sheep industry in Bieszczady Region, as an indicator promoting proper management of the mountainous landscape and increasing the profitability of local agriculture – Association for Promulgation of Regional Traditions;
8. Implementation of bumble-bees in the agriculture practice through farming of chosen species under controlled conditions – part II – The Polish Ecological Club;
9. Biodiversity protection of old varieties of fruit trees – The Solidarni Plus Association;

10. Establishment of the Lubuski collection of field weeds and traditional tree and crop bush specimen – Lubuski Naturalist Club;

11. Kurpie model of agricultural biodiversity – The Social Ecological Institute;

12. What flax used to be like – conservation of biodiversity and tradition – The Live Architecture Laboratory;

13. Restoring cultivation of old cereal species of within the Lower Vistula area - Association of the Lower Vistula Friends;

14. Conervation and protection biodiversity in agriculture in Wigry National Park – Association of the "Polish Green Lungs Service Conference";

15. Meadow bushes, woodlots and plants from rural houses' gardens as elements of biodiversity conservation in rural areas, supporting development of local communities – Social Ecological Institute;

16. Bumble-bee conservation plan in central Poland – Nature Research and Conservation Association;

17. Biodiversity conservation of rural areas in the SPK (Suwalski Landscape Park) – Association of Suwalski Landscape Park Friends – "Hancza Land";

18. Black sheep - PTPP Pro-Nature (Polish Association of Nature Friends);

19. Restoration of cultivation and production of the Wyszoborski potatoes – The National Association of Countryside Women, near Wyszeborz village;

20. Protection of traditional apiculture in the Lower Vistula Valley – Association of the Lower Vistula Friends;

21. Cloister gardens - centers of biodiversity – The Social Ecological Institute;

22. New Polish orchards of old varieties - The Social Ecological Institute.

169. Has your country put in place operational mechanisms for participation by a wide range of stakeholder groups to develop genuine partnerships contributing to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential mechanisms being identified	
c) No, but mechanisms are under development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place	X

170. Has your country improved the policy environment, including benefit-sharing arrangements and incentive measures, to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures and arrangements being identified	
c) No, but measures and arrangements are under development	
d) Yes, measures and arrangements are being implemented (please specify below)	X

Further comments on the measures taken to improve the policy environment.

Supporting agri-environmental enterprises and improving animal wellness consist in voluntary implementation of activities by the farmer, which aim at promoting the agriculturtural production systems, in line with the requirements of environmental protection and conservation of livestock animal genetic resources.

With respect to those activities, the following packages are being implemented:

- **Sustainable agriculture**, whose aim is to balance the fertilizing management and implement appropriate crop turnover in farming practice;
- **Ecological agriculture**;
- **Conservation of extensive meadows**, which consists in restoration and continuation of mowing meadows of high natural values;
- **Conservation of extensive pastures**, which consists in restoring and preserving extensive

grazing in valuable semi-natural pastures;

- **Protecting soil and water**, consisting in applying aftercrop or intercrop sowing, which limits erosion and leaching nutrients from the soil;
- **Buffer zone,** consists in establishment of two or five meter turf zones, along the borderline between surface waters and arable land to limit inflow of agricultural pollutants;
- **Conservation of local breeds of farming animals,** connected with preservation of raising and breeding animal breeds, which are endangered with extinction (cattle, horses, sheep).

Particular packages may be implemented throughout the country or only in the priority zones. Ecological agriculture will be implemented in the whole country, as well as protection of soils and waters, buffer zones and conservation of local farming animal breeds. The subsidy level depends on the declared activities within the "agri-environmental plan", which is defined for 5 years. Anybody who would like to participate in the programme, must declare applying good agriculture practice in all fields and fulfilling other duties resulting from implementation of a five-year long agri-environmental programme.

For example, in 2005, the subsidy rates for species included in the G01 package, within the framework of agri-environmental programmes, are much higher than in the previous years. According to Article 24 of the Council Regulation (EC) 1257/1999, the level of subsidy is calculated on the basis of average economic results of a farm in 1999, 2000 and 2001, per one animal. Payments for 2005 and 2006 are planned as follows: 1080 PLN for cattle, 1300 PLN for horses and 310 PLN for sheep. The current level of subsidies is a major incentive for farmers to participate in the animal genetic resource conservation programme.

Promotion and the manner of programme implementation require improvement: an increase in the number and mobility of agri-environmental consultants, promotional campaign among farmers, in particualt in regione featured by the greatest fragmentation of arable lands, effective implementation of programme monitoring and work on its extension in the future.

Programme element 4 – Mainstreaming	
171. Is your country mainstreaming or integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes?	
a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) No, but potential frameworks and mechanisms are being identified	
d) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed and integrated into some sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed into major sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on mainstreaming and integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes.	
Provisions of the strategic documents on environmental protection, as well as conservation of biodiversity in agricultural areas are implemented into most of the documents concerning agriculture. In contrast, problems of agri-biodiversity conservation are not dealt with in strategic documents in other sectors.	

172. Is your country supporting the institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans, and its integration into wider strategies and action plans for biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) Yes, by supporting institutions in undertaking relevant assessments	X
c) Yes, by developing policy and planning guidelines	X

d) Yes, by developing training material	X
e) Yes, by supporting capacity-building at policy, technical and local levels	X
f) Yes, by promoting synergy in the implementation of agreed plans of action and between ongoing assessment and intergovernmental processes.	X

Further comments on support for institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms.

Comprehensive activities related to institutions, policies and education are conducted within the framework of agri-environmental programme implementation.

173. In the case of centers of origin in your country, is your country promoting activities for the conservation, on farm, *In-situ*, and *Ex-situ*, of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including their wild relatives?

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on of the conservation of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture in their center of origin.

Poland is not a center of origin for any important crop species. It is difficult to present a full list of wild species in Poland, which are ancestors of important crops. Generally speaking, Poland is not a very rich region in wild equivalents to crop forms. There are no wild ancestors for basic crops. Fodder plants (grass, papilionaceous plants) have been cultivated directly from ecotypes growing in the country.

In Poland, there are ancestors of crop species of the *Prunus* genus. European Dwarf Cherry (*Prunus fruticosa)*, which is the progenitor of Sour Cherry (*Prunus cerasus)* and Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium)*, can be found in the west border of their ranges. There are also wild populations of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa)* – the species that contributed to creation of the Domestic European Plum (*Prunus domestica)* species. There are also other species, classified into the gene pool of the *Prunus* genus, for example the endangered mountain species, the European Birdcherry (*Prunus padus* L. ssp. *Borealis)*. The prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola)*, the ancestor of lettuce, is a common plant found in lowland and piedmont areas. In Silesia, there is also the Willowleaf lettuce (*Lactuca saligna)*, which belongs to this crop gene bank.

Many native species of important medicinal plants can be found commonly in their natural habitats, for example the Common Yarrow (A*chillea millefolium)*, or the long-ago resident, Calamus Root (*Acorus calamus)*. Some of these species are endangered, for example the Sand Leek (*Allium scordoprasum)* or *Siberian Iris (Iris sibirica)*.

A considerable part of plant diversity found in the country is used to a limited extent or has never been used. That concerns mainly fodder species. The local grass populations of the Foxtail (*Alopecurus)* and Cheatgrass (*Bromus)* types, as well as papilionaceous plants such as the Purple Crownvetch (*Coronilla varia)*, Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina)*, *M. falcata*, Kidney vetch (*Antyllis vulneraria)*, Zigzag clover (*Trifolium medium)*, Strawberry clover (*T. fragiferum),* are potential source of biodiversity for agriculture. There is also a group of wild species, which may be used as decorative plants, for example the Yellow Azalea (*Azalea pontica)* (the isolated site near Lezajsk), Squill (*Scilla bifolia)* and Snowflake (*Leucoium vernum* var. *carpaticum)* (Bieszczady mountains), *Telekia speciosa* or *Dendranthema Zavadskii*.

In 2004-2005 all the conservation programmes for individual farm animal populations were analysed in terms of their effectiveness, the need for changes, etc. The verification process is almost completed – the new versions of the programmes have been accepted by the Research Institute of Animal Production Scientific Council and Institute Director, who is responsible for coordinating the implementation of activities concerning genetic resource conservation of livestock animals.

Box LXV.

Please provide information concerning the actions taken by your country to implement the Plan of Action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.

Little research has been conducted on pollinator populations, both in Poland and abroad. Due to a lack of knowledge in this field, sustainable use of them constitutes a problem.

In the "National Strategy for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity", the need for developing the national strategy for agricultural biodiversity conservation, together with an action plan, was stressed. In the document there should be recommendations for management of pollinator populations.

On of the research institutes fulfilling the tasks connected with pollinating insect populations is the Institute of Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture, Apiculture Division in Pulawy. The institute carries out research aiming at conservation of the native bees populations, including the Middle-European Bee lines of the Astra, Kampinos and Augustowska breeds, as well the northern line.

It is difficult to fulfill the obligation due to little knowledge on the taxonomic identification of pollinator populations, information dispersed among several research institutes, a lack of the strategy for agricultural biodiversity conservation and insufficient financial means.

Despite these limitations, there have been several projects implemented in Poland, whose aim is to increase the pollinator populations and increase public awareness of their role in the environment. Projects have been subsidized from small GEF grants and their performers included non-governmental organizations:

1. Introduction of bumble-bees into the agriculture practice, through developing cultivation of certain species under controlled conditions. The aim: development of the implementing farm network to produce indigenous bumble-bee families for gardening purposes. The executing entity – The Polish Ecological Club.
2. Conservation programme for bumble-bees in central Poland. The aim : an increase in the number of bumble-bees and other bee species, as well as improvement of environmental awareness among rural communities within the area of 100 villages and 50 forest settlements in central Poland. The executing entity – The Research and Nature Protection Association.
3. Conservation of traditional apiculture in the Lower Vistula River Valley. The aim – establishment of a mini open-air museum of beekeeping to protect and develop traditional apiculture in the area of the Lower Vistula River Valley. The executing entity – Association of the Lower Vistula Friends.

Box LXVI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
f) constraints encountered in implementation.

The legal regulations concerning biodiversity conservation in agriculture are insufficient and ineffective. The subsidy system for conservation of genetic resources, which comes from the sources of financial means for biological progress in agriculture results in competition between the needs for conservation and the needs for development and improving production. In the Nature Conservation Act (2004) there is no reference to traditional protection of agricultural landscape or other legal acts concerning this matter, for example the act on ecological agriculture.

The progress which takes place with respect to biodiversity conservation in rural areas has been is a result of implementing the Plan for Rural Development, particularly activity 4 "Supporting agri-environmental enterprises and improving the well-being of animals".
Currently, the European Fund for Rural Development for 2007-2013 is being prepared. The Fund mission is to promote sustainable development of rural areas in the whole European Union in a manner complementary to the market instruments and income support under the Common Agricultural Policy and Cohesion Policy, as well as the Common Fishery Policy. One of the Fund's aims is to improve condition of the environment and landscape through sound land use.

Forest Biological Diversity

General

174. Has your country incorporated relevant parts of the work programme into your national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes?	
a) No	
b) Yes, please describe the process used	
c) Yes, please describe constraints/obstacles encountered in the process	X
d) Yes, please describe lessons learned	
e) Yes, please describe targets for priority actions in the programme of work	

Further comments on the incorporation of relevant parts of the work programme into your NBSAP and forest programmes

The Strategy for Forest Biodiversity Conservation was prepared in 1996, however, it has never received the rank of an important document. The main element of the Strategy is soil-habitat examination and developing forest genetic, species, age, vertical (height), horizontal (tree stand mosaic) structure which is optimal in terms of biological diversity and viability and applying forest technologies reducing pressure of artificial selection on natural elements at various spatial scales. The strategy proposes financial means on the operational level, for forest management, forest breeding and forest protection, aiming at protection of individuals, populations, species, ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics and landscapes.

A high level of generalization in this matter is presented in the National Forestry Policy (1997). The Regional Operating Programmes for the National Forest Policy are more specific (2005).

According to the presumptions of the Ministry of Environment, the Regional Operation Programs for the National Forestry Policy are to become the National Forest Program.

The Strategy for Forest Biodiversity Conservation has been added to the National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, with the Action Plan (2003), but in a very limited range which is not adequate to the forest role in biodiversity conservation in Poland. Forestry which manages almost 1/3 of the country area is responsible for around 70% of terrestrial biodiversity has not been qualified as a section, but only discriminated as a sphere in the “environment” section. On the other hand, “tourism” or “transport” have been classified as sections.

In the *National Strategy,* there are only very general activities of slogan character and not operating activities per se listed in the “forestry sphere:

- Taking into account the needs for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity during afforesting agricultural land;
- Conservation of full diversity of forest trees;
- Basing forest management on the sound natural bases;
- Efficient conservation and sustainable use of water and marsh ecosystems in forests;
- Development of ecotones on forest borders;
- Protection of areas sensitive to changes in management patterns (including mountainous areas), particularly in the sphere of forest management;
- Ensuring conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in procedures concerning forest management, breeding, and protection;
- Effective conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in private forests;
- Effective education of communities on forest and nature;

In general: documents concerning forestry should be rated high, in particular documents of higher rank (Forest Act, National Forest Policy). The regulations laid down in those documents are more and more comprehensively implemented at the operating level. That is related to the need for searching a compromise among environmental, economic, and social functions of forests.

Box LXVII.

Please indicate what recently applied tools (policy, planning, management, assessment and measurement) and measures, if any, your country is using to implement and assess the programme of work. Please indicate what tools and measures would assist the implementation.

In recent years, the national strategic documents have been implemented, acting as political instruments, which oblige to observe the Biodiversity Convention, including documents concerning forestry. The documents include the following:

- *The National Forest Policy* (accepted by the Council of Ministers on the 22nd of April, 1997);
- *Poland 2025 – The long-term strategy for sustainable development* (adopted by the Cabinet on the 26nd of July, 2000);
- *The National Strategy for Environmental Protection for the years 2000 - 2006* (the project was adopted by the Committee for Regional Policy and Sustainable Development on the 27th of July, 2000);
- *The National Strategy for Environmental Education, through education to sustainable development* (adopted by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education on the 21st of September, 2000);
- *The Concept of the National Spatial Development Policy* (adopted by the Council of Ministers on the 5th of October, 1999);
- *The Coherent Rural Development and Structural Policy* (adopted by the Council of Ministers on the 13th of July, 1999);

The Long-term Strategy for Sustainable Development – Poland 2025 contains several provisions concerning particular environment components and mechanisms of limiting the negative human impact. Two of them directly concern forests and forestry

> *(1) Management of space should lead to proper relationships between human needs and nature conservation. The area and number of protected areas will increase, created by authorities of various levels and the system will be based on the European Ecological Network - NATURA 2000. The rules of nature conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, should be rigorously observed also outside the protected areas.*
>
> *(2) „Forest areas will remain an important element of the national ecological structure. Forest management should provide a systematic increase in natural resources and biological diversity in forests, including that resulting from reintroduction of endangered animal and plant sepcies. Forest functions consisting in water protection, climate modification and environment shaping will be developed..."*

In 2003-2004 technical and economic documents concerning forestry have amended: Instruction for Forest Management, Forest Breeding Principles, and Instruction for Forest Protection. The documents use contain slogans concerning bio diversity conservation in forests and references to Biodiversity Convention or other UNCED documents in the theoretical part, however, in the operating parts they usually remain on positions from before the "Forest Ecologization". For example, promotion of seed tree method is not appreciated, as well as use of microhabitats for building mosaic-patch forest structure and full habitat type is used for discriminating individual tree stands. However, the necessity for leaving some trees uncut, hollow trees, dead or dying is recognized, also greater flexibility is acceptable when planning cutting, enabling some tree stands be left until the state of natural death and also oblige to special forest protection on slopes and bogs.

However the greatest progress in biodiversity conservation in forests in relation to development and upgrading of the nature conservation programme in a forest district as an integral part of the Forest Management Plan should be rated high. The new element here is a general-situational map of natural

and cultural values based on the general-situational map of forest functions is a new element here. The list of objects, which are supposed to be marked on the map, contains 27 protected structures of different categories and significance to nature conservation. In spite of uneven quality of programmes prepared now, the trends towards increasing comprehensiveness should be favourably evaluated. Qualified naturalists and specialists in nature conservation are invited to work on some of the programmes.

Box LXVIII.

Please indicate to what extent and how your country has involved indigenous and local communities, and respected their rights and interests, in implementing the programme of work.

During the preparation of the Regional Operating Programmes for the National Forest Policy, which are to become the National Forest Programme, a number of consultations with the local communities and self-government authorities took place. The consultations were conducted in 17 groups (one group in each of the Regional Directorates of National Forests), with the participation of tens of local organizations and national and self-government administration bodies.

The local communities interest is also presented by the Research and Social Councils of the Forest Promotional Complexes (LKP) (the characteristics of the LKP have been presented in the previous Report). Thre LKP Councils also participate in shaping forest management in the areas of a forest district groups, they verify protection and economic plans, consult the current management and development of cultivation plans.

Moreover, the possibility to influence forest management is guaranteed by the Instruction for Forest management, obliging to make Plan for Forest Management in a given forest district available to anybody interested. The procedure was approved during the proceedings of the Technical ad Economic Committee (KTG), whose meetings take place participation of local community representatives, nature conservation services, and NGOs.

Box LXIX.

Please indicate what efforts your country has made towards capacity building in human and capital resources for the implementation of the programme of work.

Systematic seminars and training sessions are organized for the National Forests administration and staff of National Parks; in 2001-2005, annual conferences for Forest Administration took place, whose topic was the role of biodiversity in managing, breeding and protecting forests (the last conference took place between the 1st and 3rd of June, 2005, in Suleczyn, RDLP Gdansk: Tasks of habitat science for long-term sustainable forest management and natural habitat conservation").

Training sessions for foresters and self-governments are conducted within the framework of the NATURA 2000 program.

Box LXX.

Please indicate how your country has collaborated and cooperated (e.g., south-south, north-south, south-north, north-north) with other governments, regional or international organizations in implementing the programme of work. Please also indicate what are the constraints and/or needs identified.

Since 2004, Poland has been the coordinator of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). The future conference is planned for 2007 in Warsaw. Until this year, Poland is the manager of the Liaison Unit (*Liaison Unit of the MCPFE*), which coordinates and organizes meetings on different ministerial and expert levels and follows the implementation of the MCPFE Work Program. Several elements of the MCPFE Work Programme belong to the Advanced Work Programme conceming Forest Biodiversity (see: H2 resolution, 4 SFM criterion (*Sustainable Forest Management*).

In 2004 the Liaison Unit of the MCPFE, together with the PEBLDS, organized a Work Group, in order to evaluate the association between sustainable forest management (SFM) and the ecosystem approach. International training sessions, with 34 participating countries, were organized, in the Tuszym Forest Management area (RDLP Krosno) in cooperation with National Forests. Materials can be found on the MCPFE www.mcpfe.org website. The joint opinion of both MCPFE and PEBLDS has been published

in a special publication.

Expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity

Programme element 1 – Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing	
175. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?	
a) No (please provide reasons below)	
b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impact on forest management, constraints, needs, tools, and targets).	
Until now, the idea of the ecosystem approach has not been defined to be used in forest management in Poland. In 2004, expertise and research were performed concerning implementation of the ecosystem approach concept in forest management, breeding and protection. In Tuszym forest district (RDLP Krosno) implementation of the ecosystem conception in forest management is under way: promotion of seed tree method, cultivation of multi-generation pine tree stands, use of Polish ponies in forest nurseries (instead of herbicides), use of beavers as regulators of water conditions in small forest catchment basins, creating mosaic-patch structures of tree stand according to the microhabitat spatial diversity, etc. However, all the above activities have not obtained the rank of obligatory procedures in forest management and are rare examples of local initiatives. Research in Tuszym evaluate biological, social, and economic effects of introduction of the ecosystem approach into forest management. Currently, it is impossible to give firm conclusions concerning the measures taken. Several rules of the ecosystem approach can be found in the earlier Forest Breeding Principles (as defined in the VII/11 Decision, many of them have been omitted, for example: rules 5, 6 or 8).	

176. Has your country undertaken measures to reduce the threats to, and mitigate its impacts on forest biodiversity?		
Options	**X**	**Details**
a) Yes	X	Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions

		The level of the recently main threat of industrial pollution and degradation phenomena related to deposit of toxic compounds in forest ecosystems is declining due to changes in combustion technologies, improvement in waste management development of wastewater treatme nt plants and the obligation to using electrofilters, etc. Since 2001, the forests condition has been improving, though the deposit of eutrophication compounds is a serious threat and connected with the road transport development. An important and increasing threat is the constant process of fragmentation, simplification and geometrization of land use forms and developing urbanization and anthropogenic landscape pattern. Invasive species in forestry do not cause serious problems. Their occurrence is regulated and controlled through forest breeding principles, which do not allow the share of „alien species" to exceed 5% in the form of admixtures (for example, Douglas spruce, red oak, boxelder). Ban on using the American black cherry in undergrowth was also implemented. Wider use of alien species is acceptable in post-industrial areas or buffer zones where they constitute forecrop, preparing the soil for indigenous species.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to reduce threats to, and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
In 2003, the act on forest reproductive material was prepared (adapting Polish regulations to the EU standards) and seed regions have been established. The above regulations do not allow for free transfer of seeds and are in line with the rules of reproduction material nativity in forestry. An important recent achievement (2001), was implementation of classification into nature-forest micro-regions, whose borders have been adapted to 919 geo-botanical sub-regions, which enables better identification of landscape diversity in our forests.		

177. Is your country undertaking any measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity?		
Options	**X**	**Details**
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities Rebuilding of tree stands and restoring biological productivity in destroyed habitats, is a constant activity in the National Forests and already a routine task related to sustainable forest management. That is performed annually within the area of around 30000 ha. The needs are estimated at around 400000 ha, particularly in the industrial regions and on post-agricultural lands. Other programs have also been implemented: "Programme of fir restitution in the West Sudety Mountains", "Program of yew tree restitution", "Programme of reintroduction of the cappercaillie". In Poland, the NATURA 2000 programme, is now being implemented according to the EU Directives: Bird Directive (79/409/EWG) and Habitat Directive (92/43/EWG). In Annex 1 to the Habitat Directive, 58 forest objects have been registered, for which the forest ecosystems are the main subject of protection.
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).
Implemented in 1991, the "Program of preserving genetic forest resources and selective cultivation of forest trees in Poland for the years 1991-2010" runs according to the schedule. Until January 2004, the following were isolated and subjected to protection: 242 638 ha of seed tree stands, 3 315 ha of preservative crops and tree stands, which propagate native ecotypes of forest-forming species.

178. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
		Use of biodiversity in forests, that is collection of fruit, berries, mushrooms, pharmacological plants and others, is regulated by the regulation of the Ministry of the Environment, natural Resources and Forestry on the detailed rules of protection and collection of the fruits of the forest and rules of locating apiaries in forested areas (1998). Free entrance into forests favours utilisation of non-wood resources, which increases in certain regions and along communication routes and may cause problems with excessive exploitation of ground flora resources. Many forest plant species collected in the wild is covered with partial legal protection under the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment (2004) and their collection at the commercial scale requires permit of the Province Governor. As regards animal and plants species covered with strict protection, the Ministry of the Environment is responsible for granting permits. Regulations concerning use of game animals stem from the Hunting Law. Forest management and forest planning includes social and cultural values through the special Programme for Conservation of Nature and Cultural Values in a Forest District. The wood use range can be found in plans for forest management and should be approved by the local communities during plan preparation.
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the promotion of the sustainable use of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

179. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 5 and describe measures undertaken
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below

		The problem has not been sufficiently identified yet.
Further comments on the promotion of access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources. (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets)		

Programme element 2 – Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment		
180. Is your country undertaking any measures to enhance the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing?		
Options	**X**	**Details**
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below
		The problem has not been sufficiently identified, yet.
Further comments on the enhancement of the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

181. Is your country undertaking any measures to address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity?		
Options	**X**	**Details**
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below
		The problem has not been sufficiently identified yet.
Further comments on review of socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

182. Is your country undertaking any measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
		In 2001-2005 a broad range of educational activities, addressed to school pupils, students, teachers, tourists and other forest visitors were implemented (see: educational programmes and their implementations in LKP).
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

Broad educational programs are implemented mainly in the LKP areas - *Forest Promotional Complexes*, which integrate the aims of common nature protection with sustainable use of multi functional forests. Within the LKP area (13 LKPs of the total area of 627400 ha, which means around 9% of the forest area of the National Forests), forest management following SFM (*Sustainable Forest Management*) is performed educational facilities have been extended: 10 centres for environmental education, 15 nature and forest departments, 26 educational halls, 60 educational paths.

In 2002-2003 the special documents were developed: (1) "The directions of forest education development in the National Forests", (2) The Guidelines for developing forest educational programmes for communities in a forest district", (3) Forest Education Guide" and various training sessions for the "forest education leaders" also took place (in 2004, the 6th Workshop for Forest Education Leaders in the National Forests).

In 2003, the following were organized: 10000 classes for 370000 primary school students; 4000 meetings in schools with participating foresters for over 100000 participants; 681 contests with over 72000 participants.

Many educational programs are financed by the National Forests. Despite diversified educational forms and considerable effort of the National Parks, the educational effect is not fully satisfactory: during the OBOP survey (2005), when asked this question: „Do you think that the number of forests in Poland is increasing or decreasing?", 53% of the surveyed people responded that there was a decrease (!).

Programme element 3 – Knowledge, assessment and monitoring		
183. Is your country undertaking any measures to characterize forest ecosystems at various scales in order to improve the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?		
Options	**X**	**Details**
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below
	X	Knowledge of forest ecosystem functions, especially in a landscape or geographical region is very fragmentary and projects and enterprises, which would lead to an improvement in the situation, are far from being sufficient.
Further comments on characterization of forest ecosystems at various scales (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
The forest monitoring has been functioning for the last 15 years and still it provides information on condition of the tree damages. In 2003, this information has been extended, including monitoring of undergrowth plants, monitoring of the pine seeds health, entomological monitoring, phytopatological monitoring, pollution monitoring, monitoring of sub-canopy precipitation, soil solution monitoring and soil monitoring have been implemented. The information collected may lead to better understanding of the forest ecosystem functions in the future.		

184. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve knowledge on, and methods for, the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?		
Options	**X**	**Details**
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
	X	Various educational programs (see: point 182) have been started but hardly could anyone indicate activities concerning better understanding or methods of evaluating biodiversity in forests.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on improvement of knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

185. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?		
Options	**X**	**Details**
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below
	X	Enterprises aimed at improving or broadening knowledge of biodiversity role in functioning of forest ecosystems are very rare in forestry research. In various research projects, such fragmentary aims can be found. However, they are not research oriented projects.
Further comments on the improvement of the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
There is a need for broader research topics concerning forest biodiversity. That concerns not only taxonomic research, that is, species identification and their genotype and phenotype variability, which is also insufficient, but research on connections between diversity elements, that is research on internal relationships in the ecological systems and between them, at different organizational levels. The main concern is functional diversity, which brings the diversity problem closer to topics of viable and ecologically balanced forest ecosystems.		

186. Is your country undertaking any measures at national level to improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biodiversity?		
Options	**X**	**Details**
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
	X	In the National Forests a constantly improved computer system (SILP) is still functioning. It collects forest data, as well as forest biodiversity data. According to the Forest Act and the National Forest Policy, the National Forests perform inventories of all forms of biodiversity, upgrading them on a current basis when preparing nature conservation plans in forest districts in relation to management activities. Such programs have implemented for all the forest districts in the country. All legally protected elements are inventoried. This includes nature reserves, nature monuments, endangered species and rare species. According to the information of 2003, there were the following in national forests: 1162 nature reserves of 108 812 ha area, including 69 Biosphere Reserves of the total area of 2954 ha; 9993 nature monuments, including 7792 single trees; 1353 tree groups; 92 alleys; 8594 ecological grounds of the total area equalling 25 059 ha; 94 landscape and nature complexes of the total area of 45 743 ha. In 2003, 20 new nature reserves (6 484 ha) have been established in the National Forests and the number of ecological grounds increased by 188; 2 949 protective zones have been created (178 459 ha) for selected animal species, including 57 158 ha of strict protection. The total area of national and landscape parks and protected landscape areas has increased during 1980-2004 from 3,2% up to 32,2% of the the country territory; the forest increased from 5,5% up to 43,7% of the forests' surface.

b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the improvement of the infrastructure for data and information management (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

Under the NATURE 2000 Program, Poland has designated: 1) following The Birds Directive, 72 special areas of Conservation (SAC) of the total area of 3 312 000 ha, from which 2 433 000 ha are terrestrial areas and 1 114 600 ha are forests; following the Habitats Directive 184 special protected areas have been designated (SPA), of the total surface of 1 171 600 ha. Most of those areas are located in forest areas, managed by the National Forests and they include most of the extensive forest complexes, such as Bory Tucholskie, Puszcza Augustowska, Puszcza Piska or Puszcza Bialowieska.

Box LXXI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;

b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;

c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;

d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Forestry is one of those spheres of the national economy, which is responsible for preserving biodiversity in a special way. Poland has long and good traditions in this matter, however, emphasis has been laid on forest management ecologization since the early 1990s. The special programmes for implementing the Extended Forest Biodiversity Work Programme following the VII/30 Decision of the (COP) Biodiversity Convention can be hardly found in Polish forestry. However, many activities and regulations fulfill the requirements laid down in the Extended Programme and may be interpreted as the programme implementation. Activities concerning biodiversity protection in forests, do not stem from the implemented, approved targeted program, but from broader changes in forest management at the National Forest Policy level, from the Forest Act, National Forests General Director's Directive, etc. Since the above regulations, most of the undertaken activities are in line with the Convention Strategic Plan, the "2010 Target" and the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the aims accepted in the National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and other national and sectoral documents.

The main drawback of the current situation consists in the differences between programme declarations and their implementation at the operational level. An improvement may follow amendments to technical and economic documents: Instruction for Forest Management, Forest Breeding Principles and Instruction for Forest Protection.

Forest areas located within the Natura 2000 sites and landscape parks have been already or will be provided with special protection plans (management plans) which additionally regulate principles of forest management, with special emphasis on biodiversity conservation of deciduous forest ecosystems.

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

187. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work? (decisions V/23 and VII/2)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on scientific, technical and financial support, at the national and regional levels, to the activities identified in the programme of work.	
Questions 187 – 192 and box LXXII do not apply to Poland.	

188. Has your country integrated actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands integrated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD.	

189. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD process and other processes under related environmental conventions? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)	
a) No	
b) Yes, some linkages established (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, extensive linkages established (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to ensure the synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD processes and other processes under related environmental conventions.	

Programme Part A: Assessment	
190. Has your country assessed and analyzed information on the state of dryland biological diversity and the pressures on it, disseminated existing knowledge and best practices, and filled knowledge gaps in order to determine adequate activities? (Decision V/23, Part A: Assessment, Operational objective, activities 1 to 6)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessment is ongoing	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessment undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the relevant information on assessments of the status and trends and dissemination of existing knowledge and best practices.	

Programme Part B: Targeted Actions	
191. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences? (part B of annex I of decision V/23, activities 7 to 9)	
a) No	
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences.	

192. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) No	
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, all identified capacity needs met (please provide details below)	
Further comments on measures taken to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work.	

Box LXXII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on: a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Mountain Biodiversity

Programme Element 1. Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use ad benefit sharing	
193. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the measures taken to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity

As regards non-forest ecosystems, the main threats to mountain ecosystem biodiversity in Poland is the natural succession process, occurring as a result of drastic changes in the modes of management in those areas. In the mountain national parks: Bieszczadzki, Tatrzanski, Gorczanski, Babiogórski and Pieninski Parks, cultural sheep grazing is continued, as a method for preserving meadows, modifying only the animal number and the grazing location. In Pieninski National Park and Magurski National Park, certain meadows are selected for mowing with hay removal. In Bieszczadzki National Park, free grazing of the Hucul ponies was tried.

In contrast, forest ecosystems are vulnerable to disturbance as a result of implemented forest management. In the National Forests, the so-called ecological model of management is implemented, which has been introduced by the Forest Act (1995). Its aim is to preserve a sufficient number of old trees, taking care of compliance of tree stands with habitats, appropriate plantings, as well as removal of alien species, such as the Siberian larch. Additionally, most of the mountain tree stands have been classified as protective forests (soil protecting and water protecting). This type of policy is also conducted in forest complexes such as Birczanskie Forests, Beskid Slaski Forests and newly designated: Beskid Sadecki Forests and West Sudety Forests.

Among the anthropogenic hazards the most serious is air pollution, both local and long range one. As a result of the gradually implemented activities in the field of environmental protection in industrial areas and promotion of changes in heating systems, from the coal to the gas one or others which are safe to the environment, a steady improvement of air condition is recorded. Programmes financing such projects, e.g., GEF, play an important role here. Within the framework of this fund, a project in Suski District (Babia Góra Mountain area) is being implemented, namely, "Integrated Approach to Use of Wood Waste for Producing Thermal Energy in Poland" (implementation: 2002 – 2005). The basic aim of the Project is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through increased use of wood waste for producing thermal energy. Wood biowaste is a renewable substitute of fossil fuel and its combustion does not lead to an increase of carbon dioxide content in the atmosphere. The Fund also supports other initiatives, according to its 4th Operating programme, connected with the deforestation process and illegal gaining of wood and forest undergrowth, as well as poaching and fires. A serious threat results also from improper animal grazing and agriculture practices, implementation of insufficiently thought over projects concerning technical infrastructure, tourism, yielding and exploitation of mined raw materials, as well as gaining combustible materials.

As regards reduction in water pollution, a number of local projects of sewerage construction systems are under way, particularly in alpine health resorts, where the number of people rapidly grow in some seasons. The tourist and recreational pressure is a serious threat in mountainous areas. Several projects of infrastructure development have been rejected, mainly the ski infrastructure, having especially adverse impact on nature. In other cases such projects have been modified or less invasive solutions have been chosen, e.g., overhauls or modernizations of the Kasprowy Wierch cable car. Non-governmental organizations came up with the idea of protecting this part of the Tatra Mountains, appealing to the self-government and national authorities.

194. Has your country taken any measures to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the measures taken to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity

A number of mountain areas have been included into to the NATURA 2000 network, and the biogeographical seminar for the Alpine region of 2005 showed the necessity for designation of further sites in the Carpathian Mountains. Establishment of those sites together with the existing, national protected area system (8 national parks, 16 landscape parks), enables implementation and supervision over protection activities in most of the naturally valuable mountain areas. Conservation (management) plans are worked out for them. Such plans have been implemented for 3 NATURA 2000 areas (though formally they have not been accepted) and there were prepared conservation plans for 8 mountain national parks. New areas are subjected to conservation in nature reserves protection, in municipalities new ecological grounds and nature monuments are created. Legally protected mountain areas cover almost 50 % of the total mountain area.

According to the conservation plan guidelines, selected fragments are covered with active conservation whose aim is to preserve rare plant, animal or whole groups of species, for example uncovering rock fragments or bush removal in xerothermic grasslands. The conservation plan also concerns removal of bushed from bog-springs and screes and increasing the level of water on them. Activities concerning animal species restitution are also continued: for example, the Apollo butterfly (*Parnassius apollo)* and plans for restituting other species are undertaken: for example the Longhorn beetle (*Rosalia alpina)*, together with restoring their habitats. Scientific research and monitoring of the rarest flora and fauna elements are conducted, e.g., of endangered plant species in Tatrzanski and Pieninski National Parks, which provide data on their biology being the basis for planning possible conservation measures. In the Bieszczady mountains a restoration program of the bison (*Bison bonasius)* is being implemented, including enrichment of the population genetic pool. Extensive areas in the mountains are covered with strict protection which enable development of natural processes, both in the forest belt and subalpine and alpine belts.

For areas subjected to considerable ski pressure (the Kasprowy Wierch area) reclamation programmes of the most destroyed ski pistes are implemented.

Various non-governmental organizations are active. Among others, the Coalition Save the Carpathians has been established (10 non-governmental organizations), a Polish-Slovak project for sustainable development of mountain areas and biodiversity conservation in the Carpathian Mountains has been implemented, the so-called “Green Carpathian Mountains”. Its basic aim is to provide a possibility of broad and reasonable use of resources and natural values, as a chance of development for local communities.

Moreover, programs of social consulting and environmental education on different levels are implemented – in schools, municipality councils, etc., describing the bases for the new nature conservation system, that is, NATURA 2000, as well as describing the benefits from preservation the natural environment in the proper state.

195. Has your country taken any measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems

In mountain areas the extensive, traditional land use is promoted which is the necessary condition for sustainable development and preserving certain areas as "pristine" as possible to preserve source populations. Most of the mountain areas were included into the NATURA 2000 network or to the landscape parks, where sustainable development is promoted.

Since 1997 activities within the framework of Agenda 21 Program have been conducted, which result mainly in creatiion of development strategies – e.g., in Malopolskie Province, in 2002-2004, they have been implemented for all the mountain municipalities and local spatial development plans have been prepared for them, too. Those documents constitute the basis for sustainable funstions of any area. Local offices of the programme are located in Szczawnica and Kamienna Góra towns.

Since 2004 the decisions of the National Development Plan for 20004-2006 have been implemented. The aims of the programme include promoting sustainable development and spatial consistency, as well as strengthening development of regional potential and counteracting marginalization of certain areas.

Other programmes cover rural areas, as well as mountain areas, which enable their development following the sustainable development principles, e.g., the Integrated Operating Programme of Regional Development aiming at development and diversification of economic activities and potential for gaining incomes outside the agricultural sector or the Sectoral Operating Programme – Restructuring and modernization of the food sector and rural development – aiming at improving food processing and marketing.

Moreover, the Rural Development Plan is being implemented including agri-environmental programmes (most of the municipalities in the region have been covered with the programmes as some of the first ones in the country) as well as support for farms located in the less favoured areas or subjected to special restrictions related to environmental protection.

Measures for preserving mountain ecosystem genetic diversity are also taken, though research programmes and efforts to reintroduce species, whose populations have weakened during the recent decades or locally have become extinct. They include: the Apollo butterfly (*Parnassius apollo)* (Pieniny mountains), Alpine saxifrage (*Saxifraga nivalis*) in the Karkonosze Range or Longhorn beetle (*Rosalia alpina)* (initial efforts in the Babia Góra area). Some years ago, the bison (*Bison bonasus*) has been reintroduced into the Bieszczady Mountains and in recent years, four bisons, genetically very different from the wild individuals, have been released there to improve genetic diversity. Scientific research also concerns genetic diversity of the lynx and wildcat populations in the Carpathian Mountains.

196. Has your country taken any measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources, including preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources

In mountain communities, certain benefits of preserving the intact environment with high biodiversity

have been already noticed. In order to preserve and use it in a sustainable manner, a number of measures are taken. Pressure is put mainly on tourism development, particularly qualified tourism, the least harmful to nature. Currently implemented programs, for example "Green Carpathian Mountains", assume that economic enterprises will be implemented in way which will minimize threats to the environment and at the same time secure the interest of local communities. Agriculture and forestry, as well as sustainable tourism to a large extent connected spa therapeutics.

This system also promotes local cultures typical of certain regions. The basis for these activities include projects implemented in individual municipalities, usually based on viallage woman's clubs and regional highlanders' ensembles consisting in development of regional cuisine, ornamentation, craftsmanship, etc., all this is based on local traditions in land use. That leads to enlivening regional traditions and their popularizing, as well as patenting certain products, such as smoked sheep cheese, called "oscypek". Local souvenir production is also developing.

Certain mountain areas (over 10 extensive areas) have been added to the NATURA 2000 network, to promote sustainable development. The network in the mopuntai areas will be successively extended and ulitimately it may cover as musch as 30% of the region area. Benefits from preserving high biodiversity in those regions are reflected in local economy. Some of the mountain areas, which until had belonged to the State Treasury (Agricultural Property Agency of the State Treasury), were sold to private owners thus were saved from the process of secondary succession.

Genetic diversity is promoted through preserving old, regional, traditional breeds of farm animals, e.g., the Polish mountain sheep (currently the population number has increased to around 300000 animals) and "blackheaded" sheep, introduction of the hucul ponies and traditional methods of animal grazing, as well as the program for conservation of the gene pool of old fruit tree varieties, preserving the traditional ways of preparing food, etc. There are (or they are to be established, e.g., in Pieniniski National Park) collections of old fruit tree collections and other crop plants. Certain species of old field now rare in Poland might be preserved in those areas, too.

As a result of various educational projects, environmental awareness increases in local populations leading to an increased interest in biodiversity conservation and consequently in education and raising skills. Under such conditions, new employment opportunities are provided and new programmes in that field are developed. Infrastructure related to tourism and spa industry is developed more readily and is of higher quality.

Programme Element 2. Means of implementation for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing	
197. Has your country developed any legal, policy and institutional framework for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing this programme of work?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant frameworks are being developed	
c) Yes, some frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the legal, policy and institutional frameworks for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing the programme of work on mountain biodiversity.	

The mountain areas are managed in a sustainable way, thanks to observing various legal rules, from the Constitution of the Republic of Poland provisions, through various regulation, to political, strategic, and political documents. The problem of mountain forest ecosystems gained a special role in the strategic documents such as the *National Forest Policy* and the *National Programme for Augmentation of the Forest Cover*. Moreover, programmes for protective measures in the areas of strict, active and landscape protection can be found in the conservation plans for of national parks and nature reserves. The Convention on protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region has been prepared. However, it has not been ratified by all Carpathian countries yet.

Non-governmental organizations work hard (they continue their work or have started new activities).

Surveys prepared at the end of 2002 and at the beginning of 2003, by the Marshal Office of the Dolnoslaskie Province showed, that in over half of the municipalities, activity in the field of environmental education has been inspired by such organizations. The main ones include Laboratory for All Beings, The Tatra Protection Initiative, The Tatra Association, The Polish Ecological Club, and in the Sudety mountains: PTPP pro Nature, Karkonosze Foundation, Ecological Culture Foundation, Green Action Foundation, Lower Silesian Eco-development Foundation, The West-Sudeten Naturalist Association, Eco-idea Association, Association for Sustainable Development.

In the area of East Carpathian Mountains and Sudety Mountains, agri-environmental programmes have been gradually implemented. Since 2001 The Agency of Mountain Region Development has been active and its tasks include mainly creating work positions and subsidizing farmers, who start enterprises, according to the programmes. Since 1997, a programme of restoring biodiversity in the Karkonosze and Izerskie Mountains, located in the so-called Black Triangle has been conducted (the region of the highest concentration of power stations using brown coal, located on the borders between Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic).

A subsidy project financed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Magement and its provincial equivalents in Podkarpackie, Malopolskie, Slaskie and Dolnosclaskie Provinvces has been implemented. Agricultural Consultancy Centres work, too, e.g., in, Iwonicz Zdrój or Boguchwala, which are subsidized by the respective units at Karpackie Landscape Parks. The conservation projects are also subsidized by the Foundation for Biodiversity Conservation of East Carpathian Mountains and the Carpathian-Poland Foundation. Examples of activities implemented in the field of biodiversity protection and sustainable use of forest ecosystems are training sessions for Wardens of Valuable Natural Sites, lectures and classes in the field on synathropization of wild animals, biology of mountain forests, history, campaigns and cooperation with the media the first training was organised in the Slaskie Beskid Mountains in 2002), interventions to stop or change the routes of motocross rallies planned in the areas of high natural value in the Bieszczady mountains, campaigns on changes in the location of the planned construction of the Yamal Pipeline, crossing the Bieszczady and Beskid Niski mountains – "Mountains not for the pipeline" programme.

Research institutions, national parks, as well as local self-governments and non-government organizations organize meetings and conferences concerning natural resource protection, including meetings concerning border areas in Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Ukraine, for example the 11th Conference on Natural Resource Protection of the International Biosphere Reserve in Ustrzyki Dolne Problems of nature conservation in spatial management of the Sudeten Mountains - conference in Jeleniej Górze, or "Selected endagered animal speceis in the area of landscape parks in Beskidy Mountains and the methods for their conservation" – Conference in the Miedzybrodz Zywiecki town. „Partnership for sustainable development witin the Bilateral Biosphere Reserve Karkonosze / Krknose" (the initiative of the Karkonosze Foundation). The Institute of Applied Psychology at Jagiellonian University and the Association of Eco-psychology organized the First International Ecological-Psychological Scientific Conference: „Carpathian and their Euro regions" – psychological attitudes towards environmental protection".

The issues of biological diversity of mountain areas in the *National Strategy for Conservation and sustainable use of biological conservation* concern among others development and implementation of the principles of conservation and management of natural and semi-natural mountain plant communities.

198. Has your country been involved in regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some cooperation frameworks are being considered	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further information on the regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity	
International transborder cooperation in forest regions is regulated by bilateral agreements with	

Ukraine (1994 – concerning cooperation in the field of environmental protection; 1996 – concerning cooperation in the field of water management in border waters), with Slovakia (1994 – concerning cooperation in the field of environmental protection; 1997 – concerning water management in border waters, 1997 – concerning cooperation in the field of forestry) and with the Czech Republic (1999 – concerning cooperation in the field of environmental protection, 1996 – concerning the International Commission for the Odra River Protection against Pollution).

Within the framework of the Wyszehrad Group, ministers of the environment from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary meet regularly since 1999.

It should be stressed, that in the *„National Environmental Policy for years 2003-2006"*, the tasks concerning biodiversity conservation in forest areas and the related international cooperation have not been specifically discussed. However, is is assumed in the *Policy* that the Ministry of Environment will join the work on the Carpathian Convention, preparation of the study entitled „Transboundary areas in the NATURA 2000 network", as well as implementation of tasks concerning transboundary protected areas.

Between the 29th and 30th of April, 2001, in Bucharest, representatives of 14 countries, including Poland, signed the Declaration on the Environment and Sustainable Development in the Carpathian and Danube Region.

Another and now the most important initiative in the Carpathian region, is the so-called Carpathian Convention (Framework Convention on Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians). It was signed by government representatives of 7 countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Ukraine) in Kiev, during the 5th Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", between the 20th and 22nd of May, 2003. In Poland, the Carpathian Convention is already after inter-sectoral negotiations and the ratification procedure should be completed within the next few months.

The Carpathian Convention directly refers to the need for implementing the Convention decisions on biodiversity and the provisions laid down in Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 (sustainable development of forest areas). The Convention includes the following topics: integrated approach to the use of land resources; conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity; spatial planning; Sustainable and integrated water/river basin management; sustainable agriculture and forestry; sustainable transport and infrastructure; sustainable tourism; industry and energy; cultural heritage and local knowledge; environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning; monitoring and early warning; awareness raising, education and public participation.

Between the 20th and 21st of May, 2004, in Siofok (Hungary) the XI meeting of Ministers of the Environment from the countries belonging to the Wyszehrad Group took place. During the meeting, among others the issue of the Carpathian Convention was discussed. It was decided to implement actions leading to prompt Convention ratification, support for activity of the temporary Convention Secretariat and to organize in the near future the first Conference of the Parties. Attention was also paid to the need for making use of experience from implementing the similar Convention for the Protection of the Alps. At the XII meeting of Wyszehrad Group (6-7 June 2005) in Bialowieza (Poland) Ministers agreed to make further efforts for early ratification of the Convention by encouraging countries that have not yet done so. The Ministers reconfirmed their earlier common position to invite the European Communities to join this legal instrument and to support its implementation.

The temporary Convention Secretariat has been established on the 1st of May, 2004, by UNEP-ROE in Vienna. The first meeting of experts from countries being the signatories to the Convention took place in Bolzano, in Italy in 6-7.05.2004, the second one in 11-12 of October, 2004, the third one between in 6-8 of April, 2005.

In 2005-2007 a new, French-Polish-Romanian twinning project in the Timosoara region (Romania) will be implemented. It will concern cooperation in the field of implementation of the ecological NATURA 2000 network.

Transborder cooperation between self-governments in six mountain euro-regions (Carpathian, Tatry, Pradziad, Cieszynski Silesia, Silesia and Beskidy) are being continued and developed.

Since 1999, "The Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative" is active. It is an informal syndicate of over 50 non-government organizations and scientific institutions from all Karpacki countries, including many from Poland.

Local transborder cooperation is developed in three forest Biosphere Reserves: in the Tatra Mountains (Poland-Slovakia), in the Karkonosze Mountains (Poland-the Czech Republic) and in the East Carpathian Mountains (Poland-Ukraine-Slovakia).

Within the Phare Access 2000 Program, the Polish-Slovakian project for sustainable use of mountain areas and biodiversity conservation in the Carpathian Mountains, the „Green Carpathian", is now being implemented. It is conducted by non-governmental organizations: the Pracownie na Rzecz Wszystkich Istot and the Lesoochranarske Zoskupenie VLK.

Programme Element 3. Supporting actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing	
199. Has your country taken any measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biodiversity

The basic instrument for biodiversity monitoring in Poland is the "National Environmental Monitoring", coordinated by the Chief Environmental Protection Inspectorate. The programme includes monitoring of forests, as well as flora communities, animal and plant species. In individual modules of this monitoring, changes in certain elements of animate and inanimate nature in mountain regions are examined. However, there is no separate, comprehensive programme oriented towards an analysis of natural changes occurring in the mountains.

Many activities conducted now in the mountains, are connected with the implementation of the NATURA 2000 network. Within the framework of the Polish-French twinning PHARE project "Implementation of the European Ecological Network NATURA 2000 in Poland", among others, pilot projects on plans for protecting seven sites of the NATURA 2000 network, including mountain areas – for the vicinity of the "Ostoja Popradzka" in Beskid Sadecki have been carried out. Within the framework of this project, inventories of natuaral habitats and species of the European importance have been performed, as well as further monitoring of the region has been planned. Moreover, the general needs of NATURA 2000 monitoring have been defined. Within the framework of the twinning project, habitat protection and species (listed in the First and Second Appendices to the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive) guides have been also published. This project gave a general view and identified the needs for further activities concerning inventories and monitoring of mountain natural habitats and species of European importance.

Currently, the Chief Environmental Protection Inspectorate is preparing the concept for monitoring of the NATURA 2000 sites.

A valuable local initiative was the elaboration of the "Plan for management of Orawski and Nowotarski peat bog areas", carried out in 2003-2004 for the Malopolskie Province Nature Conservation Officer, which covered inventory of natural values and plans for monitoring of the most valuable peat bogs in the Polish Carpathians.

One of the important publications concerning biodiversity conservation in the Carpathian mountains is the study entitled the "Carpathian List of Endangered Species", published in 2003 by WWF and the Institute of Nature Conservation in Cracow (Polish Academy of Sciences), within "The Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative".

Inventories and monitoring are carried out in the mountain national parks: Tatrzanski, Pieninski, Babiogórski, Gorczanski, Magurski, Bieszczadzki, Karkonoski and Góry Stolowe National Parks.

Nonetheless, there are immense needs in this field and there is a lack of uniform and coherent programmes targeted on coordination of regional inventories and monitoring studies.

200. Has your country taken any measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

Scientific cooperation with the countries bordering Poland in mountain regions is regulated by the agreement with Ukraine (1997 – concerning cooperation in the field of culture, science and education, become effective in 2000), with the Czech Republic (2000 – concerning cooperation in the field of science and technology) and with Slovakia (2004).

Since 1994, the Association the Carpathian Region Universities – ACRU has been operating. It is an international, non-governmental organization, registered in Slovakia. It includes 16 scientific institutions from five Carpathian region countries. Poland is represented by: the Academy of Economics Economy in Cracow, The Rzeszów Technical University, AGH University of Science and Technology in Cracow, Cracow University of Technology, Lublin University of Technology, Military University of Technology in Warsaw and Rzeszów University. So far, cooperation has pertained mainly to technological problems and does not directly concern mountain biodiversity protection.

The Polish-Ukrainian cooperation is prospering in the sphere of social sciences. Since 2001, the European Collegium for Polish and Ukrainian Universities is functioning. It is a Polish-Ukrainian educational institution, formed by: Maria Curie-Sklodowska University (Poland), The Catholic University of Lublin (Poland), National Taras Szevchenko University in Kiev (Ukraine), National Ivan Frank University in Lvov (Ukraine) and National University "Kiev-Mohylansk Academy" (Ukraine). Currently, 169 post-graduate students from Ukraine, Poland and Belarus are studying there. The Collegium operations are financed by the Ministry of National Education and Sport. Research work of the Collegium concern social, economic, cultural and political problems. Since 1991, the Institute of Central and East Europe has been operating in Lublin. Its work concentrates on social and cultural topics. Since 1990, the South-East Scientific Institute in Przemysl exists and it deals with Polish-Ukrainian scientific cooperation, mainly in the history field.

In the mountain areas, there are various, non-governmental organizations operating, which deal with biodiversity conservation, among others, The Polish Ecological Club (Main Office in Cracow), Partnership for Environment Foundation (Cracow), “Green Culture” Association (Wroclaw), Foundation for Conservation of Biodiversity in the East Carpathian Mountains Foundation (Ustrzyki Górne), West-Sudeten Naturalist Society (Jelenia Góra), Green Action Foundation (Legnica), Laboratory for All Beings (local offices, e.g., in Walbrzych), PTOP „Pro Natura” (Wroclaw), Eagle Conservation Committee, Society for the Earth (Oswiecim), etc.

The Carpathian Foundation (Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Romania) is an international organisation. The Polish office of the Foundation is located in Sanok. Within the Foundation there are three grant programmes: Integrated Rural Development Programme in the Carpathian Euroregion, Cross Border Co-operation Programme, and Local Development Initiative. For example, in 2001-2002, the Foundation financed an international project entitled "Carpathian upper mountain forests: management and conservation for promotion of sustainable regional development".

In conclusion, it should stressed, that in mountain regions rather effective cooperation has been established in the economic, social and cultural fields, however, there are still needs unmet in the field of natural science research coordination, oriented towards understanding the threats to biodiversity and optimal protective measures..

201. Has your country taken any measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems

In the technology development, which is environmentally friendly and whose use should support mountain ecosystem conservation, the main role is given to the programmes and strategies developed at the regional level.

"The Program for sustainable development and environmental protection in the Malopolska Region for 2001-2015" assumes the industry restructuring, waste economy rationalization, promotion of agrotourism and ecotourism, optimizing the communication web with special emphasis on the solutions eliminating harmful effects of the environment, modernization of sewerage and water-supply networks with the use of the newest technologies, an increase in utilisation of alternative energy resources, development of ecological agriculture connected with preservation of traditional methods of cultivation in certain areas and development of educational systems and environmental information.

A similar messages features "Programme for environmental protection in the Podkarpacie Region" (2003)and the "Programme for sustainable development and environmental protection in the Lower Silesian region" (2002).

In March 2004, the founding act for the Carpathian Foundation "Green Technologies" was signed. The financing institutions include Malopolska OProvince, Nowy Sacz Districti, Fruit Experimental Station in Brzeziny and the Malopolska Regional Development Agency. The Foundation's aim is implementation of educational, informative and research activities with respect to improviement of natural environment condition and production of food of high biological values.

Box LXXIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;

b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;

c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;

d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Poland has undertaken various activities leading to preservation of mountain ecosystems' biodiversity, as well as leading to sustainable development in mountain regions. The most important ones are the following:

- development of cooperation in the Carpathian region, through undertaking steps leading to the ratification of the Framework The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians in the near future (the so-called Carpathian Convention)
- supporting activities of local, non-governmental environmental organizations
- supporting initiatives concerning ecological agriculture, preserving traditional forms of farming, promotion of agrotourism and ecotourism
- implementation and supporting environment friendly technologies
- supporting scientific, technical and economic cooperation
- modernization of the waste management and power industry
- development of educational systems and environmental information, as well as access to

information on the environment

Summing up Poland's participation in implementation of the program “Biodiversity of mountain areas” and the Strategic Plan for the Convention, it should be noted that:

- there are various strategies, plans and programs, both on the national and regional level,
- biodiversity conservation of mountain regions has been included into the national and regional strategies,
- programmes, aiming at developing communication, social conscience and community participation in deciding about improvement of mountain ecosystems condition, are being implemented and promoted,
- the main investor groups, including the private sector, are taken under consideration in the sectoral and inter-sectoral plans, concerning protection of mountain ecosystems,
- local communities are included into implementation of that action plan

The described activities lead to implementation of the “2010 Target” in mountain areas, through:

- decrease in loss of natural values in mountain ecosystems,
- promotion of moderate use of mountain ecosystems,
- aiming at preserving the natural continuity in the mountains,
- promotion for preserving traditional knowledge and technologies.

The described activities also lead to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in mountain areas, specifically Goal 7 (ensuring sustainable development), among others defined by such indices as an increase in protected areas (through establishing the NATURA 2000 network), an increase in the number of farms included into the sewerage system. It should be mentioned here, that unreasonable attempts to improve index 25 (an increase in forested areas) in mountain areas (which takes place also in some Polish mountains), may lead to devastation of valuable semi-natural ecosystems and decrease in biodiversity.

The most important obstacles making the “Biodiversity in Mountain Areas” program difficult to implement included:

- Limited participation and interest of the public and local interest groups in decisions and activities connected with biodiversity protection. During the social and political transformation, there is rapid development economic activities aimed only to maximize profit and on the one hand and social inertion of inhabitants of weakly urbanized regions and experiencing high unemployment rate on the other hand. Additionally, there is constant migration of qualified and educated workers to large cities. All that is the reason why improvement of surrounding environment condition is the issue of very low priority to local communities unless it provides direct profits to the inhabitants. This situation remains unchanged also because of the double financing policy on transformation in the agricultural sector, connected with the EU agricultural policy – on the one hand aimed at reducing employment in agriculture, afforesting fallow lands, integrating of agricultural lands and homogenising of agricultural production and on the other hand, aimed at preserving traditional forms of cultivation and small-scale farming, characteristic of mountain and piedmont regions in Poland. A lack of proper balance and spatial distribution of economic incentives, leads to solutions, which enable quick and easy enrichment, for example through afforesting waste ground agricultural areas abandoning traditional technologies for more profitable cultivations and farming.
- A lack of coherent training system of nature conservation staff in higher education and, connected with it, a lack of properly qualified staff. That situation is usually connected with a lack of financial sources for providing new employment opportunities in this field, which is caused by a lack of proper needs, which would force to create faculties directly connected with biodiversity conservation and sustainable planning. Currently, nature protection staff are recruited mainly from biology, forestry and environment protection students, whose education is oriented only towards fragmentary information on nature conservation.
- A loss of traditional knowledge. Young people migrations to large cities, low profits from traditional cultivation and general civilizational changes, lead to disappearance of traditional technologies. Activities undertaken are only of a local character and usually depend on the activity of local, very few enthusiasts.
- Limited possibilities of undertaking proper scientific studies. Studies in the field of biodiversity conservation are rather irregular, of contributory character which is caused by short-term and unstable financial resources, as well as from small subsidies for basic research, such as nature inventories and monitoring of conservation measures.
- Limited flow of on biodiversity. According to the regulations in force, everybody has access to

proper information on the environment. However, a large number of studies are available only in local offices, in a form not adopted to public access. Research work is often reported in a hermetic language and is of little practical use. The Internet is insufficiently used for disseminating information on the environment. A limited flow of information on projects undertaken between institutions and organizations leads to insufficient use of earlier implemented research and analysis.

- Strong pressure on recreational houses and residential houses („second homes") in mountain areas concentrating on open areas, so far occupied by permanent grasslands of very high natural values.
- Insufficient financial means. Considerable fragmentation, instability, shoert periods and usually limited amount of subsidies for biodiversity purposes.

In conclusion, it should be stressed, that solid legal and political bases have been established, enabling effective implementation of the programmes and strategies aimed at biodiversity conservation in mountain areas. However, there are still many urgent tasks in the field of restructuring subsidies for nature protection, organization and coordination of implementation work and scientific research, as well as information flow, environmental education and development of appropriate social and economic incentives and consequently fostering public support for this program among local communities and farms.

E. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

202. Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention? (decision V/20)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the regional and subregional activities in which your country has been involved.	
Polish representatives participate in all the regional and subregional meetings concerning implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity.	

203. Is your country strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, enhancing integration and promoting synergies with relevant regional and subregional processes? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on regional and subregional cooperation and processes.	
Polish representatives support ideas concerning strengthening of the implementation process of the Biodiversity Convention and its links with other, international legal acts. Especially, cooperation between the countries bordering with Poland is prospeing, as well as with other members of the EU.	

The following question (204) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

204. Is your country supporting the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, included in existing cooperation frameworks (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities ongoing (please provide details below)	
Further comments on support for the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes.	
The question does not apply to Poland.	

205. Is your country working with other Parties to strengthen the existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) Yes	X

206. Has your country contributed to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on contribution to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms.	

Box LXXIV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of the above decisions specifically focusing on: a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.
Cooperation with other parties to the Biodiversity Convention is taking place mainly among the EU countries and the countries from the Central Europe regions. An example of the second group is the Wyszehrad Group, which includes Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. All the activities undertaken are included in the Strategic Plan for the Convention, the "2010 Target", the Millennium Development Goals, as well as in the goals adopted in the "National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity" and in other national and sectoral documents. The basic problem is the excessive range of tasks that the national administration faces in the field of nature conservation, as well as often the overlapping provisions of various conventions and international agreements.

F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT

Box LXXV.

Please provide below recommendations on how to improve this reporting format.
This Report format, in which commentaries are attached individual questions seems to be more appropriate than the one applied for the Second National Report. However, it must still be considered whether the range of certain questions and responses do not overlap thus increasing the volume of the document. Some doubts are also raised by certain responses in the "boxes", which contain similar topics as questions preceding them.

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