NATIONAL REPORT ON MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS	
Contracting Party	Poland
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Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

The report was elaborated in Department of Nature Protection, Ministry of the Environment on the grounds of information received from:

- Regional Nature Conservators from all 6 mountain voivodships;
- Directors of 8 mountain national parks;
- Research institutes and universities;
- Non-governmental organisations.

The subject literature and unpublished documents were used in this report. The Draft report was consulted with many experts. Once various accommodations had been reached internally (with other departments at the Ministry), a final version of the document was approved by the Chief Nature Conservator.

Mountain Ecosystems

1. What is the relative priority your country accords to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	

2. How does your country assess the resources available for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems, both domestic and international?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	

3. Has your country requested financial assistance from GEF for funding the activities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide details	X

Financial assistance was obtained from GEF for the implementation of the following projects:

- Conservation and sustainable development of the valley of the Krasna River in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains (Radom and Kielce Nature Conservation Society);
- Establishment of the Forest Gene Bank in Kostrzyca (this Bank collects, inter alia, selected ecotypes of mountain forest trees);
- Conservation of non-forest ecosystems in the valley of the Upper San River in the Bieszczady Mountains (The Association for the Upper San);
- Restitution of multi-purpose sheep husbandry in Bieszczady as a tool in landscape management and local agricultural communities development.

Efforts are underway to receive assistance for the project of the Polish International UNESCO-MAB Committee and Babiogórski National Park:

- Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity through Sound Tourism Development in Biosphere Reserves in Central and Eastern Europe.

Assessment, Identification and Monitoring

4. Has your country undertaken any assessment of direct and underlying causes of degradation and loss of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, please specify major threats and their relative importance, as well as gaps	X

Assessments are carried out in the most valuable mountain ecosystems. Such ecosystems have been covered by variety of nature conservation forms (national parks, nature reserves, landscape parks and protected landscape areas). Under the Nature Conservation Act, conservation plans are drawn up for national parks, nature reserves and landscape parks. These plans include an assessment of the condition of nature and identify and evaluate the internal and external threats. Forest management plans with nature conservation programmes at Forest District level are drawn up in state forests.

The most important causes of degradation or loss of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems are as follows:

- the growth of tourist traffic and its excessive concentration in a few selected regions (the Tatra Mountains, the Karkonosze Mountains, the Beskid Śląski Mountains and the Bieszczady Mountains in the summer season; the Tatra Mountains, the Karkonosze Mountains, the areas of Szczyrk, the Pilsko Massif, Jaworzyna Krynicka in the Beskid Sądecki Mountains and Zieleniec in the winter season) – the expansion of the tourist and sport infrastructure, the growing transport intensity, the treading upon or picking of species of plants and mushrooms, the destruction of soils in the initial development stage; littering;
- the abandonment of production because of the lack of its economic viability, primarily as regards sheep and cattle grazing in forest clearings and mountain meadows; the resignation from hay clear-cutting in meadows and pastures; with this leading to the succession of undesirable vegetation and the loss of valuable grassland ecosystems;
- transboundary and local air pollution, causing the decline of vulnerable species (ranging from lichens to artificially introduced spruce stands, e.g. in the Izerskie Mountains) and a decrease in the annual increments of trees, e.g. spruce, as demonstrated in the case of the Beskid Śląski and Beskid Żywiecki Mountains);
- change in groundwater levels (e.g. as a result of inappropriately conducted drainage) and pollution of many surface waters – affecting all groups of organisms and ecosystems (especially peat-bog ecosystems);
- extreme weather events, frequent in recent years (violent downpours, floods, landslides and rotary storms related to global climate change) causing the destruction of many species and ecosystems;

  the growing tendencies for farmland and uncultivated land to be taken up for residential and recreational building, with the related degradation of landscape.

c) If yes, please specify the measures your country has taken to control the causes of loss of mountain biodiversity	X

An important element of control and prevention of the loss of biological diversity is the continuous expansion of the system of protected areas and the list of protected species. The most important protected areas are covered by conservation plans (a form of management plan) which focus on the conservation of the declining species and ecosystems. The conservation plans of national parks, nature reserves and landscape parks indicate measures designed to eliminate or minimise threats to nature. Every year the Directors of National Parks submit their reports to the National Board of National Parks on the implementation of tasks provided for in the conservation plans. The Voivode (the Governor of the Province) designates the authority to exercise direct supervision over the reserve. In addition, on request of the Ministry of the Environment and the Voivodes periodical inspections are carried out in nature reserves, e.g. to identify threats to biological diversity. The State Forests has carried out an evaluation of the forests managed by this Holding in terms of nature conservation and forest management. Moreover, in the framework of forest management plans, nature conservation programmes are developed at Forest District level. The system for nature conservation is continuously improved. Poland has quite a large set of funds and foundations which provide financial assistance to measures to conserve biological diversity.

The National Nature Monitoring System managed by the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection in mountain areas covers:

- health conditions of forest;
- forest and non-forest phytocenoses;
- vascular plants;
- large predatory mammals: wolf, lynx, wildcat and bear;
- chamois and alpine marmot;
- dormice *(Gliridae)*;
- birds;
- amphibians and reptiles;
- *Carabidae*.

Monitoring is also conducted by national parks, research institutes and environmental non-governmental organisations. Examples are given below of the monitoring studies and activities:

- in the Sudety Mountains, in the framework of the "Black Triangle Programme" – the monitoring of the levels of groundwater, monitoring of border waters and air monitoring;
- an assessment of the degree of degradation of peat-bogs in the Izerskie Mountains caused by change in groundwater levels and unsuitable forest management;
- causes and degree of degradation of upper subalpine coniferous forests in the Karkonosze and Izerskie Mountains;
- the ecological problems in the high-mountain part of the Karkonosze Mountains;
- renaturalisation of forest ecosystems and extensive meadow management in Babiogórski National Park;
- monitoring of plant communities, rare species of vascular flora, selected groups of animals, the degree of destruction of the natural environment along tourist trails, the dynamics of tourist traffic and hydrochemical monitoring of waters in Bieszczadzki National Park. The results of this monitoring are systematically published. In addition, every year the International Conference "Conservation of the Nature Resources of the International Biosphere Reserve 'Eastern Carpathians'" is organised in order to exchange information on the conservation of biological diversity in this part of the Carpathians.

5. Has your country identified taxonomic needs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, please specify	X

Most invertebrates and vascular plants have been well investigated in taxonomic terms; further research is needed for lower-order organisms, such as insects, soil organisms and mites. It is necessary to gain more detailed knowledge of the occurrence and distribution of species.

The conservation plans of national parks have identified existing gaps in taxonomic knowledge and the needs in this field for correct conservation. They have also designated the species requiring special care (e.g. the protected species, those endangered at national and regional levels) and provided for measures to preserve them. Red Data Books have been developed for species of plants and vertebrates endangered with extinction. At present, work is underway on the Red Data Book for invertebrates.

6. Has your country made any assessment of the vulnerability or fragility of the mountains in your country?	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, please specify the results and observed impacts on mountain biodiversity	X

Poland is characterised by varied stability of mountain ecosystems. When moving from the west to the east, their vulnerability diminishes, with their stability increasing. This is expressed by the less and less frequently occurring gradations of primary pests (*Cephalciae*) and secondary pests (bark beetles). These effects are related to the general long-term unfavourable reconstruction of tree-stands: the elimination of beech, fir and sycamore and the introduction of the present spruce ecotype into tree-stands subjected to intensive logging. This long-term process depleted the biological diversity of both mountain flora and fauna. In the eastern part of the Carpathians there are still all the predators and extensive forest complexes resembling to a large extent the natural ones. Research has indicated that in the Carpathians the revitalisation of nature in the scope of large animals brings better results for mammals than for birds. The birds do not settle yet in the forest complexes of the Western Carpathians, whereas large predatory animals have already come to live there. Due to correct forest management and effective nature conservation, many species have resettled throughout the Carpathians. Their dispersal to the west has been stopped by the strong urbanisation and the transport routes of the Moravian Gate.

Elements of assessments of the vulnerability and stability of mountain ecosystems can be found in certain nature conservation plans for national parks, nature reserves and landscape parks as well as in numerous scientific studies. As early as in the 1980s, the Committee for the Development of Mountain Lands of the Polish Academy of Sciences carried out the study “Contemporary process which model mountain areas”. Scientific institutions (research institutes and universities) conduct thematic programmes concerning the conservation of mountain areas, e.g. the protection of mountain soils against erosion, the protection of water-head areas, the protection of the areas where curative mineral water occurs and the protection of mountain forests. E.g. they indicated the effects of drainage of peat-big ecosystems, the overgrowing of meadows and pastures, and tourist traffic on the loss of biological diversity, even causing the decline of a number of its elements, particularly at species and biocenotic levels. Research is underway on the stability of the environment and its resistance to natural and anthropogenic factors (including e.g. the research in the Tatra Mountains on the upper line of mountain-pine as an indicator of the stability of the geosystem of the Tatra Mountains). Recently, research was also launched on the effects of the processes of natural decomposition of forest trees left in a natural mountain ecosystem on the functioning and revitalisation of this ecosystem.

7. Has your country made any assessment important for conservation of biological diversity of mountain ecosystems at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels? (You may wish to use the Annex I of the Convention for categories of biodiversity important for conservation)	
a) no, please specify the reasons	
b) yes, some assessments or monitoring undertaken (please specify)	X

Assessments and monitoring activities are mainly conducted in national parks and state forests. The monitoring in national parks covers forest ecosystems, ecosystems are evaluated (including e.g. the florist and phytocenotic evaluation of clearings in subalpine forests), rare and endangered species are inventoried and monitored and lichens are inventoried as bioindicators. Research is carried out on the preservation of gene resources of selected forest trees, e.g. European silver fir. The monitoring in state forests covers the habitat-soil and climatic conditions, air pollution, the characteristics of tree-stands and undergrowth plants as well as the damage to the assimilation apparatus. The principles of monitoring the gene resources in forests have been drawn up for the Sudety Mountains, the endangered tree populations have been identified and methods have been developed for preparing seeds for long-term storage in the Gene Banks. An assessment has been made of the present composition of additive species in mountain and submontane forests and of the significance of these species for mountain forest biocenoses; the possibilities and methods for increasing their share in species compositions, depending on the habitat, have also been indicated. Genetic investigations have started for the endangered and vanishing animal species in the Carpathians. These investigations cover e.g. lynx, wildcat and two butterfly species: *Parnassius apollo and Parnassius mnemozyne.*

In the framework of the Initiative of the Carpathian Ecoregion implemented by WWF in 6 Carpthian countries, the status of dangers to species in the Carpathians was estimated. Soon the Red List of the Carpathians will be published, covering endangered and vanishing vertebrates, invertebrates, vascular plants and plant assemblies of the Carpathians.

c) yes, comprehensive assessments or monitoring programmes undertaken (please specify where results can be found, and opportunities and obstacles, if any)	

Regulatory and Information System and Action Plan

8. Has your country developed regulations, policies and programs for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify sectors	X

In 1997, Parliament adopted a resolution concerning the sustainable development of mountainous and hilly areas, laying down the rules of policy in these areas. The main directions of action as adopted in the resolution were: the protection of culture and biological diversity as well as the building of tourist and health-resort infrastructure. In 1999, an action program for socio-economic activation of mountainous and hilly areas was drawn up, taking into account the conditions of the natural environment. In 2001, the Parliament approved the Act on support for activation and socio-economic development of mountain regions. The objective of the Act is to support gminas that are located in these regions, and particularly their inhabitants, who are farmers. Implementation of its resolutions is to be carried out by the appointed Agency for Development of Mountain Regions. Among the tasks of the Agency are creation of workplaces and financial support for farmers, who begin activity.

An example of a regional programme for mountain areas is the programme to restore biodiversity in the Karkonosze and Izerskie Mountains, implemented since 1997. The Mountains are situated within the so-called Black Triangle (a region with the highest concentration of lignite-fired power plants located on the borders of Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic).

In state forests, the principles of development which integrate the objectives of: the conservation of biological diversity, the strengthening of the ecologically constitutive functions of forests, sustainable use of forest resources, the economic stabilisation of forest management and socialisation of forest management as a public good, are improved primarily in so-called Forest Promotion Complexes. For these, the rules of sustained and sustainable management have been developed. They are based on multi-functional forest management and the economic, nature conservation and social functions of forests. Out of 11 Forest Promotion Complexes now existing in Poland, two are situated in mountain areas (The Woods of the Beskid Śląski Mountains and The Birczańskie Woods). Sustainable development of state forests is ensured by forest management plans and nature conservation programmes of Forest Districts.

Mountain areas are managed in a sustainable way pursuant to the whole system of national legislation, starting from the relevant provisions of the Constitution, though a number of Acts, to political, strategic and programming documents. The *Second National Environmental Policy sets* out the directions and objectives of the sustainable development of the country, integrating good management practices and environmental management systems into all the sectoral policies (industry, power generation, transport, agriculture, forestry, construction, municipal economy, land use, tourism, health care, trade and national defence). It also emphasises the need to regionalise nationwide instruments of environmental policy and to co-ordinate regional policy with the regional policy in the appropriate ecosystems (e.g. mountainous and submontane ones) in Europe. Special importance was attributed to the problems of mountain forest ecosystems in such strategic documents as *the National Forest Policy* and *the National Forest Increase Programme*. In addition, the conservation plans of national parks and nature reserves include programmes of protective measures in areas of strict, active and landscape conservation. It is planned to adopt a special Mountain Act, to comprehensively regulate the issues related to the conservation and sustainable development of mountain areas. Work is underway on the Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, to be signed by all the Carpathian countries.

9. Has your country applied the ecosystem approach (adopted at COP 5) in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide some cases or examples	X

Most activities carried out for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity apply the ecosystem approach, including e.g.:

- interdisciplinary conservation programmes for forest ecosystems, addressing different elements and levels of such ecosystems in order to initiate the desirable ecological processes;
- renaturalisation of forest ecosystems – by the reconstruction of tree-stands aimed at restoring them to a state close to the natural one;
- conservation and restitution of peat-bog ecosystems;
- preservation of meadow ecosystems by systematic hay cutting, with hay removal;
- conservation of valuable fauna species by protecting their habitats;
- conservation of rare flora species by protecting their communities (e.g. subalpine glades).

10. Does your national biodiversity strategy and action plan cover mountain biological diversity?	
a) no, please specify why	
b) yes, please give some information on the strategy and plan, in particular on mountain biodiversity	X

The draft *National Strategy for the Conservation and Reasonable Use of Biological Diversity* covers to a wide extent the issues of the biological diversity of mountain areas, but it addresses them together with the issues of the upland and lowland areas of the country. As regards mountain areas, the draft action programme for 2003 – 2006 contains the task of developing and implementing the principles of the conservation and management of natural and semi-natural mountain plant communities.

11. Has your country disseminated the relevant information concerning management practices, plans and programmes for conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide details where information can be retrieved concerning management practices, plans and programmes	X

The conservation plans of national parks, nature reserves and landscape parks are generally accessible at the seat of the authority which manages a given protected area and at the seat of the authority which has established the area. The provisions of the conservation plans are also taken into account in the generally accessible local plans. There is also general access to the nature conservation programmes of Forest Districts. National and landscape parks and state forests carry out education activities to promote their intentions and measures in the field of the conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems (with meetings, lectures, exhibitions and information boards). Education centres are established at both national parks, landscape parks and state forests. A task force has been appointed to provide substantive assistance to activities in the scope of forest education in state forests. Publishing activities are also carried out (leaflets, information bulletins and periodicals).

Cooperation

12. Has your country undertaken any collaboration with other Parties for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems at the regional level or within a range of mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify the objectives of this collaboration and achievements	X

In Poland, the first transboundary Biosphere Reserves were already established in 1992. They were established in mountain areas in the Karkonosze Mountains (Poland and the Czech Republic), the Tatra Mountains (Poland and Slovakia) and the Bieszczady Mountains (Poland and Slovakia). In 1998, the latter Reserve was transformed into the Trilateral Reserve "Eastern Carpathians" (Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine). The objectives of these reserves include the conservation of ecosystems, the reconstruction of modified or destroyed elements of the environment and the development of the principles of economic growth in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. Pursuant to the 1996 Agreement between Poland and the Czech Republic on Permanent Co-operation for the Implementation of Common Economic and Conservation Policies in the Karkonosze Region, the Polish-Czech Council of the Biosphere Reserve and its Bureau as well as the Intersectoral Forum with an advisory function were established. The Polish-Slovak co-operation in the Tatra Mountains focuses on the conservation of rare and endangered species (chamois, alpine marmot and eagle) and the conservation of forest ecosystems. The purpose of the annual international conference on the natural resources in the "Eastern Carpathians" and their conservation is to improve cooperation in this Reserve. Work is underway to establish another international mountain reserve: the Babia Góra Biosphere Reserve (Poland and Slovakia).

Co-operation is conducted between the individual protected areas situated in Poland and the neighbouring countries. E.g. the Board of the Group of the Carpathian Landscape Parks in Krosno co-operates with the Board of CHKO Vychodne Karpaty – Humenne, in keeping with the provisions of the programme Wspólny Dach-Spoločna Strecha (Common Roof); Góry Stołowe (Table Mountains) National Park works with the Czech Landscape Park CHKO Boumovsko (carrying out joint conservation activities, developing bicycle and walking tourism, jointly monitoring the mass-scale movements of rocks); Babiogórski National Park co-operates with CHKO Horna Orava (drawing up and implementing the concepts of nature and landscape conservation, conducting an exchange of information and advisory services as well as scientific research, implementing joint projects and programmes); Karkonoski National Park works with Snowdonia National Park (Wales in Great Britain) and the Czech Krkonošski National Park; Bieszczadzki National Park co-operates with national parks in Slovakia and Ukraine as well as with Vanois National Park (France) and the High Tauren National Park (Austria).

In the framework of the implementation of bilateral agreements between Poland, the Slovak Republik and the Czech Republik, on cooperation in environmental protection, consultations were held concerning transboundary mountains areas proposed for the Natura 2000.

In addition, in the framework of co-operation within economic Euroregions (the Euroregion of the Carpathians, the Euroregion of the Nysa River encompassing the Black Triangle, the Euroregion of the Tatra Mountains and Euroregion Pradziad), tasks are implemented in the field of the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable development. A number of agreements have been signed regarding cross-border tourism in mountain areas, where there are common (Polish-Czech and Polish-Slovak) hiking trails in the Sudety Mountains and the Carpathians.

At international level, Poland participates in the following processes related to the conservation and sustainable use of forests, including mountain forests: *the Ministerial Conference on Forest Conservation in Europe (Resolution S4: Adapting the Management of Mountain Forests to New Environmental Conditions), the Ist World Mountain Forum, the European Observatory of Mountain Forest – EOMF, the Working Party of the European Forestry Commission/FAO on the Management of Mountain Watersheds – FAO-ECF Watershed Management.*

13. Has your country signed or ratified any regional or international treaty concerning mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify which treaty and provide as much as possible a report on the progress in the implementation of the treaties, including any major constraints in the implementation of the treaties	X
There were signed bilateral agreements between governments of Poland and the Slovak Republik (1994) and Poland and the Czech Republik (1998) on cooperation in environmental protection. Under these agreements there are some activities on transboundary cooperation in mountain areas. Intergovernmental commissions were established and on their meetings tendency in activities are coordinated. It is planned to sign the Convention on the Conservation and Sustainable Management in the Carpathians. The purpose of the Convention is for the States – Parties to the Convention to pursue comprehensive policies for the preservation and conservation of the Carpathians and to develop co-operation in this field.	

Relevant thematic areas and cross-cutting issues

14. Has your country taken account of mountain ecosystems while implementing thematic programmes of work on agricultural; inland waters; forest; and dry and sub-humid lands biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes – but in only one or two thematic programmes of work	X
c) yes, included in all programmes of work	
d) if yes, please specify details	X
Thematic programmes of work on biological diversity in forests are reflected in daily forest management practice by the implementation of the nature conservation programmes of Forest Districts and tasks under forest management plans. These issues were also contained in the agri-environmental scheme called “Rural development – integration of nature conservation with agricultural policies”.	

15. Has your country taken any measures to ensure that the tourism in mountains is sustainable?	
a) no , please specify why	
b) yes, but in early stages of development (please specify the reasons)	X
The designation of areas for tourism and recreation and the ways of making them available is one of the elements of the nature conservation plans of national parks, nature reserves and landscape parks as well as the forest management instructions for Forest Districts, where the requirements of nature conservation in these areas have to be taken into account. Under the Nature Conservation Act, tourism is prohibited in national parks and nature reserves with the exception of the designated areas and trails. The plans also lay down the forms of tourism allowed at a given place and time and the existing bans, e.g. on bivouacking, lighting fires, access of cars, picking of plants and mushrooms growing in the wild. The natural and cultural evaluation of the Sudety and Carpathians ranges has been carried out for the purposes of ecotourism and the areas best suited for such a function have been designated. A programme for the development of a model pattern for recreation and rest purposes has been developed for the Forest Promotion Complex of the Woods of the Beskid Śląski Mountains. Tourism intensity is monitored in national parks. On this basis, analyses are carried out with the aim of both making an inventory of existing threats and improving the offer for tourists. The course of tourist trails is modified in order to minimise the negative impact of tourist traffic on the environment. Actions are conducted to promote areas with high tourist values which have not been utilised to date, with a view to reducing the burden on areas with the highest tourist traffic intensity, which are usually the most valuable areas in terms of nature values (the Tatra Mountains and the Karkonosze Mountains). Education activities are addressed to tourists and local communities, promoting e.g. qualified tourism, which is environmentally friendly and respects the cultural heritage, ecological tourism and agrotourism. Local products manufactured according to traditional production methods are promoted.	
c) in advanced stages of development (please specify the reasons)	
d) relatively comprehensive measures being implemented (please specify the reasons)	
16. Has your country taken any measures to protect the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes, but in early stages of policy or programme development	X
E.g. the programme for the conservation of the gene pool of old varieties of fruit-trees, the raising of vanishing livestock breeds, the preservation of traditional ways of preparing food and the traditional methods of livestock grazing.	
d) yes, in advanced stages of development	
e) some programmes being implemented	
f) comprehensive programmes being implemented	

17. Has your country developed any programmes for the protection of natural and cultural heritages in the mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please provide some information in the programmes	X

Such programmes are contained in the nature conservation plans of national parks, nature reserves and landscape parks. Natural processes are protected in areas of strict conservation. In areas of partial conservation, active conservation serves to preserve ecosystems, landscape and cultural values; traditional management forms and monuments of cultural heritage are protected as well. Inventories of sites and places related to cultural heritage are carried out, protective measures are promoted and the principles of monitoring are established. In addition, local programmes have been drawn up, such as the programme to conserve the traces of medieval gold mining, the programme to preserve traditional building of the Tatra Highlands etc.

Poland is preparing to implement the National Agri-environmental Programme throughout the country, including mountain ecosystems. It will be implemented in the framework of the Rural Development Plan in 2004 – 2006. The Programme provides for the delineation of the so-called vulnerable mountain area, with its range encompassing the Eastern Carpathians. In this region, the programme for the conservation of biological diversity will be implemented in areas used for agricultural purposes or those where such use should be restored. For the purposes of the programme, types of mountain habitats have been identified and priority habitats have been designated for the appropriate agricultural activities to be conducted in subordination to the principles of nature conservation.

18. Has your country established protected areas in mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify the percentage of mountains under protected areas out of total mountain areas in your country	X

Protected areas in mountains occupy 47.4% of their surface area (for comparison on a national basis they represent 32.5% of Poland's territory).

19. Has your country undertaken any activities to celebrate the International Year of Mountains and Eco-tourism?	
a) no	
b) yes, please specify	X

The National Committee for the celebrations of the International Year of Mountains was established in Poland. A number of conferences were held (e.g. "The Problems of Mountain Economy in the Light of Current Research" – a conference organised by the Committee for the Development of Mountain Lands of the Polish Academy of Science, the conference on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Pieniński National Park, the Slovak PIENAP and the "Border Nature Park" in the Pieniny Mountains – the first in Europe and the second in the world); and so were workshops, seminars (e.g. the workshop "Tourism in Mountain Areas" in Sucha Beskidzka for the Central and Eastern European countries) and series of lectures on mountain issues (e.g. "The Mountain Environment – Evolution of the Relief" at the Geography Institute of Wrocław University). Special meetings, excursions and lectures were organised to promote the natural and cultural values of mountain regions. And so were tours, combined with competitions in knowledge of mountains as well as photography and poetry competitions. Many exhibitions and educational events were prepared, e.g. "Relations and Dependencies between the Life and Customs of Mountain Residents and the World of Nature" or "The Shepherds' Culture and Its Effect on Man and Nature in the Gorce Mountains". "The Sudety Summit" was organised to commemorate the stay of J. W. Goethe and J. Q. Adams in the Sudety Mountains, complete with an attempt to break the Guinness Book record in the category "the largest number of persons hiking in the mountains on the same day".

Case-studies

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

Please find enclosed * : "Tourism and its impact on biodiversity" – the case study of Babia Góra National Park/Biosphere Reserve in Poland.

*** This case study is available on the CBD website at http://www.biodiv.org/doc/case-studies/cs-tour-babia-gora-pl.pdf**