

The Third National Report on the
implementation of the
Convention on Biological Diversity
in the Slovak Republic

November 2005
Bratislava, Slovak Republic

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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.

Preparation of the Third National Report on the Implementation of the Convention in Biological Diversity in Slovakia was started and led by the Ministry of the Environment.

To facilitate the whole process Slovakia requested assistance from the Global Environment Facility under Enabling Activities for Biodiversity. A grant of 20,000 USD was approved in May 2005 on the basis on Memorandum of Understanding between United Nations Environment Programme and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic.

Below listed institutions were involved in preparation of the National Report.

Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

The Slovak National Museum

Ministry of Health Service of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Transport, Posts and Communication

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Economy

Slovak Agriculture University in Nitra

National Coordination Centre for Farm Animal Genetic Resources

Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute

Forest Research Institute

Slovak Environmental Agency

Slovak Academy of Sciences

Plant Production Research Institute

Daphne - Institute of Applied Ecology

Public Health Institute

Bojnice ZOO

Animal Production Research Institute

Except a formal institutional participation more than 20 national experts were hired to provide input to the Report on implementation of the CBD in Slovakia.

Draft Report was discussed and endorsed at the extended meeting of the Slovak Commission for the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the National Stakeholder Workshop on 19 October 2005 in Bratislava. Except for Representatives of the Slovak Government Ministries, experts from various national institutions dealing with the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components participated at the workshop.

Final draft of the National Report was approved by Minister of the Environment.

Information on any particular circumstances in your country that are relevant to understanding the responses to the questions in this report.

Generally, capacities for implementing the CBD have improved in recent years, in particular within a framework of preparation for the country accession to EU. In some areas this has resulted in significant strengthening of capacities for implementing the CBD, even in those areas where capacities were lacking at all in the past.

Slovakia became member state of the European Union on May 1, 2004. Until that date Slovakia harmonised nearly all its legal system with one of the EU. This also applies to legislation related to the conservation of BD, sustainable use of its components and legislation supporting equitable sharing of benefits arising out from utilisation of genetic resources.

Therefore, when answering to certain questions references were made as needed to the legal instruments that are in force within EU.

Besides EU legislation, there are many initiatives and processes that deal with the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components in the pan-European context. Most important to be mentioned are the ministerial (the European Ministers of Environment) conferences called "Environment for Europe" and as well Forest Conferences attended by European ministers responsible for forestry.

In the reporting period, status of Slovakia was changing from a country eligible to receive development assistance to a donor country. Until 1 May 2004, date of accession to EU Slovakia was referred to as country with economy in transition. At the same time Slovakia has turned to be a member of donor community and started to provide ODA. Therefore, where relevant, questions to both, countries with economies and developed countries, were answered.

Indication of the level of priority your country accords to the implementation of various articles, provisions and their associated decisions, and relevant programmes of the work of the Convention

Articles/Provisions /Programme of Work	Level of Priorities		
	High	Medium	Low
Article 5 - Cooperation	X		
Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use		X	
Article 7 - Identification and monitoring	X		
Article 8 - In situ conservation		X	
Article 8h - Alien species		X	

Article 8j - Traditional knowledge and related provisions			x
Article 9 - Ex situ conservation		x	
Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity			x
Article 11 - Incentive measures			x
Article 12 - Research and training		x	
Article 13 - Public education and awareness			x
Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts			x
Article 15 - Access to genetic resources			x
Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology		x	
Article 17 - Exchange of information		x	
Article 18 - Scientific and technical cooperation		x	
Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits			x
Article 20 - Financial resources			x
Article 21 - Financial mechanism			x
Agricultural biodiversity		x	
Forest biodiversity		x	
Inland water biodiversity		x	
Marine and coastal biodiversity			Not applicable
Dryland and sub- humid land biodiversity			Not applicable

**Indication of the availability of resources required by your country
for the implementation of various articles, provisions and their
associated decisions, and relevant programmes of work of the
Convention.**

Articles/Provisions/ Programme of Work	Resources Availability			
	Good	Adequate	Limiting	Severely Limiting
Article 5 - Cooperation		X		
Article 6 -General measures for conservation and sustainable use		X		
Article 7 - Identification and monitoring			X	
Article 8 - In situ conservation			X	
Article 8h - Alien species			X	
Article 8j - Traditional knowledge and related provisions		X		
Article 9 - Ex situ conservation		X		
Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity			X	
Article 11 - Incentive measures		X		
Article 12 - Research and training		X		
Article 13 - Public education and awareness			X	
Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts			X	
Article 15 - Access to genetic resources			X	
Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology		X		
Article 17 - Exchange of information		X		
Article 18 - Scientific and technical cooperation			X	
Article 19 -			X	

Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits				
Article 20 - Financial resources			X	
Article 21 - Financial mechanism			X	
Agricultural biodiversity			X	
Forest biodiversity			X	
Inland water biodiversity			X	
Marine and coastal biodiversity				Not applicable
Dryland and subhumid land biodiversity				Not applicable

If applicable, please list below the articles, provisions or the programmes of work where resources are most urgently needed for implementation at the national level.

Major weaknesses in implementing the Convention at the national level include:

- Low level of cooperation at all levels, lack of coordination with other processes
- Inconsistency of the national and sub-national strategic and planning documents (in terms of objectives, etc.)
- Not adequate resources are allocated for biodiversity monitoring
- Clearing-house mechanism is not functioning
- Information are not regularly provided to CBD Secretariat
- Not adequate measures in place to encourage equitable sharing of benefits
- Not adequate application of IPRs
- Not adequate measures for access to genetic resources
- Inadequate records on financing of BD-related issues, including according to sources of funding
- No contributions have been recently paid to GEF
- Biodiversity is not adequately addressed in Slovak ODA

Concerning work programs under the Convention, mobilization of existing national capacities and their strengthening is needed for all work programs applicable to Slovakia.

Further comments on priorities and resource availability

In the space below, please identify a maximum of three areas for each article, provision and programme of work listed above, in which resource availability is most limiting and urgent as far as your national circumstances are concerned.

Article 5 - Cooperation

1. Cooperation and coordination among BD related international law instruments (incl. MEAs, regional, bilateral) at the national level
2. Participation of Slovakian experts at the CBD related meetings, including at expert consultations and preparatory meetings (at regional and EU levels)
3. Intersectoral cooperation and coordination

Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use

1. Integration of BD into sectoral policies
2. Setting measurable targets for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components

Article 7 - Identification and monitoring

1. Co-ordination of sectoral monitoring programmes and establishment of Long-term Integrated National Inventory/Monitoring of Components of Biological Diversity, Related Adverse Processes and Activities (lacking cross-sectoral concept, including mechanism for financing such concept)
2. Harmonisation of indicators used in sectoral monitoring
3. **Establishment of public portal presenting status of country biodiversity**

Article 8 - In situ conservation

1. Reconciliation of conflicting sectoral interests negatively impacting on conservation of BD in-situ
2. Development of clear state policy for the conservation of BD in-situ

Article 8h - Alien species

1. Development of policies for combating alien species and improving of legal instruments for tracking new introductions
2. Establishment of Expert Group for Alien Species Control and improving of knowledge on alien species, particularly on Avertebrata species
3. Improving of public understanding, including awareness of legal aspects, of alien species control

Article 8j -Traditional knowledge and related provisions

1. Development of methodologies for advancing integration of traditional knowledge into sustainable use of natural resources

Article 9 - Ex situ conservation

1. Improvement of understanding of importance of ex-situ conservation of biodiversity
2. Improvement of facilities for ex-situ protection of biodiversity in Slovakia

Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

1. Development of BD valuation schemes and their integration into sectoral policies
2. Promotion of application of ecosystem approach into management, particularly in protected areas
3. Harmonisation of National Strategy for Sustainable Development and National Biodiversity Strategy

Article 11 - Incentive measures

1. Incentives and compensation to land owners in the interest of biodiversity conservation

Article 12 - Research and training

1. Increased financing of BD related research, both basic and applied research
2. Development of integrated research programs focused on global environmental challenges

Article 13 - Public education and awareness

1. Improvement of awareness of BD related laws

Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

1. Improvement of integration of BD considerations in SEA, including improvement of relevant legal provisions
2. Extension of a scope of considerations of environmental impact on biodiversity and development of relevant assessment methods
3. Improvement of national legal regime applicable to liability and redress for damage to biological diversity

Article 15 - Access to genetic resources

1. Development of relevant legal instruments and implementing mechanism

Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology

1. Development of National Biotechnology Strategy
2. Promote application of IPRs relevant to biodiversity

Article 17 - Exchange of information

1. Improvement of means for exchanging of BD related information in views of special needs of developing countries

Article 18 - Scientific and technical cooperation

1. Establishment of National CHM
2. Establishment of register of experts in various field relevant to the conservation of BD and sustainable use of its component
3. Increase promotion of technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of BD

Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

1. Development of National Biotechnology Strategy
2. Establishment of national biotechnology professional organisation (such as biotech chamber, biotech association)

Article 20 - Financial resources

1. Introducing mechanism for recording of expenditures for the conservation of BD and sustainable use of its components and

- assessing their effectiveness
- 2. Revision of Slovak ODA and integration, as a priority actions related to implementing of this Convention

Article 21 - Financial mechanism

- 1. Improving participation of Slovakia in reviews of effectiveness of the financial mechanism and in designing actions to improve it

Agricultural biodiversity

- 1. Improved understanding of the scope of agrobiodiversity concept
- 2. Involvement of various stakeholders into implementing of Work Programme on Agrobiodiversity

Forest biodiversity

- 1. Compensation of forest owners for limitations in uses of their forests in the interest of biodiversity conservation
- 2. Incentives to Close to Nature Management of Forests
- 3. Incentives to Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources

Inland water biodiversity

- 1. Integration of relevant CBD Decisions and elements of Work Programme for Inland Water Ecosystems into State Water Management Policy

Article 5 Cooperation

1. Is your country actively cooperating with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) bilateral cooperation (please give details)	X
b) international programmes (please give details)	X
c) international or regional agreements (please give details)	X
Further comments on cooperation with other Parties	
<p>Slovakia is actively involved in trans-boundary cooperation with neighbouring countries (Hungary, Poland, Ukraine, Austria and Czech Republic) in managing shared habitats/ecosystems, in particularly within limits of protected areas and in running recovery and conservation projects for species of conservation importance. It has been also actively involved in exchange of information related to the subject matter (conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components)</p> <p>Slovakia is a member party of all major international and regional agreements and conventions related to conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components, including inter alia, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Antarctic Treaty and UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.</p>	

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

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

Slovakia as a Member country of the EU is under obligation to observe and implement Water Framework Directive. One of the fundamental principles of the Directive is that planning and management of all waters should consider water basins as comprehensive units, ranging from the very source of the watercourses to their outfall into the sea. In a transboundary context this implies that co-operation has to be established across existing national borders.

Most notable example of mechanism established for the purpose of management of the aquatic environment within a specific region is represented by the Danube Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River, of which Slovakia has been a party. Responsibilities for enhancing coordination of cooperation of Contracting Parties are assigned to the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) based in Vienna, Austria.

Under the umbrella of this Convention Slovakia was actively involved in implementing couple of regional projects contributing to the creation of the framework for a long-term solution to the problem of pollution of the Danube River Basin through the development of national policies and legislation and the definition of priority actions for nutrient reduction and pollution control with particular attention to achieving sustainable transboundary ecological effects within the DRB and the Black Sea area.

Another examples of cooperation in managing shared water resources are represented by initiatives under the Ramsar Convention. Morava Floodplain Ramsar Site is jointly managed by Slovakia, Austria and Czech Republic in accordance with Memorandum on Cooperation within Trilateral Ramsar site.

Similarly, there is an ongoing effort to coordinate management of Tisa Ramsar Site with Ukraine and Hungary.

Under the Carpathians Convention, Slovakia develops cooperation with Poland, Ukraine and Romania aimed at protection of wetlands in mountain areas.

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

3. Has your country developed management practices for transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) relevant collaborative programmes under development	
c) yes, some programmes in place (please give details below)	X
d) not relevant	
Further comments on the development of management practices for transboundary protected areas	
<p>Slovakia has not elaborated common management practices to be applied for all transboundary protected areas.</p> <p>However, in case of several transboundary protected areas, particularly those featuring international designations (Biosphere reserves, Ramsar Sites) specific mechanisms for collaboration in managing of shared natural resources have been put into place. Some of them include the following:</p> <p>Easter Carpathians Biosphere Reserve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Coordinating Committee comprising 5 persons from each country set up ▪ Foundation for the Eastern Carpathians Biodiversity Conservation established supporting transboundary projects aimed at conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity ▪ Conservation Strategy for Biosphere Reserve drafted (but not implemented) ▪ Cooperation Agreement between Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine is being drafted. <p>Morava Floodplain Ramsar Site - MoU concerning cooperation and management of the Site signed by respective ministers of Environment of Austria, Czech Republic and Slovakia</p> <p>Annual counting of animal species coordinated</p> <p>Effort is being made in some areas to harmonise terms and conditions of conservation of shared habitats and species</p> <p>Bilateral Babia hora/Babia Gora Biosphere Reserve is under preparation, common management plan will be developed after BR is designated.</p>	

Decision V/21. Cooperation with other bodies

4. Has your country collaborated with the International Biodiversity Observation Year of DIVERSITAS, and ensured complementarity with the initiative foreseen to be undertaken by UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Convention to increase scientific knowledge and public awareness of the crucial role of biodiversity for sustainable development?	
a) no	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	

Decision VI/20. Cooperation with other organizations, initiatives and conventions

5. Is your country taking steps to harmonize policies and programmes, at the national level, among the various multilateral environmental agreements and relevant regional initiatives with a view to optimising policy coherence, synergies and efficiency in their implementation at the national level?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) yes, some steps being taken (please specify below)	X
d) yes, comprehensive steps being taken (please specify below)	
Further comments on the harmonization of policies and programmes at the national level	
<p>Certain effort has been made within a framework of the GEF funded NCSA Project - focused on national self-assessment of capacities to meet the requirements of Global Environmental Conventions (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biodiversity and UN Convention to Combat Desertification ...).The project aimed at enhancing synergies of these three Rio conventions. The Project resulted in draft Action plan to strengthen capacities for the implementation of the Rio conventions in Slovakia.</p> <p>As a follow up of the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe, National Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management have been adopted in 2004-2005.</p> <p>Slovakia has established and accredited its national body for Pan-European Forest Certification based on the Pan-European Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest management in 2003.</p>	

6. Has your country provided views to the Executive Secretary on the need for further enhanced cooperation between SBSTA of UNFCCC and SBSTTA of CBD?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please outline the views provided)	
Further comments on views provided to the Executive Secretary on the need for further enhanced cooperation between SBSTA of UNFCCC and SBSTTA of CBD	
7. Has your country included any information on how it addresses migratory species at the national level, and its cooperation with other range States, in its national report to CBD?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
c) not applicable	
Further comments on information included in national report to CBD	
No specific and detailed information concerning migratory species in the territory of the country was included into previous reports to CBD.	

8. Does your country include the experts on the Cartagena Protocol and CBD in its delegation to meetings under the International Plant Protection Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision VI/27 A. Implementation of the Convention, in particular, implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans

9. Is your country working with other Parties to develop regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) consultation under way	
c) yes, some mechanisms and networks established (please provide further details)	X
d) yes, existing mechanisms being strengthened (please provide further details)	

Further comments on development of regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks

At the EU level, the *European Community Biodiversity Strategy* was adopted in 1998. Strategy covers 4 main strategic targets. Within target 1 („Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity”) countries of the European Community should find common approach to conservation, and where necessary, to restoration of ecosystems and species populations approaching their natural status and conditions.

In the target sub-area - „*In-situ* conservation” the Strategy significantly deals with the network of special areas of conservation referred to as NATURA 2000. Its main objective is **“...contribute to the implementation of biological diversity through the effective and active conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States covered by the Treaty establishing the European Community”**. Besides this, the Strategy also addresses the conservation of landscape structures. For this purpose its involves activities on minimizing impacts of economic activities on biodiversity in protected areas as well as beyond their boundaries, and especially in areas, where they significantly influence the status of species populations and natural habitats in protected areas even from relatively long distance from the area itself (e.g. long distance emission transfers, barrier constructions etc.).

Conservation of biological diversity and renewable natural resources has a key place in environmental policy within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It is because that conservation of and trade in renewable resources, most notably biological, represents important value for the global economy. In 2001, OECD adopted Environmental Strategy for the First Decade of the 21th Century. Strategy presents concrete measures for the reversion of undesirable trends in ecosystem degradation, climate change and pollution of drinking water resources. In pursuance, with the Strategy, member states have to integrate biodiversity conservation into

strategic and planning processes including strategic planning and thus prevent loss of natural habitats and their fragmentation and adjust market conditions in the way that will ensure sustainable use of natural resources. OECD members have to support the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components in non-member countries of OECD.

Certain actions aimed at biodiversity conservation are pursued within a framework of Man and the Biosphere Programme, where Slovakia participates in activities of EuroMAB regional network.

Bioregional approach to improving conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components is embodied, for instance, in activities related to the Convention on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Carpathians.

Constraints or impediments encountered by our country in the implementation of this article and associated decisions.

From the point of view of international commitments SR acceded to 9 major international conventions dealing with nature, landscape and biodiversity protection. A few other international conventions tackle this issue partly.

Special cross-sectoral panels or working groups are being established for addressing of cross-sectoral issues within single international instruments. However, their effectiveness is not very high. Joint working or expert group or coordinating committee that would cover issues addressed by different instruments has not been established in Slovakia yet. Accordingly, sufficient attention has not been given to the cooperation in the implementation of commitments under different BD related instruments.

Therefore there is no objective control whether duplicities do not occur in the implementation of commitments and tasks arising from particular conventions and whether existing resources (financial, human, information and material) are used effectively for the national benefits and not only from the sectoral points of view.

SR has its representatives in many international organizations dealing with nature protection¹. In the framework of bilateral cooperation the Commissions on Transboundary Cooperation in Nature Protection with respectively Poland and Hungary are in operation.. Bilateral transboundary cooperation of PA managers with neighbouring protected areas in Hungary, Poland, Austria and the Czech Republic is well developed.

Implementation of particular conventions (development and implementation of national programmes, strategies and action plans), international programmes, active work in committees and expert groups to the conventions, European Commission as well as in international organizations is, however, limited due to the lack of financial resources and capacities necessary for supporting active participation of Slovakian experts at meetings and initiatives.

Current structure of technical institutions and their qualified personnel

¹ E. g.: Wetlands International, World Conservation Union (IUCN), Europarc Federation, International Speleology Union, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria.

creates assumptions for more active participation of SR in international activities related to the implementation of global environment conventions. Lack of coordination of activities and purpose-made allocation of financial resources is a weakness with direct consequences on adequate informing of stakeholders and following qualified representation of SR in the international context.

While adopting international commitments financial demand for their implementation is underestimated (e.g. implementation of research by the MEDu, forest management in biosphere reserves and sites awarded with European Diploma). Their implementation is limited to the sector which is responsible for the implementation of convention; other sectors are involved just marginally. Practical implementation of commitments arising from international conventions stays in many cases at the formal level.

Mechanism for making easier technical and scientific cooperation among contracting parties is being developed gradually (*clearing-house* mechanism). Focal point is at the SAU in Nitra.

Article 6 General measures for conservation and sustainable use

10. What is the status of your national biodiversity strategy (6a)?	
a) none	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) completed	
e) completed and adopted	X
f) reports on implementation available	
11. What is the status of your national biodiversity action plan (6a)?	
a) none	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) completed	
e) completed and adopted	X
f) reports on implementation available	
12. Do your national strategies and action plans cover all articles of the Convention (6a)?	
a) some articles only	
b) most articles	X
c) all articles	
13. Do your national biodiversity strategies and action plans cover the integration other sectoral activities(6b)?	
a) no	

b) some sectors	
c) all major sectors	X
d) all sectors	

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

14. Is your country exchanging information and sharing experience on the national action planning process with other Parties?	
a) little or no action	
b) sharing of strategies, plans and/or case studies	X
c) information exchange through regional and multilateral meetings	
d) information sharing through CHM	
15. Do your national biodiversity strategies and action plans include an international cooperation component?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

16. Did your country coordinate with the neighbouring countries in the process of developing NBSAP?	
a) no	X
b) bilateral/multilateral discussions under way	
c) coordinated in some areas/themes	
d) fully coordinated	
e) not applicable	
17. Has your country set measurable targets within its strategies and action plans?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) relevant targets in place (please provide details)	
e) reports on implementation of relevant targets available	
Further comments on targets set within strategies and action plans	
Measurable targets have not been set, monitoring of implementation of the Action Plan is done by means of monitoring implementation/completion of actions included in the Action Plan. Evaluation of implementing of the Action Plan is performed bi-annually. In 2005, monitoring interval of 3 years was proposed.	

<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
18. Has your country received support from the financial mechanism for the preparation of its national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes (please specify below the implementing agency)	X
Further comments on support received for preparation of the national strategy and action plan	
Support received through GEF Project ID 138, IBRD PMIS ID 556, National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and the First National Report Implementing Agency - World Bank Amount received 77,000 USD intended for preparation of the NBSAP	

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

19. Are the national focal points for the CBD and the competent authorities of the Ramsar Convention, Bonn Convention and CITES cooperating in the implementation of these conventions to avoid duplication?	
a) no	
b) potential coordinating mechanisms being identified	X
c) yes, some coordinating mechanisms in place (please provide details)	
d) existing mechanisms being reviewed	
Further information on the coordination between the national focal points of different conventions	
<p>There is no formal coordinating mechanism in place. Potential coordinating mechanism has been identified through NCSA Process.</p> <p>Currently, certain level of coordination is ensured through placing focal points or contact persons for respective biodiversity related conventions within one department of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (=public agency for nature protection).</p> <p>Within a Ministry of the Environment situation is different. While CBD Focal Point is placed within a Department for Landscape Planning, other biodiversity-related conventions are coordinated through Department of Nature and Landscape Conservation.</p> <p>However, co-ordination mechanisms have been put into place for single conventions, including inter alia:</p> <p>Slovak Commission for the Convention on Biodiversity Slovak Ramsar Committee Slovak Biosafety Commission</p>	

Decision VI/27 A. Implementation of the Convention, in particular, implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans

20. Has your country identified priority actions in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) review under way	X
c) yes, priority actions identified (please specify)	
Further comments on priority actions identified	
<p>Until recently priority attention was given to those actions that related to process of country association to EU. However, neither in the NBS, nor in the Action Plan, level of priority has been formally indicated.</p> <p>Certain indication for level of urgency of implementing of certain actions may be assumed according to implementation period indicated in the Action Plan.</p>	
21. Does your country periodically revise its national biodiversity strategy and action plan in light of the experience of implementation?	
a) no	
b) revision under way	
c) yes, NBSAP revised (please provide further details)	
d) yes, a mechanism in place to review and revise NBSAP periodically	X
Further comments on revision of national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
<p>Mechanism in place to revise and update National Action Plan in regular intervals (- 2 years, recently suggested to change to 3 years interval).</p>	
22. Has your country established national mechanisms or consultative processes for coordinating, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and periodically revising its national biodiversity strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) mechanisms being established	
c) yes, mechanisms in place for some activities above (please specify)	X
d) yes, mechanisms in place for all activities above (please provide further details)	
Further comments on the establishment of national mechanisms or consultative processes for coordinating, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and periodically revising NBSAP	
<p>Mechanism in place to revise and update National Action Plan in regular intervals (2 years, recently suggested to change to 3 years intervals).</p> <p>Slovak Commission for the CBD set up as advisory body to Minister of the Environment comprising representatives of various sectors, of science and of NGOs.</p>	

23. Has your country identified constraints and impediments to the implementation of its national biodiversity strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) yes, some constraints and impediments identified (please provide a list of constraints identified)	X
d) yes, most of constraints and impediments identified (please provide a list of constraints identified)	
Further comments of the identification of constraints and impediments	
24. Has your country made available its national biodiversity strategy and action plan through national CHM or submitted it to the Secretariat?	
a) no	
b) yes, through national CHM	
c) yes, submitted to the Secretariat	X
d) not applicable (for those Parties that have not completed their NBSAP)	

25. Does your country give priority to integrating the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as benefit-sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some sectors (please provide details)	X
c) yes, in major sectors (please provide details)	
d) yes, in all sectors (please provide details)	
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	
<p>National Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management, where the biodiversity conservation is one of the six criteria with 9 indicators, were developed and adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2003.</p> <p>National Programme for Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources has been under preparation since 2005.</p> <p>Agroenvironmental schemes supports conservation of agricultural biodiversity.</p>	
<i>If a developing country Party or a country with economy in transition -</i>	
26. Has your country received any funding from the Global Environment Facility or other funding agencies for a national capacity self-assessment for implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) relevant project proposal under development	

c) yes (please provide details of projects directly funded by GEF or other funding agencies)	x
Further comments on funding received for a national capacity self-assessment for implementation of the Convention	
Support received through GEF Project ID 2081, UNDP PMIS ID 2580, National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) Implementing Agency - UNDP Amount received 200 000 USD Project closed 30 June 2005	

Article 7 Identification and monitoring

27. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at the species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	
c) for a range of major groups	x
d) for a comprehensive range of species	
28. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at the ecosystem level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	
c) for major ecosystems	x
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	
29. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at the genetic level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors	x
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	
30. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at the species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	x
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	
31. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at the ecosystem level (7b)?	

a) minimal activity	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	X
c) for major ecosystems	
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	
32. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at the genetic level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors	X
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	

33. Has your country identified activities with adverse affects on biodiversity (7c)?	
a) limited understanding	
b) threats well known in some areas, not in others	X
c) most threats known, some gaps in knowledge	
d) comprehensive understanding (please provide details)	
e) reports available (please provide details)	
Further comments on the identification of activities with adverse affects on biodiversity (7c)	
34. Is your country monitoring these activities and their effects (7c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	X
35. Does your country coordinate information collection and management at the national level (7d)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place (please provide details)	X
e) reports on implementation available (please provide details)	
Further information on the coordination of information collection and management	

ICP Forests until 2004. In 2004, the National Programme for implementation of the EC and EP Framework Regulation on the Monitoring of the Adverse Effects of Harmful Factors on Forests - FOREST FOCUS - was developed for the period 2004-2006.

Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment

36. Has your country identified national indicators of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) identification of potential indicators under way	
c) yes, indicators identified (please describe)	X
Further comments on the indicators identified	
<p>Concept of the Environment Monitoring System in Slovakia adopted through the Resolution of the Government of SR No. 449/1992². Monitoring of the environment is implemented at three levels: (i) national, covering the whole area of Slovakia, (ii) regional and local, (iii) specific monitoring. National environment monitoring system is divided according to the monitored component of the environment into sectoral monitoring systems (hereinafter as SMS). From the biodiversity point of view, two of them are of major importance: BIOTA and FORESTS.</p> <p>In 2001 the Government of SR approved set of indicators for the assessment of status and trends of biodiversity. These have not been applied in practice yet and BIOTA SMS as a whole is not functional. BIOTA SMS is divided into three sub-systems: monitoring of plants, monitoring of animals and monitoring of non-forests habitats³.</p> <p>Implementation of long-term monitoring of the favorable conservation status of natural habitats and species is one of the objectives of the Strategy on Establishment of Network of Protected areas NATURA 2000 in Slovakia. According to the Strategy methodology of monitoring for 19 types of forest habitats, 47 types of non-forest habitats, 51 plant species including bryophytes, 81 bird species and other 154 animal species was elaborated out in 2004. Criteria and indicators for assessing conservation status of targeted habitats and species have been developed as a part of the above process. However, they have not (yet) been formally approved or endorsed by Ministry of the Environment.</p> <p>Implementation of the long-term monitoring of the status of components of</p>	

² With regard to the continuing problems with the implementation of the Conception of monitoring new Conception of Building up the Complex Monitoring and Information System of the Environment was approved by the Resolution of the Government of SR No. 7/2000.

³ While monitoring of non-forest natural habitats is not functional due to not developed methodology, monitoring of plants and animals is partially implemented for selected species on permanent monitoring plots.

⁴ Attention is mainly given to the genetic erosion of threatened original cultivars of cultivated plant species and original breeds of domestic animals.

<p>agricultural biodiversity is ensured according to the act No. 215/2001 Coll. on Conservation of Plan Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Provisions of this act were reflected in the National Program for the Conservation of Plan Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Ministry of Agriculture (hereinafter as MA is responsible for its implementation⁴.</p> <p>National Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management were developed in 2004. Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity is one of the 6 criteria of sustainable forest management with 9 indicators.</p>	
37. Is your country using rapid assessment and remote sensing techniques?	
a) no	
b) assessing opportunities	
c) yes, to a limited extent	X
d) yes, to a major extent	
e) reports on application of relevant techniques available	
38. Has your country adopted a "step-by-step" approach to implementing Article 7 with initial emphasis on identification of biodiversity components (7a) and activities having adverse effects on them (7c)?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes	X
39. Is your country cooperating with other Parties on pilot projects to demonstrate the use of assessment and indicator methodologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on cooperation on pilot projects to demonstrate the use of assessment and indicator methodologies	
Cooperation with EU member states on criteria and indicators for assessing favourable conservation status of species and habitats of conservation importance at the EU level.	
40. Has your country prepared any reports on its experience with application of assessment methodologies and made these available to Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide further details concerning the assessment methodologies)	X
Further information on the assessment methodologies	

<p>Methodologies for assessment of conservation status of species and habitats, including criteria and indicators used in the assessment are contained in the publication Favourable Conservation Status of Habitats and Species of European Importance, published by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic in 2005 (available in Slovak only).</p> <p>Relevant information is also available on www.sopsr.sk.</p> <p>National Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in the Forest Management of Slovakia, Ministry of Agriculture, 2004. The annual Report on Forests and Forestry in Slovakia, presented to the parliament, will report on status and progress in the National Criteria and Indicators of SFM since 2005 onwards.</p>	
41. Is your country seeking to make taxonomic information held in its collections more widely available?	
a) no relevant collections	
b) no action	
c) yes (please give details)	X
Further comments on availability of taxonomic information	
National List of the approved sources of Forest Reproductive Material published at the web site www.fris.sk (Forest Reproductive Material)	

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

42. Is your country actively involved in cooperating with other countries in your region in the field of indicators, monitoring and assessment?	
a) no	
b) limited cooperation	X
c) extensive cooperation on some issues (please specify)	
d) extensive cooperation on a wide range of issues (please specify)	
Further comments on the issues your country cooperated with other countries in the field of indicators, monitoring and assessment	
<p>Slovakia is involved in cooperation with other countries in the field of indicators, monitoring and assessment, for instance, as follows:</p> <p>With EU member states</p> <p>With states within Carpathians Arch</p> <p>With state within Danube River Basin</p> <p>National Criteria and Indicators (2005), Slovakia developed on the basis of the improved set of Pan-European Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Vienna 2003.</p>	
43. Has your country made available case studies concerning the development and implementation of assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes?	

a) no	
b) yes, sent to the Secretariat	
c) yes, through the national CHM	
d) yes, by other means (please specify)	X
Further comments on dissemination of case studies concerning the development and implementation of assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes	
For wide dissemination of case studies mostly home pages of relevant agencies or ministries are used most often. Report to the Ministry of Agriculture on the Status and Development of Forest Management according to the National Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management, 2005.	

44. Is your country assisting other Parties in increasing their capacity to develop indicator and monitoring programmes?	
a) no	
b) providing training	
c) providing direct support (please specify means of support)	
d) sharing experience	X
e) other (please describe)	
Further comments on assistance provided to other Parties to increase their capacity to develop indicator and monitoring programmes	
Exchange of experiences about development of the NATURA 2000 network with the Czech Republic, Slovenia and definitions of the FCS (Favourable Conservation Status) for species and habitats of European importance.	

Decision VI/7. Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessments

45. Has your country reviewed the guidelines annexed to Decision VI/7?	
a) no	
b) review under way	X
c) yes	
46. Is your country applying the guidelines annexed to Decision VI/7?	
a) no	
b) review under way for adapting it to national circumstances	
c) yes, some aspects (please specify)	X
d) yes, most aspects (please specify)	
Further comments on the aspects of the guidelines being applied by your country	

Slovakia has developed national guidelines for environmental-impact-assessment pursuant to Act No. 127/1994 on Environmental Impact Assessment. The § 35 of this Act also provides for SEA. Slovakia will harmonize its EU Guideline 2001/42/ES has been observed.	
47. Is your country making available through CHM or other means the experiences in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment procedures that incorporate biodiversity-related issues?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	X
c) yes (please provide further details)	
Further comments on your experiences in EIA and SEA procedures that incorporate biodiversity-related issues	
Not through CHM. Information System of EIA in Slovakia has been established. It is accessible on the web site www.enviroportal.sk . Information on this portal is accessible to public.	

48. Has your country responded to the questionnaire on the subject of indicators that was sent by the Executive Secretary in May 2001?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
49. Is your country supporting the involvement of experts in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment process?	
a) no	X
b) yes, to a limited extent	
c) yes, to a significant extent	

<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
50. Is your country providing assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in undertaking national or regional assessments within the framework of Millennium Ecosystem Assessment?	
a) no	X
b) yes, relevant programmes under development	
c) yes, some projects included in existing cooperative programmes	
d) yes, some technical and financial support provided for this purpose	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Components of biodiversity, which are important for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components, have been identified through the national legal regulations in the field of nature conservation⁵, hunting and fishery⁶. Implementation of different legal regimes has negative influence on the management of protected animal species and on decision-making processes.

National red lists of protected animal species are developed for all groups of vertebrates and for selected groups of invertebrates. However, data on species are missing, especially for invertebrates.

According to the current common legal regulations 1 356 vascular and non-vascular plant species are protected in Slovakia of which 539 are protected at the EU level. 110 vascular plant species included in in Annex II of the CITES are subject to the special regime in trade. From the total number of 11 246 plant species of Slovakia 12,05 % are protected. Of them, 89,6 % are vascular plants, 1,7 % are bryophytes, 1,6 % are lichens, 6,6 % are fungi and 0,5 % are algae.

In Slovakia 2 939 taxa of vascular and non-vascular plants are threatened, 196 are extinct. Compared to the 2001 assessment, number of threatened taxa was increased by 230 in case of vascular plants and by 26 species of non-vascular plants..

Furthermore, 754 taxa of animals (742 species, 12 genera) are protected in Slovakia of which 257 are protected in the EU countries. In accordance with the EU legislation, all bird species naturally occurring in the European territory of the EU Member States are protected in Slovakia also. 65 native taxa of animals are included into Annexes I and II of CITES. 2 248 taxa of animals are threatened and 42 are considered to be extinct.

According to the hunting legal regulations from the total number of protected animal species some of them are classified as game species, namely 11 species of mammals and 43 bird species. Regime of the fishery act covers 17 protected fish species.

Decisions on Taxonomy

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

51. Has your country developed a national taxonomic action plan?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) action plan in place (please provide further details)	

⁵ Order of the MoE SR No. 24/2003, which takes into consideration the identification of natural habitats and species important from the conservation point of view at the EU level.

⁶ Act No. 61/1977 Coll. on Forests as amended by later regulations, act No. 23/1962 Coll. on Hunting, act No. 139/2002 Coll. on Fishery.

e) reports on implementation available (please provide further details)	
Further information on the national taxonomic action plan of your country	
Currently the national taxonomical needs assessment is being prepared by the consortium of the taxonomical institutions "National Taxonomic Facility". Following its completing we expect to prepare detailed national taxonomic action plan.	
52. Is your country encouraging bilateral and multilateral training and employment opportunities for taxonomists, particularly those dealing with poorly known organisms?	
a) no	
b) some opportunities	X
c) significant opportunities	
53. Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections?	
a) no	
b) some investment	X
c) significant investment	
54. Is your country encouraging partnerships between taxonomic institutions in developed and developing countries?	
a) no	
b) yes, some cooperative programmes under development	
c) yes, some cooperative programmes being implemented	X
55. Has your country adopted any international agreed levels of collection housing?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) being implemented by some collections	X
d) being implemented by all major collections	
56. Has your country provided training programmes in taxonomy?	
a) no	
b) some	X
c) many	
57. Has your country reported on measures adopted to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy, to designate national reference centres, and to make information housed in collections available to countries of origin?	
a) no	X
b) yes, in the previous national report	
c) yes, via the clearing-house mechanism	

d) yes, other means (please give details)	
Further comments on measures adopted to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy	
Recently consortium of the major Slovak taxonomical institutions "National Taxonomic Facility" was established. We expect that these institutions will develop in a short time in a coordinated action plan to strengthen the national capacity in taxonomy, to use existing capacities more effectively and to develop new facilities, especially for the better use of molecular methods in taxonomy and for the more proper care about biodiversity collections.	
58. Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes for some institutions	X
d) yes for all major institutions	
59. Has your country assisted taxonomic institutions to establish consortia to conduct regional projects?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes, limited extent	X
d) yes, significant extent	
60. Has your country given special attention to international funding of fellowships for specialist training abroad or for attracting international experts to national or regional courses?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes, limited extent	X
d) yes, significant extent	
61. Has your country provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	

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

62. Has your country established or consolidated taxonomic reference centres?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

63. Has your country worked to increase its capacity in the area of taxonomic research?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
64. Has your country communicated information on programmes, projects and initiatives for consideration as pilot projects under the Global Taxonomy Initiative to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
65. Has your country designated a national Global Taxonomy Initiative focal point linked to other national focal points?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
66. Has your country sought resources through the financial mechanism for the priority actions identified in the decision?	
a) no	X
b) relevant project proposal under development	
c) project proposal submitted	
d) implementation of relevant project begun	

Decision VI/8. Global Taxonomy Initiative

67. Has your country reviewed the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative as annexed to Decision VI/8?	
a) no	
b) review under way	X
c) yes	

68. Is your country promoting and carrying out the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative?	
a) no	
b) relevant plans being developed	X
c) yes, some activities being implemented (please provide details)	
d) yes, most activities being implemented (please provide details)	
Further information on the promotion and implementation of the programme of work for GTI	

<p>While the detailed plans for implementation of the programme of work of GTI are being developed, there is ongoing cooperation in several major international projects and activities, which promote basic aims of GTI. From among them participation in the European Network for Biodiversity Information (ENBI), A Biological Collection Access Service for Europe (BioCASE), Fauna Europaea, European Initiative towards the Euro+Med PlantBase should be mentioned. National Taxonomic Facility consortium houses also a national node of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.</p>	
<p>69. Is your country collaborating with the existing regional, subregional and global initiatives, partnerships and institutions in carrying out the programme of work?</p>	
a) no	
b) relevant collaborative programmes under development	
c) yes, some collaborative programmes being implemented (please provide details)	x
<p>Further information on the collaboration your country is having with other countries to implement the programme of work for GTI</p>	
<p>European Network for Biodiversity Information (ENBI), A Biological Collection Access Service for Europe (BioCASE), Fauna Europaea, European Initiative towards the Euro+Med PlantBase, Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).</p>	
<p>70. Has your country made available through CHM the updated information about legal requirements for exchange of biological specimens and about current legislation and rules for access and benefit-sharing in terms of the needs of GTI?</p>	
a) no	
b) collection of relevant information under way	x
c) yes, some information available	
d) yes, most information available	
<p>71. Has your country initiated the establishment of national and regional networks to aid the Parties in their taxonomic needs in implementing the Convention?</p>	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	x
c) relevant networks being established	
d) relevant networks in place (please provide details)	
<p>Further information on the networks of which your country has initiated the establishment</p>	
<p>Slovak Republic was one of the leading countries (together with South Africa and Malawi) behind the proposal "Co-operating to build capacity and create a distributed world flora information system to overcome the taxonomic impediment" (activity of the consortium Species Plantarum - Flora of the World), submitted via the GTI to GEF. Alas, this proposal failed to get adequate support. Currently we are trying to improve this proposal.</p>	

Annex to Decision VI/8. Programme of Work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative

72. Has your country made an assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities at the national level for the implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes, basic assessment made (please provide a list of needs and capacities identified)	
c) yes, thorough assessment made (please provide a list of needs and capacities identified)	
Further comments on national assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities	
Currently the national taxonomical needs assessment is being prepared by the consortium of the taxonomical institutions "National Taxonomic Facility".	
73. Has your country built the human resources systems and infrastructure needed to obtain, collate and curate biological specimens that are the basis for taxonomic knowledge?	
a) no	
b) related systems under development	X
c) yes (please provide additional information)	
Further comments on development of human resources systems and infrastructure needed to obtain, collate and curate biological specimens	
"National Taxonomic Facility" consortium is preparing detailed national taxonomic action plan. Important part of this plan will be securing the human resources and appropriate funds to improve the care about the biodiversity collections. Currently these collections are seriously underfunded and this is true for all types of collections, namely those in museums, universities and research institutes. Especially those in universities and research institutions need considerable support, as they have no special funds for collections. Grant agencies in Slovakia usually support research projects, but there are no schemes for building facilities to which collections undoubtedly belong to.	
74. Is your country facilitating an improved and effective infrastructure/system for access to taxonomic information?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	X
c) yes, access improved to taxonomic information for some thematic areas and cross-cutting issues under CBD	
d) yes, access improved to taxonomic information for most of thematic areas and cross-cutting issues under CBD	

75. Is your country working with other Parties to undertake regional taxonomic needs assessments and identify priorities at the regional level?	
a) no	
b) assessment ongoing	X
c) assessment completed but priorities to be identified (please provide details)	
d) results of assessments available (please provide details)	
Further information on the assessments of regional taxonomic needs and priorities	
<p>"National Taxonomic Facility" consortium cooperates with other major European taxonomic institutions. It takes part now in the project proposal EDIT (European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy), submitted to the 6th Framework Programme of the EU as a network of excellence. As part of this project, close cooperation in identification of European and world-wide taxonomic needs is expected.</p>	
76. Is your country raising public awareness and education for the purpose of the implementation of GTI?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent	X
c) yes, to a significant extent	
77. Is your country working with other Parties on regional or global capacity-building to support access to and generation of taxonomic information?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) yes, some activities being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	X
d) yes, many activities being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	
Further comments on cooperation with Parties on regional or global capacity-building to support access to and generation of taxonomic information	
<p>Project proposal EDIT (European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy), submitted to the 6th Framework Programme of the EU as a network of excellence, if successful, will address precisely these issues.</p>	
78. Is your country strengthening existing networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

79. Has your country undertaken taxonomic studies and established inventories at the national level for a basic assessment of forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) yes (please provide details)	X
Further information on the taxonomic studies undertaken and the inventories established by your country for a basic assessment of forest biodiversity	
There are ongoing projects in this respect, e.g. the project of multivolume work Flora Slovenska (Flora of Slovakia), which includes as its important part also forest biodiversity. There are ongoing taxonomic studies in flora and fauna which address also parts of the forest biodiversity.	
80. Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, for which programme of work has your country developed support?	
c) forest biodiversity	X
d) marine and coastal biodiversity	
e) dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity	
f) inland waters biodiversity	X
g) mountain biodiversity	X
81. Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, in which area has your country developed taxonomic support?	
c) access and benefit-sharing	
d) Article 8(j)	
e) ecosystem approach	X
f) impact assessment, monitoring and indicators	X
g) protected areas	X
h) others (please specify below)	
Further comments on the development of support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention	
Institutions forming the National Taxonomic Facility work on the various taxonomical projects supporting the ecosystem approach, monitoring, search for indicators and inventory in the protected areas. They work also directly in the development of the Natura 2000 network and for its monitoring.	

Please list below constraints or impediments encountered by your country in the implementation of this article and associated decisions.

Although there is considerable development in Slovakia in respect of the implementation of this article (e.g., establishment of the National Taxonomic Facility and cooperation on various international projects), still the major impediment is the inadequacy of the financial sources directly supporting such activities.

Slovakia is the Associate Member of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, which has definitely great potential in respect of the support of the GTI related activities. Again, there is no direct financial support for this node and it is supported only from the institution, where it is housed, namely from the Institute of Botany of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Current activities of Slovakia in GBIF showed great potential of this country in providing biodiversity information online and it is believed that further financial investment in this direction will be very efficient.

Major improvement should be made in a near future in supporting the care about the biodiversity collections in museums, universities and research institutions. Recently completed project BioCASE (A Biological Collection Access Service for Europe) helped to accumulate metadata on these collections and established some pilot projects on their digitalization (e.g. presentation of the part of the herbarium collection of the Institute of Botany SAS via BioCASE and GBIF network via internet). This showed great potential of these collections, and, at the same time, pointed to the need for the further support. This should be concentrated on the building of the facilities including human resources and their digitalization.

In spite of the very limited funding from the Slovak grant agencies, currently there are many taxonomical studies carried out, dealing with the biodiversity in Slovakia, but in some cases also biodiversity world-wide. Results are published in top international journals and Slovak taxonomists significantly contribute to the world-wide knowledge on biodiversity. Still facilities, especially for the molecular taxonomy are very limited and their further development is highly desirable. These days molecular methods play important role in the biodiversity conservation and help us to focus our activities in this respect.

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

Recently established National Taxonomic Facility where several major institution joined their forces (Institute of Botany Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Zoological Institute of the Slovak Academy of Science, Bratislava, Comenius University, Bratislava, P. J. Šafárik University, Košice and Slovak National Museum) is likely to improve the amount of cooperation on national and international level on the taxonomic issues; it is expected to develop new taxonomic projects, and last but not least to attract more substantial financial sources for building the facilities and improving human resources for further development of taxonomy in its service for the biodiversity conservation.

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

82. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?	
a) system being planned	
b) system under development	
c) national protected area systems in place	
d) system being reviewed and further expansion being planned	X
83. Has your country adopted the national guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	
b) no, under development	
c) yes (please provide details)	
d) yes, the guidelines being reviewed and extended	X
Further information on the guidelines your country has adopted for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas	
<p>Establishment and management of protected areas is addressed through the Act No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection.</p> <p>The act defines following categories of protected areas:</p> <p><u>National Parks</u> (§ 19, hereinafter NP), 9 NP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • larger areas usually more than 1,00 ha predominantly with ecosystems substantially unaffected by human activities, or with unique and natural landscape structures • designated by decree of the Government of the Slovak Republic • National Park visiting rules may be issued • 3rd level of protection applies <p><u>Protected Landscape Areas</u> (§ 18 hereinafter PLA), 14 PLA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a larger area , usually more than 1,000 ha , with fragmented ecosystems which are significant for conservation of biological diversity and ecological stability , with characteristic landscape features or with specific forms of historical settlements • designated by the Ministry of the Environment through a generally binding legal regulation • 2nd level of protection applies <p><u>Nature Reserves</u> (§ 22 hereinafter NR), 385 NR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a site, usually up to 1,000 ha representing predominantly original or those natural habitats of European or national significance, habitats of species of European or national significance, which have not been affected by human activities • designated by County Offices fro the Environment • 4th and 5th level of protection applies <p><u>National Nature Reserves</u> (§ 22, hereinafter NNR), 228 NNR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definition as above, with addition of representing national biocentres , being a part of the most significant national natural heritage, • designated by the Ministry of the Environment • 4th and 5th level of protection applies <p><u>Nature Monuments</u> (§ 23, hereinafter NM), 239 NM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • point, linear or other smaller ecosystems, their components or 	

elements, not exceeding 50 ha in area, having scientific, cultural, ecological, aesthetic or landscape significance

- designated by County Offices for the Environment
- 4th and 5th level of protection applies
- NM include also 4 499 caves (underground hollow void in the Earth's crust accessible by man, exceeding 2 meters in length or depth) and 151 natural water falls (natural rocky formation in which water falls from the height of over three meters or flows by uninterrupted or cascaded rocky escarpment steep more than 75 degrees and water persists in the river bed all the year round)

National Nature Monuments (§ 23, hereinafter NNM), 60 NNM

- definition as above, with addition of representing an integral part of the most significant national natural heritage,
- designated by the Ministry of the Environment
- 4th and 5th level of protection applies

Protected Sites (§ 21 hereinafter PS), 189 PS

- area, usually up to 1,000 ha with existence of natural habitats of European interests in which favourable status of those natural habitats depends on human economic activities
- Designated by County Offices for the Environment
- 4th level of protection applies

Protect Bird Area (§ 26, see section on NATURA For more details)

Protective Zones

If required by interest of protection Protective Zones may be designated for protection of national park, protected sites, nature reserves, or nature monuments.

Applicable level of protection in protective zones is always lower by one level than level of protection provided by the Act for protected area in question.

Other designations

Protected Landscape Element

- Element fulfilling a function of biocentre, a biocorridor, or an interactive element, especially of local or county significance
- Designated by District Offices for the Environment

NATURA 2000 network

Based on the obligation related to accession of SR into the EU, a proposal for a network of protected areas referred to as NATURA 2000, was prepared according to the criteria laid down in the Habitat Directive. This network consists of two types of protected areas as provided for by the Act No.543/2002:

§ 26 - provides for establishing Protected Bird Area (equal to Special Protection Area under the Birds Directive, hereinafter SPA) - where habitats of birds species of European significance and habitats of migratory bird species are to be protected for ensuring survival and reproduction of birds in question.

National list of SPA has been approved by the Government and published by MoE as legally binding regulation.

Single SPA are to be designated under generally binding regulation of the MoE. Regulation shall contain conditions of protection.

§ 27 - provides for Site of European Interest - designated for the protection of natural habitats of European interest or species of European interests. The List of proposed Sites of European interest has been compiled pursuant to this paragraph and has been submitted to the European Commission. Prior submission

the National list of SPA has been approved by the Government. The List has been published by MoE as legally binding regulation.

A proposed Site of European Interest is considered to protected area under the Act 543/2002. Applicable level of protection is determined through the National List of pSCIs approved by the Government.

Proposed Sites of European Interest approved by the European Commission shall be designated as by the nature protection body as protected area or a zone of protected area according to the Act 543/2002 within six years from the approval of the national list by the European Commission.

Information in respective national lists include: name of the site, cadastral area, in which the site is situated, area of site in hectares, and the reasons for protection.

In case of pSCI, for each site, level of protection from among five levels of protection is determined.

§ 28 - defines that SPA and other protected areas according to paragraph 27 shall form a part of the coherent European network of protected areas aimed at conservation of a favourable status of natural habitats of European interest and species of European interest.

The Act further requires that an activity that may influence either individually or in combination with other activities, the area which belongs to the coherent network of European protected areas or is pSCI under paragraph 27 shall be subject of EIA (interventions in the area which may cause substantial changes in biological diversity, structure and functions of ecosystems).

Existing National lists of protected sites relevant to NATURA 2000 in SR consists of :

- 38 SPA with the total area of 1 236 545 ha - 25,2 % of the area of SR.
- 384 pSCI with the total area of 576 569,4 ha - 11,76 % of the area of SR

Overlapping of the pSCIs with the current national network of protected areas is 10,16 % of the area of SR.

International designations

The Act 543/2002 defines areas of international importance as areas designated and protected in framework of international conventions (i.e. Ramsar Sites, World Heritage Sites). Accordingly, in legal terms the reference does not apply to areas designated under regimes of soft law - e.g. biosphere reserves under the UNESCO MAB Programme, European Diploma of Council of Europe). However in practice all these areas are treated as "internationally important".

Private Protected Areas

§ 31 of the Act 543/2002 provides for establishing Private Protected Area and its Protective Zone. The landowner who owns land, which meets conditions defined in the Act, may ask for designation of his land as

- protected site
- nature reserve, or
- nature monument

Forestry: The system of protected areas to conserve the forest genetic resources consists of the long-term protected Gene Reserve Forests and temporarily protected Approved Seed Collection Stands. This system was legally fixed by the Act on Forest Reproductive Material, endorsed by the Parliament in 2004. The network of Forest Gene Reserves includes 74 units with the area of 26 111 ha. There are also 11 thousand temporarily protected Approved Stands for Seed Collection with the area of 61 ths. hectares, of which 8.5 ths. hectares

are under special close-to-nature management regime.	
84. Does your country regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use (8c)?	
a) no	
b) relevant regulations or guidelines being considered	
c) relevant regulations or guidelines under development	
d) relevant regulations, policies and/or guidelines in place (please provide details)	x
e) reports on implementation available (please provide details)	x
Further information on the regulation or management of biological resources important for the conservation of biodiversity	
<p>The Act No. 543/2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection in §11 establishes five levels of area protection which implies different conservation regimes.. While the 1st level of protection applies to the national territory of Slovakia, the fifth level of protection represents the most strict protection.</p> <p>In §12- 16 the Act defines actions, which either required prior approval by nature conservation bodies or are prohibited in the area, where respective level of protection applies.</p> <p>1st level of protection - 8 activities that require prior approval by nature conservation body</p> <p>2nd level of protection -21 activities that require prior approval by nature conservation body and 2 activities prohibited</p> <p>3rd level of protection -20 activities that require prior approval by nature conservation body and 10 activities prohibited</p> <p>4th level of protection - 15 activities that require prior approval by nature conservation body and 20 activities prohibited</p> <p>5th level of protection - 11 activities that require prior approval by nature conservation body and 28 activities prohibited</p> <p>General Protection of landscape is to be ensured through ecological networks referred as Territorial System of Ecological Stability. The foundation of this system is represented by biocentres, biocorridors and interactive elements of national, regional and local interest.</p> <p>The Act on Nature and Landscape Protection in § 54 defines documents of nature protection, which include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of nature and landscape protection • Management documents for specially protected parts of nature and landscape and for areas of international interest (management plans) • Documents of the territorial system of ecological stability • Documents of specially protected parts of nature and landscape (projects for designating nature conservation areas, proposal for designation of the Protected Bird Areas, Reports from the Inventories, Documentary Books on Protected Areas and on Protected Trees, National Red lists, National database of Protected species, species of European importance and species 	

of national importance , habitats, caves and waterfalls)

- Management documents for woods

Concept of nature and landscape protection is to be developed by Ministry of Environment.

Guidelines for developing of management plans for various PA categories are currently being developed.

The content of Management Plans for areas of international interest (including for NATURA 2000 sites) has been established by the Order of the MoE No. 24/2003.

Management Plans (referred in the law as Programs of Care) for areas of international importance, NATURA 2000 sites and for National Parks are subject to approval by the Government. Methodologies to prepare Management plan for NP and management plan for areas of international interest (i.e. including pSCI) are very similar in parts describing ecological and socio-economical conditions. Common is methodology for management zoning of protected areas. Management plan for NP is dealing more with organizational structure and institutional background of the park.

Natura 2000 sites create usually only part of NP, but take always precedence and will be incorporated into management plan for NP. Both documents are setting up limits to development and frameworks for protection including of forest ecosystems.

- Management Plans are to be renewed in 10 year cycles.
- Spatial plans and management plans of other sectors have to take due regard of conservation measures outlined in the Management Plans for protected areas.
- Protected areas may be divided to maximum of 4 zones with different protection regimes.
- NGOs (Civil associations), upon request are entitled to receive information in writing on details of the management documentation under preparation, including on foreseen date of its approval.
- Should NGO submit comments to management documentation under preparation, competent nature conservation body shall consult these comments with NGO submitting their comments.

Nature Conservation documents are accessible to public.

Nature Conservation document are developed by competent nature protection bodies and agencies, or by competent persons. The MoE keeps the list persons both legal and natural) competent to develop nature conservation documents)

Categorisation of forests fixed by the forestry legislation: The wood production function prevails in 73.2% of forests, while 14.8% are protective forests and 17.5% forests with special functions including the forests at important watersheds, nature conservation areas, recreation, forests damaged by air pollution, etc.).

Forest management planning: forest management plans have been obligatory for all registered forest stands. They have been prepared according to the legally binding guidelines and management models taking the site conditions,

potential natural vegetation and current forest cover. Shelterwood forest regeneration system prevails in Slovakia since 2001, contrary to the prevalence of a small-area (<2 ha) clear cutting until 1991.

Measures to conserve forest genetic resources including the network of Gene Reserve Forests with long-term voluntary conservation commitment, Approved Stands for Seed Collection protected temporarily. See answer to 82 for more details.

Agroenvironmental schemes are a toll for ensuring conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within agricultural ecosystems.

85. Has your country undertaken measures that promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings (8d)?

a) no measures undertaken yet	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	X
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	X

Further information on the measures that promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings

1/General Protection of landscape is to be ensured through ecological networks referred as Territorial System of Ecological Stability. The foundation of this system is represented by biocentres, biocorridors and interactive elements of national, regional and local interest.

2/ Different Protection regimes - described under above question 84

3/ Documents of nature protection - described under above question 84

4/ Forestry: Measures to conserve forest genetic resources including the network of Gene Reserve Forests with long-term voluntary conservation commitment, Approved Stands for Seed Collection protected temporarily with specific close-to-nature management regime. See answer to the question 82 for more details.

5/ Agroenvironmental schemes

86. Has your country undertaken measures that promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas (8e)?

a) no measures undertaken yet	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	X
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	

Further information on the measures that promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas

Protected areas are divided into zones based on a status of natural habitats if care of protected areas requires it. Specific limitations and management measures applied according to the Act on Nature and Landscape Conservation in the protection/buffer zones of the protected areas of nature (nature reserves, natural monuments, species management areas).	
87. Has your country undertaken measures to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems (8f)?	
a) no measures undertaken yet	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	X
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the measures to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems	
Some restoration projects were implemented. They were aimed at e.g. improving of water regime in wetlands, restoration of meadows and components of ecological networks (e.g.biocorridors), etc. Until recently, most of those projects were financed by foreign sources.	
88. Has your country undertaken measures to promote the recovery of threatened species (8f)?	
a) no measures undertaken yet	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	X
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the measures to promote the recovery of threatened species	
For instance: In 2004, Slovakia undertook measures to recover the European bison (<i>Bison bonasus</i>) into the Poloniny National Park (Name of the project: Initiation of a sustainable, free-ranging population of the European bison (<i>Bison bonasus</i>) in Slovak Carpathians, duration: October 2003 - March 2005). Support measures taken to conserve the population of local chamoix (<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i> subsp. <i>Tatrica</i>). Measures considered to rehabilitate autochthonous European black poplar in situ.	
89. Has your country undertaken measures to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology (8g)?	
a) no measures undertaken yet	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	X

Further information on the measures to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology	
The Act No. 151/2002 Coll, as amended, On Use of Genetic Technologies and Genetically Modified Organisms and Decree No. 252/2002 Coll. This legal instruments address, inter alia, managing, control and monitoring of the LMOs released to the environment.	
90. 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 (8i)?	
a) no	
b) potential measures being identified	X
c) some measures undertaken (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details)	
e) reports on implementation of these measures available	
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	
91. Has your country developed or maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations (8k)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place (please provide details)	X
Further information on the legislation and/or regulations for the protection of threatened species and populations	
Act No. 543/ 2002 provides for general as well as for special protection of plant and animals species. The Act also covers protection of minerals and fossils. Special Protection is addressed through Section Three, Chapter Two of the Act. The Act establishes prohibition on damaging destroying pickin-up or collecting protected plants and on capture and killing of protected animals in their natural environment. The act also establishes prohibition on destruction of habitats of protected plant and animal species. The act further defines prohibited methods and means of capture and killing of protected animal and provides for restriction in use of selected species and plants and animals. Respective Lists of Protected Species are published in Annexes of the Order of	

the MoE SR No. 24/2003. Consideration is also given to species of European importance whose conservation is required through legal acts of the EU.

According to the current common legal regulations 1 356 vascular and non-vascular plant species are protected in Slovakia of which 539 are protected at the EU level.

Accordingly from the total number of 11 246 plant species of Slovakia 12,05 % are protected. Of them, 89,6 % are vascular plants, 1,7 % are bryophytes, 1,6 % are lichens, 6,6 % are fungi and 0,5 % are algae.

754 taxa of animals (742 species, 12 genera) are protected in Slovakia of which 257 are protected in the EU countries. In accordance with the EU legislation, all bird species naturally occurring in the European territory of the EU Member States are protected in Slovakia also.

According to the hunting legal regulations (Act No. 23/1962 Coll. on Hunting) from the total number of protected animal species some of them are classified as game species, namely 11 species of mammals and 43 bird species.

Regime of the Act No. 139/2002 Coll. on Fishery covers 17 protected fish species.

Implementation of different legal regimes has negative influence on the management of protected animal species and on decision-making processes.

National red lists of protected animal species are developed for all groups of vertebrates and for selected groups of invertebrates and for plants. However, data on species are missing, especially for invertebrates

In Slovakia 2 939 taxa of vascular and non-vascular plants are threatened, 196 are extinct. Compared to the 2001 assessment, number of threatened taxa was increased by 230 in case of vascular plants and by 26 species of non-vascular plants.

2 248 taxa of animals are threatened and 42 are considered to be extinct.

Species Trade

Trade in endangered wild plant and animal species is regulated in:

- the Act No. 237/2002 Coll. on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, (only Articles III and IV remain in force)
- the Act No. 15/2005 Coll on the protection of wild species and animals and wild species of plants through regulating trade therein and on amendments and complements of certain laws.

Order of the MoE SR No. 110/2005, by which some provisions of the Act on the protection of wild species and animals and wild species of plants through regulating trade therein are implemented

The Act No.15/2002 transposes :

Council Directive 83/129/EEC of 28 March 1983 concerning the importation into the Member States of skins of certain seal pups and products derived therefrom Amended by Council Directive 89/370/EEC of 8 June 1989.

And complements :

the Council Regulation No. 338/97/EC on the Protection of the Species of Wild Flora and Fauna by Regulating trade Therein as amended in Regulation (EC) No 1497/2003 Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003 Regulation (EC) No 834/2004

and

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1808/2001 of 30 August 2001 laying down detailed rules concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.

The Act defines its scope, definitions, conditions of import, export, re-export, transit of exemplars and related permitting procedures, commercial activities and move of exemplars, records, certification of the origin and unchangeable identification, and identifies responsible state administration bodies. It also defines fines for non-compliance.

Plant and animal species that are subject of this law are divided into four categories.

The most restricted trade regime applies to those species that are included in Annexes I and II of CITES :

- 110 vascular plant species are included in Annex II of CITES
- 65 native taxa of animals are included into Annexes I and II of CITES.

Species - ex situ conservation

§ 45 of the Act 543/2002 and subsequent paragraphs names and defines the facilities intended for rescue of protected plants and protected animals, including :

- Botanical gardens
- Arboreta
- Breeding centres
- Recovery centres
- Rescue centres

Zoological and botanical gardens, and arboreta represent typical ex-situ conservation facilities. Ex-situ conservation is ensured for several native species through the rescue breeding. Here the capacities of zoological gardens are used only in a limited scale. Botanical gardens participate in ex-situ conservation, e.g. in the implementation of measures provided for by the approved recovery programs for critically endangered and rare plant species.

The gene banks for native (wild) plant and animal species have not been established yet. The gene banks for the conservation of genetic material of cultivated species and microorganisms already exist. National Gene Bank for the preservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the form of seeds is situated in the Research Institute of Plant Production in Piešťany. Institute for the Conservation of Biological Diversity and Biosafety at the Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra has established gene banks for the preservation of collections of vegetatively propagated plant species.

Forestry: Conservation and sustainable use of the Forest Tree Populations in the gene reserve forests, reproductive plantations and clonal archives ensured by:

Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 571/2004 on Forest Reproductive Material and change of some acts.

Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic no. 571/2004

on the sources of forest reproductive material, its collection, production, marketing and use.	
92. Does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity (8l)?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a significant extent	X
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
93. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for in situ conservation particularly to developing countries (8m)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
94. Does your country receive financial and other support for in situ conservation (8m)?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please give details)	
Further comments on financial and other support for in situ conservation	
Slovakia provides limited support to developing parties or EIT Parties within a framework of its Official Development Assistance.	

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

95. Is your country sharing information and experience on implementation of this Article with other Parties?	
a) little or no action	
b) sharing of written materials and/or case studies	X
c) sharing information through regional meetings	

Article 8h Alien species

96. Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	
b) only major species of concern	X
c) only new or recent introductions	
d) a comprehensive system tracks new introductions	
e) a comprehensive system tracks all known introductions	
97. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) no	

b) only some alien species of concern assessed (please provide details)	x
c) most alien species assessed (please provide details)	
Further information on the assessment of the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species	
<p>In 2002, List of Alien, Invasive Alien and Expansive Native Vascular Plant Species of Slovakia was published. From other systematic groups: fishes, mammals, invertebrates (only <i>Orthoptera</i> so far) - only major species of concern have been identified. Lists of invasive alien species (major species of concern) in the other systematic groups are being developed. Since 1997, alien vascular plant species have been mapped. Some alien animal species have been mapped since 2003.</p> <p>Slovakia lacks a comprehensive system of risk analysis. However, some water courses (wetland habitats) mostly in southern parts of Slovakia (Protected Landscape Areas: Latorica, Dunajské luhy, Záhorie) have been assessed for impact of alien fish species on native fish species. Increased attention is given to reptiles (mostly <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>), birds of prey (mostly hybrids). As for vascular plants, some assessments of the risk posed by 28 identified invasive alien species to habitats/ecosystems have been done (e.g. <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>, <i>Fallopia japonica</i>, <i>Fallopia × bohemica</i>, <i>Solidago canadensis</i> etc.).</p> <p><u><i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i></u> and <u>invasive herb species</u> assessed in relation to the habitats of Community (EU) importance and establishment of Natura 2000 network in the territory of Slovakia.</p>	
98. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) no measures	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	x
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species	
<p>Management measures (mostly eradication and control) follow the results of invasive alien vascular plant species mapping and they are concentrated in protected areas. Areas, where no special protection is provided, are also subject to management actions (there is a strong effort to involve as much stakeholders as possible in these activities).</p> <p>Slovak laws (Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection) provides a frame for protection of natural species composition of ecosystems. Some of its regulations deal with intentional dissemination of alien species, trade in invasive alien species, elimination of invasive alien species. According to an order of the Ministry of the Environment, the compulsory elimination of invasive alien species applies only to 7 plant species (the most problematic): <i>Fallopia japonica</i>, <i>Fallopia × bohemica</i>, <i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>, <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>, <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>, <i>Solidago canadensis</i>, <i>Solidago gigantea</i>.</p> <p>National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species is being prepared based on</p>	

Global/European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species. The Strategy will address comprehensive measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate all invasive alien species in Slovakia (not only plant species).

Forestry: Only measures on the control of black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) implemented at the local scale.

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

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

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

101. Has your country submitted case studies to the Executive Secretary focusing on thematic assessments?	
a) no	X
b) in preparation	
c) yes	
102. Has your country given priority to the development and implementation of alien invasive species strategies and action plans?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
103. 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?	
a) no	
b) trans-boundary or bilateral cooperation	X
c) regional cooperation	
d) multilateral cooperation	

104. Is your country giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

105. Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	
b) yes (please elaborate)	x

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

Slovakia has been making effort to apply the above mentioned approaches in the work on invasive alien species more or less successfully since the year 2000, when the 5th Conference of the Parties in its decision V/8.1. urged Parties to apply the Interim Guiding Principles (later adopted by 6th CoP - decision VI/23.II.4. - as Guiding Principles), which included precautionary and ecosystem approach. However, these approaches have been used in the work on invasive alien species mostly in the environment sector. The first draft of National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species is being prepared based on Global/European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species, which also applies Guiding Principles. There is an effort to involve other sectors/stakeholders into its preparation and thus spread the use of these approaches.

106. Has your country developed effective education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) relevant measures under development	
c) some measures developed	x
d) many measures developed	

107. Is your country making available the information which it holds on alien species through the Clearing-house Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) some information available through CHM	
c) all information available through CHM	
d) information available through other channels (please specify below)	x

Further comments on dissemination of information on alien species through other channels

The State Nature Conservancy of SR maintains the database (called Information System on Taxons and Habitats - ISTB) and data on invasive alien species are included into this database. However, the data are available according to the Statutes of ISTB Database, there is no free access to the maintained data at this moment.

108. Is your country providing support to enable the Global Invasive Species Programme to fulfil the tasks outlined in the decision and its annexes?	
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a) no	X
b) limited support	
c) substantial support	

Decision VI/23. Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species

109. Has your country reviewed the Guiding Principles for the implementation of Article 8(h) annexed to Decision VI/23?	
a) no	X
b) review under way	
c) yes, review completed	
110. Is your country promoting and implementing the Guiding Principles?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) yes, some principles being applied (please provide further details)	X
d) yes, most of the principles being applied (please provide further details)	
Further comments on the promotion and implementation of the Guiding Principles	
Slovakia in its work on invasive alien species is lacking coordination of the work and that's why only some of the principles are being applied, e.g. Guiding Principle (GP) 1,3,5,6,7,8,13,15. These GP are applied not fully and in a systematic way and mostly sector oriented. The first draft of National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species is being prepared based on Global/European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species, which also applies Guiding Principles. There is an effort to involve other sectors/stakeholders into its preparation as much as possible and thus promote and implement if not all GP then most of the principles.	
111. Has your country ratified the revised International Plant Protection Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) process of ratification ongoing	
112. Is your country working actively to enhance the implementation of the International Plant Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on the implementation of the International Plant Convention	

113. Has your country identified national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles?	
a) no	
b) identification of needs and priorities ongoing	X
c) yes, national needs and priorities identified (please provide a list of needs and priorities identified below)	
Further comments on the identification of national needs and priorities	
114. Has your country created mechanisms to coordinate national programmes for implementing the Guiding Principles?	
a) no	
b) mechanisms under development	X
c) yes, mechanisms in place (please provide further details)	
Further comments on the mechanisms created to coordinate national programmes for implementing the Guiding Principles	
115. Has your country reviewed relevant policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles and adjusted or developed policies, legislation and institutions?	
a) no	
b) review under way	X
c) review completed and adjustment proposed	
d) adjustment and development ongoing	
e) some adjustment and development undertaken (please provide details)	
Further information on the review, adjustment or development of policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles	

116. Is your country enhancing cooperation between the various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	X
c) potential coordination mechanisms being identified	
b) yes, mechanisms in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on cooperation between various sectors	
<p>No coordination mechanisms between various sectors have been identified so far.</p> <p>But at the local/regional level (regional meant in Slovakia) there is quite good cooperation between State Nature Conservancy of SR and e.g. Forest Management Administrations, Water Management Administrations in improvement of eradication/control of invasive alien plant species.</p>	
117. Is your country promoting awareness of the threats to biodiversity and related ecosystem goods and services posed by invasive alien species and of the means to address such threats?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	X
c) yes (please specify the measures and activities for this purpose)	
Further comments on the promotion of awareness of threats	
<p>Some relevant programmes are under development, however, some activities to build awareness have been already accomplished, e.g.: State Nature Conservancy of SR has published a series of 5 leaflets (named Invasive Alien Plant Species in Slovakia) introducing the most problematic invasive alien plant species to the public. It has also developed the Guideline for elimination of 7 major invasive alien plant species of concern. Another example is a Handbook for distinguishing selected invasive alien plant species. Contributions to TV, Radio broadcasting, articles in local, regional and national newspapers and magazines significantly help to promote awareness.</p>	
118. Is your country facilitating the involvement of all stakeholder groups in national invasive alien species strategies and action plans and decisions related to the use of invasive alien species?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent	
c) yes, to a significant extent	X
119. Is your country collaborating with trading partners and neighbouring countries to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity in ecosystems that cross international boundaries?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	X

c) relevant collaborative programmes under development	
d) yes (please specify the measures taken for this purpose)	
Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighbouring countries	
State Nature Conservancy of SR has not been involved in cooperation on regional (European) level yet. Most of the cooperation (exchange of information, practical management measures) has been aimed at bilateral level, transboundary cooperation between Slovakia and neighbouring countries: Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic.	
120. Is your country developing capacity to use risk assessment to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity and incorporate such methodologies in EIA and SEA (strategic environmental assessment)?	
a) no	X
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) yes, some activities being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details)	
Further information on capacity development to address threats of invasive alien species	
Slovak laws on EIA can be also applied in respect of invasive alien species but in practical life it has not been applied yet. The problem is that there is no methodology developed on risk assessment to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity.	
121. Has your country developed financial measures and other policies and tools to promote activities to reduce the threat of invasive species?	
a) no	
b) relevant measures and policies under development	X
c) yes, some measures, policies and tools in place (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive measures and tools in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on the development of financial measures and other policies and tools for the promotion of activities	
<u>Forestry</u> : As an indirect tool to be concerned, Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management have been developed in 2004.	
122. Has your country incorporated invasive alien species consideration into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies and policies?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) taking steps to do so	

c) yes (please provide details)	X
Further information on incorporating invasive alien species consideration into NBSAP and sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies and policies	
Slovakia has incorporated invasive alien species consideration into national biodiversity strategy and action plan but the issue has not been incorporated into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies and policies yet.	

123. Has your country taken into consideration the Global Strategy on Invasive Alien Species when developing national strategies in this regard?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
124. Is your country promoting and carrying out the research and assessment on the issues identified in subparagraphs (a) to (j) of paragraph 24 of Decision VI/23?	
a) no	
b) yes, assessment and research undertaken on some issues (please specify)	X
c) yes, assessment and research undertaken on most of the issues (please provide details)	
Further information on the assessment and research on the issues identified in subparagraphs (a) to (j) of paragraph 24 of Decision VI/23	
State Nature Conservancy of SR mostly in the cooperation with the Slovak research and scientific institutions has promoted and carried out research and assessment so far on: the vulnerability of ecosystems or habitats to invasion by alien species (subparagraph a), the impact of alien species on biological diversity (subparagraph b), the development of environmentally friendly methods to control and eradicate invasive alien species (subparagraph e).	
125. Has your country developed and made available technical tools and related information to support efforts for the prevention, early detection, monitoring, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species?	
a) no	
b) relevant tools under development	X
c) yes (please provide a list of tools developed)	
Further comments on technical tools and related information	
Slovakia has developed and made available technical tools and related information to support efforts for the eradication and/or control of invasive alien plant species (7 major species of concern so far), other relevant tools are under development, however, more information on prevention, monitoring and particularly on early detection (programmes or systems) is needed. <u>Forestry:</u> Information and monitoring of invasive forest tree species (Robinia pseudoacacia) in the national forest inventory. Measures to control Robinia pseudoacacia taken locally.	

If a developing country Party or country with economy in transition -

126. Has your country received any funding from the Global Environment Facility, bilateral donors and other funding sources to support the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans in this regard?

a) no	X
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) yes, some funds received for relevant activities (please specify the sources of funding)	
Slovakia as a country with economy in transition (before May 1 st , 2004) did not receive any funding from the GEF, bilateral donors and other funding sources to develop national strategies or action plans to control/eradicate alien address.	

Please list below constraints or impediments encountered by your country in the implementation of this article and associated decisions.

- lacking coordination of work on invasive alien species;
- it is not considered a cross-sectoral issue;
- still limited awareness in the public and among decision-makers;
- limited involvement of relevant stakeholders;
- limited financial sources;

Article 8j Traditional knowledge and related provisions

127. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure that the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are respected, preserved and maintained?	
a) no measures	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	X
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the measures to ensure that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices are respected, preserved and maintained	
<p>The Slovak Environmental Agency has developed activities in the field of the Rural Development Programme aimed to preservation of original rural architecture and traditional management of land.</p> <p>Preservation and use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices in the agrofood branches is declared by the EU Directives of No. 2081 and 2082. In conformity with these Directives the National Programme for agricultural goods and food production support was adopted by Ministry of Agriculture.</p>	
128. Is your country working to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices?	
a) no	X
b) potential mechanisms being identified	
c) some mechanisms and arrangements in place (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive mechanisms and arrangements in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the mechanisms and arrangements for the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	
<p>Issues of the equitable benefit shares arising from the utilisation of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices in the Slovak Republic were not solved in complexity. Some partial solutions are included into the Act No.469/2003 on protected labels of goods and food.</p>	

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

129. Has your country developed national legislation and corresponding strategies for the implementation of Article 8(j)?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place (please provide details)	
Further information on national legislation and strategies for implementing the Article 8(j)	

Adoption of the National programme of preservation and sustainable use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices would create a real possibility to address the issues in due compliance with the Article 8j.

130. Has your country submitted case studies to the Executive Secretary on measures taken to develop and implement the Convention's provisions relating to indigenous and local communities?

a) no case studies undertaken	X
b) case studies undertaken but not submitted to the ES	
c) yes, case studies submitted to the ES	

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

131. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in the annex to the decision, and identified how to implement those tasks appropriate to national circumstances?

a) no	
b) under review	X
c) yes (please provide details)	

Further comments on the review and implementation of the work programme specified in the annex to decision V/16

132. Is your country integrating such tasks into its ongoing programmes, taking into account the identified collaboration opportunities?

a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes, to a limited extent (please provide details)	X
d) yes, to a significant extent (please provide details)	

Further comments on integrating the tasks in the programme of work into the ongoing programmes

133. Is your country taking full account of existing instruments, guidelines, codes and other relevant activities in the implementation of the programme of work?

a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes, to a limited extent (please provide details)	X
d) yes, to a significant extent (please provide details)	

Further comments on the existing instruments, guidelines, codes and other relevant activities in the implementation of the programme of work

134. Has your country provided appropriate financial support, technical and human resources for the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	X
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a significant extent	
135. Has your country fully incorporated women and women's organizations in the activities undertaken to implement the programme of work contained in the annex to the decision and other relevant activities under the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
136. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes, to a limited extent	X
d) yes, to a significant extent	
137. Has your country provided case studies on methods and approaches concerning the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge, and the control of that information by indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes, sent to the Secretariat	
d) yes, through the national CHM	
e) yes, available through other means (please specify)	X
Further comments on case studies	
<p>In Slovakia a case study on the traditional agroecosystems revitalisation was elaborated by the team of the Slovak Agricultural University of Nitra. This action has been a part of the international programme of GIAHS (Globally important Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems) forming a basic study to a developmental project Conservation and Sustainable Use of Traditional Agroecosystems in the Carpathian Regions. This project will be implemented in cooperation with the Carpathians region countries.</p>	

138. Does your country exchange information and share experiences regarding national legislation and other measures for the protection of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes, through the CHM	
d) yes, with specific countries	X
e) yes, available through other means (please specify)	
Further comments on exchange of information and shared experiences regarding national legislation and other measures	
Cooperation with EU countries. Cooperation in terms of Working Partnership of Danubian Countries.	
139. Has your country supported the development of registers of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, in collaboration with these communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) development in progress	X
d) register fully developed (please provide details)	
Further information on the register of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	
Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices in the agrofood branches could be registered as defined by the Act No. 469/2003 on protected labels only for products and goods made of or using plants, animals and microorganisms. These issues are oriented prevalingly on the socio-economic development of small and medium enterprises. The implementation is hindered by lack of relevant institutional capacities..	
140. Have representatives of indigenous and local community organizations participated in your official delegation to meetings held under the Convention on Biological Diversity?	
a) not relevant	
b) no	X
c) yes	
141. Is your country assisting the Secretariat to fully utilize the clearing-house mechanism to cooperate closely with indigenous and local communities to explore ways that enable them to make informed decisions concerning the release of their traditional knowledge?	
a) no	X
b) awaiting further guidance from COP on how to proceed	
c) yes	

Decision VI/10. Article 8(j) and related provisions

142. Has your country developed methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest-related knowledge into sustainable forest management?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes, some methodologies available (please provide details)	
e) not relevant	
Further comments on the development of methodologies	
<p>Special methodology for integrating traditional forest-related knowledge into sustainable forest management has not been developed. However, traditional knowledge knowledge per se has been integrated , where appropriate, into forest management.</p> <p>Slovakia has elaborated Methodology for forest management planning and long-term forest management plans. Forests management plans are elaborated for ten years.</p> <p>Traditional patterns of regeneration of Scots pine including clear cutting followed by a few years of cereals cultivation followed by reforestation preserved in the southwesternmost Slovakia (Záhorie Lowland).</p>	
143. Is your country promoting activities to assemble management experiences and scientific, indigenous and local information at the national and local levels, and disseminate research results and syntheses of reports on relevant traditional knowledge of key forest biological issues?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
144. Has your country made available the information regarding approaches to the management of marine and coastal living resources in relation to those used by indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	X
b) yes, some information available	
c) yes, most of relevant information available	
145. Is your country implementing the guidelines adopted by the Ramsar Convention for establishing and strengthening the participation of local and indigenous communities in the management of wetlands?	
a) no	
b) some guidelines being implemented and being reviewed	
c) yes, some parts of the guidelines being implemented	X
d) yes, most of the guidelines being implemented	
Further comments on the implementation of guidelines adopted by the Ramsar Convention	

Local committees are not established according to Ramsar Convention Guidelines, however, they are established in respect to other initiatives such as biosphere reserves, in the framework of NATURA 2000, etc. Such committees as the case may be takes part also in management of wetlands or related decision making.

146. Is your country assisting local and indigenous communities in the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices by promoting sustainable farming practices, exchanging information and supporting their capacity-building?

a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) relevant programmes under development	
d) yes, some measures and activities undertaken (please specify)	x
e) yes, major measures and activities undertaken (please specify)	

Further comments on assistance provided to local and indigenous communities in the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices

For instance: Rural Development Plan

147. Has your country included any of the following items in its national report(s): a) status and trends of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities; b) measures taken to enhance the participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of national work programmes in each of the thematic areas; c) capacity-building measures to facilitate the involvement of indigenous and local communities and the application of the knowledge they hold in the management, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in each of the thematic areas at the national and local levels?

a) no	
b) under development	x
c) some included in national reports (please provide details)	
c) fully incorporated into national reports (please provide details)	

Further comments on the items above included in national report

148. Has your country involved indigenous and local communities in the consultative process of preparing the national report, particularly in relation to the preparation of those sections dealing with Article 8(j), related provisions and programme of work?

a) no (please specify the reasons)	x
b) yes	

Further comments on the involvement of indigenous and local communities in the consultative process	
Communication network is being developed mainly with respect to implementing NATURA 2000 network of the EU.	
149. Has your country submitted information relevant to the composite report of Phase I to the Secretariat?	
a) no	X
b) report preparation under way	
c) yes, relevant information available through CHM	

150. Has your country reviewed the draft guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities, as contained in the Annex II to Decision VI/10?	
a) no	X
b) review under way	
c) yes, review completed	
151. Has your country identified ways to facilitate the appropriate participation and involvement of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) yes, mechanisms being developed	X
c) yes, mechanisms put in place (please specify)	
Further comments on the identification of ways to facilitate the appropriate participation and involvement of indigenous and local communities	
In the frame of the research projects at the Slovak Agricultural University of Nitra, certain activities for selected villages and microregions are included such as the preparation and implementation of development programmes supporting conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity oriented on socio-economic issues primarily of the small and medium agricultural subjects.	
152. Has your country included the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices as part of environmental, social and cultural impact assessment processes?	
a) no	
b) yes, traditional knowledge considered and included in assessment of some sectors	X
c) yes, traditional knowledge considered and included in assessment of most sectors	
d) not relevant	

153. Has your country submitted to the Executive Secretary any information on national experiences, case studies, best practices and lessons concerning participatory mechanisms for indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
154. Is your country supporting capacity building aimed at the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the decision-making processes regarding the preservation, maintenance and utilization of traditional knowledge?	
a) no	
b) relevant capacity building programmes and mechanisms under development	x
c) yes, some capacity building programmes developed	
d) yes, mechanisms put in place (please provide further details)	
Further comments on the capacity building aimed at the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the decision making processes regarding the preservation, maintenance and utilization of traditional knowledge	
<p>In the last years many villages were engaged in the revitalization of traditional knowledge including on folk culture, artisanry and traditional meals. These activities are supported mainly by institutions under the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Culture. It is important that the number of involved NGOs is increasing, they are involved in the preparatory and logistical work. Some of the activities have been done even on international basis.</p>	
155. Is your country supporting the development of communication mechanisms among indigenous and local communities in response to their need for better understanding of the objectives of the Convention?	
a) no	x
b) mechanisms being developed	
c) yes, mechanisms put in place (please provide further details)	
Further comments on communication mechanisms among indigenous and local communities	
<p>NO formal mechanism developed, some effort to improve awareness of local communications is made by the local associations and NGOs.</p>	
156. Is your country developing, implementing and evaluating, in collaboration with indigenous and local communities, strategies aimed at promoting awareness and enhancing access to information on issues relating to Article 8(j) and related provisions?	
a) no	
b) relevant strategies under development	x

c) yes, strategies in place and implementation begun	
d) reports of implementation and evaluation available	

157. Has your country taken measures to establish or improve operational links between national governmental intellectual property bodies, national focal points and indigenous and local communities in order to better coordinate and institute measures to protect traditional knowledge?

a) no	
b) steps being taken	X
c) yes, links established and mechanisms put in place (please provide details)	

Further comments on measures taken to establish or improve operational links

Intellectual property rights are regulated but not fully in conformity with the Bonn Guidelines and with the accepted International agreement on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The issue is partly covered by the Act.468/2003 on protected food and goods labels.

158. Is your country undertaking any pilot projects which involve indigenous and local communities in the evaluation of the effectiveness of existing intellectual property rights regimes, contractual methods and new systems being developed as a means to protect traditional knowledge?

a) no	X
b) projects under development	
c) yes, projects being implemented	
d) yes, results of projects available (please provide details)	

Further comments on pilot projects undertaken

In the frame of FAO - GIAHS programme the preparation of a pilot project Conservation and sustainable use of traditional agroecosystems in Carpathian region is secured, with the aim to manage the Intellectual property rights issues as well as to agree the methods and a new systems for protection of traditional knowledge utilisation.

159. Is your country examining the feasibility of establishing mechanisms to protect the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities?

a) no	
b) assessment under way	X
c) yes, results of feasibility studies available (please provide details)	
d) not relevant	

Further comments on feasibility of establishing mechanisms

One of the first steps was the workshop hold in April 2004 aimed to the application of the WWF RAPPAM methodology (Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Areas Management) in national parks of Slovakia. At this workshop, opportunities were defined for cooperation with local communities and ways of helping them.

Up to now in Slovakia only the natural ecosystems have been protected. There is no locality or microregion protected by law as the traditional agroecosystem or as the locality where important original land races (which are often in high degree endangered by genetic erosion) occur.

If a developed country Party -

160. Has your country provided any financial support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance their national capacity to establish and maintain the mechanisms to protect traditional knowledge at the national and local levels?

a) no

b) yes (please provide detailed information)

x

Further comments on financial support provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition

At the Slovak agricultural university of Nitra, the FAO-GIAHS project is formulated high cooperating institutions from the Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary and Romania. The project is focused on conservation and sustainable use of traditional agroecosystems in Carpathian region. Anyway, this project aims only on the protection and use of original autochthonous plant species and originally occurring races of economic animal species.

161. Is your country exchanging information with other countries and international organizations about national experiences in incorporating customary laws relevant for the protection of traditional knowledge in national legislation?

a) no

b) yes

x

162. Has your country submitted to the Executive Secretary case studies and other information concerning any of the following items: (i) the nature, diversity and status under national laws of customary laws of indigenous and local communities; (ii) the development of strategies by indigenous and local communities to protect traditional knowledge; (iii) the establishment of operational links between national intellectual property authorities and indigenous and local communities; (iv) experiences in the implementation of regionally harmonized *sui generis* systems; (v) the activities and conduct of researchers and academic institutions pertinent to the protection and promotion of traditional knowledge?

a) none

x

b) some	
c) all	
163. Does your country encourage the disclosure of the origin of relevant traditional knowledge in applications for intellectual property rights where they concern or make use of traditional knowledge?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide further details)	
Further information on how your country encourages the disclosure of the origin of relevant traditional knowledge in applications for IPR	
Lack of a proper solution of the intellectual property right IPR issues in Slovakia is evident in the case of Tokay vine varieties, as there are not applied the principles of the Bonn Guidelines. These Tokay vine (grapes) varieties are used in the oldest agroecosystem on our territory for over 600 years, but without any relevant legislative protection.	
164. Does your country take into account traditional knowledge in the examination of patent application?	
a) no	
b) yes, relevant procedures or regulations being considered	X
c) yes, relevant procedures or regulations in place (please provide further details)	
d) not relevant	
Further comments on consideration of traditional knowledge in the examination of patent application	
Act No. 468/2003 on protected goods and food allows partly to patent the traditional knowledge as well.	
165. Has your country submitted to the Executive Secretary relevant information on the feasibility of establishing appropriate dispute-settlement or arbitration procedures and mechanisms where issues concerning the protection, application and use of traditional knowledge, innovation and practices are involved?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
166. Has your country assessed the implication of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on the issues under Article 8(j) and related provisions?	
a) no	
b) assessment under way	X
c) yes, assessment completed (please provide an outline of the results of the assessment)	
d) not relevant	

Further comments on the assessment of the implication of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on the issues under Article 8(j) and related provisions

The Slovak Republic supports all implementation work through the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

167. Has your country assessed the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on indigenous and local communities and Farmers' Rights?

a) no	X
b) assessment under way	
c) yes (please provide details about the assessment)	

Further comments on the assessment of the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on indigenous and local communities and Farmers' Rights

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Article 9 Ex situ conservation

168. Has your country adopted measures for the *ex situ* conservation of components of biological diversity *native* to your country (9a)?

a) no measures	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	X
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	

Further information on the measures adopted for the *ex situ* conservation of components of biodiversity *native* to your country

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Zoological and botanical gardens, arboreta and gene banks represent typical *ex-situ* conservation facilities. *Ex-situ* conservation is ensured for several native species through the rescue breeding. Here the capacities of zoological gardens are used only in a limited scale.

The Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection which is harmonized with the EU Directive No. 99/22/EC on Breeding of Wild Animals in Zoological Gardens sets up conditions for keeping wild animals and their breeding in facilities defined by this directive.

Botanical gardens participate in *ex-situ* conservation, e.g. in the implementation of measures provided for by the approved recovery programs for critically endangered and rare plant species. The gene banks for native plant and animal species have not been established yet. The gene banks for the conservation of genetic material of cultivated species and microorganisms already exist.

National program for conservation plant genetic resources for food and agriculture on the years 2005-2009

EX situ conservation in forest sector::

Seed orchards and clonal groves: Approximately 3,600 genotypes of 14 forest tree species have been conserved and reproduced in 81 seed orchards. Two clonal archives conserve 1250 genotypes of 4 forest tree species.

Generative reproductive plantations reproducing the gene pools of top-quality forest stands of 6 forest tree species have been established on the area of 774 hectares during the past 30 years. Reproductive plantations of 4 coniferous species contain more than 5,000 open pollinated families.

Forest Seed Bank comprises 226 seedlots with the volume of 746 kg, which have been collected either in endangered or exceptionally valuable populations of 5 forest tree species.

Field tests and experiments conserve 915 provenances, 351 families and 1 221 clones planted on 79 plots with the area of 113 ha.

Farm animals:

Conservation of genetic diversity of Slovakian domestic animals includes both in situ and *ex situ* protection. Living animals of certain traditional and endangered breeds are supported with incentives to limited extent. Similarly, genetic material (mainly semen) of these breeds is conserved for long-term purposes. Monitoring of breed populations is undertaken and national database is operated.

169. Has your country adopted measures for the *ex situ* conservation of components of biological diversity *originating outside* your country (9a)?

a) no measures	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	X
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	

Further information on the measures adopted for the *ex situ* conservation of components of biodiversity originating outside your country

National program for conservation plant genetic resources for food and agriculture on the years 2005-2009	
<i>Ex-situ</i> conservation is ensured for several species through the rescue breeding, for instance in zoo gardens. Botanical gardens participate in <i>ex-situ</i> conservation, e.g. in the implementation of measures provided for by the approved recovery programs for critically endangered and rare plant species.	
170. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
171. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources <i>native</i> to your country (9b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
172. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources <i>originating elsewhere</i> (9b)?	
a) no facilities established yet	
b) relevant facilities being established	
c) yes, some facilities established and maintained	X
d) yes, many facilities established and maintained	
173. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no facilities established yet	
b) relevant facilities being established	
c) yes, some facilities established and maintained	X
d) yes, many facilities established and maintained	
174. Has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions (9c)?	
a) no measures	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
175. Has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for <i>ex situ</i> conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and <i>in situ</i> populations of species (9d)?	
a) no measures	

b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	X
Further information on the measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for <i>ex situ</i> conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and <i>in situ</i> populations of species	
Act No. 543/2002 Coll. of June 25, 2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection Notice No. 24/2003 for Act No. 543/2002 Act on Nature and Landscape Conservation National programme for conservation of plant genetic resources for agriculture and food	
If a developed country Party -	
176. Has your country cooperated in providing financial and other support for <i>ex situ</i> conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of <i>ex situ</i> conservation facilities in developing countries (9e)?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition-	
177. Has your country received financial or other support for <i>ex situ</i> conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of <i>ex situ</i> conservation facilities (9e)?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

VI/9. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

178. Has your country reviewed the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as annexed to Decision VI/9?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) yes, review completed	X
179. Has your country developed national targets for implementing the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation?	
a) no	
b) potential targets being identified	
c) relevant targets under development	
d) yes, relevant targets developed (please provide details)	X
Further information on the targets developed for implementing the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation	
Some targets included into National Programme for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted in 2005.	

180. Has your country incorporated the targets identified in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation into relevant national plans, programmes and initiatives, including NBSAPs?	
a) no	
b) relevant targets being reviewed and considered	
c) some targets incorporated in some plans and programmes (please provide details)	x
d) most targets incorporated in major plans and programmes (please provide details)	
Further information on incorporation of targets in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in national plans, programmes and initiatives.	
Some targets included into National Programme for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted in 2005.	
181. Has your country developed a monitoring system in order to assess the status and trends of, and threats to plant conservation and assess the progress in halting the loss of plant diversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant system under development	x
c) some programmes in place (please provide details)	
d) major programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on the monitoring system, including development of sub-targets, baseline data and indicators	
Forestry: National forest inventory based on fixed sample plots launched in 2004. Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management developed in 2004.	
182. Has your country identified main constraints to the implementation of national activities in contribution to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation?	
a) no	
b) review under way	x
c) some constraints identified (please provide details)	
d) most constraints identified (please provide details)	
Further comments on main constraints, taking into consideration six programme elements: a) understanding and documenting plant diversity (Targets 1-3); b) conserving plant diversity (Targets 4-10); c) using plant diversity sustainably (Targets 12-13); d) promoting education and awareness about plant diversity (Target 14); e) building capacity for the conservation of plant diversity (Targets 15-16).	
183. Is your country collaborating with neighbouring countries in implementing the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	

c) some collaborative programmes under development	
d) collaborative programmes included in existing cooperation frameworks (please provide details)	x
Further information on bilateral or regional cooperation	
<p>Bilateral project with Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia for the conservation and collecting missions, exchange of PGR, Mapping and collection of indigenous flora in the West Carpathians and thermophytes of Czech Republic, Ing. Pavol Hauptvogel, PhD., RIPP Piestany, Ing. V. Holubec, CSc., RIPP Praha-Ruzyne Czech Republic</p> <p>Reaeorsch, utilisation and conservation diversity untraditional plant genetic resources in Slovak and Czech Republic. Ing. P. Hauptvogel, PhD., RIPP Piestany, Ing. J. Pelikan CSc., VUP spol. s.r.o. Troubsko, Czech republic</p> <p>Mapping and collection genetic diversity of plant genetic resources in the West Carpathians and Great Hungarian Plain (Ing. P. Hauptvogel, PhD., RIPP Piestany, Dr. L. Holly, Institute for Agrobotany, Hungary.</p> <p>Collecting , characterization and utilization genetic resources of field crops in Slovenia and Slovakian, Ing. P. Hauptvogel, PhD., RIPP Piestany, Dr. V. Meglic, Kmetijski Institut Slovenija Ljubljana, Slovenia.</p>	
<i>If a developed country-</i>	
184. Has your country provided adequate and timely support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	x
c) some collaborative programmes under development	
d) collaborative programmes included in existing cooperation frameworks	

Please list below constraints or impediments encountered by your country in the implementation of this article and associated decisions.

Lack of support by the governmental institutions, shortage of finances for relevant projects and programmes.

Article 10 Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

185. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making (10a)?	
a) no	
b) steps being taken	
c) yes, in some relevant sectors (please provide details)	x
d) yes, in most relevant sectors (please provide details)	
Further information on integrating consideration of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making	

<p>- Conservation of forest genetic resources and rules for the production and use of forest reproductive materials</p> <p>The preserved plant genetic resources are used mainly by the breeding stations and institutions.</p>	
186. Has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity (10b)?	
a) no measures adopted yet	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	x
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the measures adopted relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity	
<p>Forestry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - legally fixed categorisation of forests into the productive, protective and peciel-purpose ones, - compulsory forest management planning and preference to the shelterwood regeneration systems, - legally fixed rules on forest regeneration limiting the transfer of non-autochthonous forest reproductive materials. 	
187. Has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements (10c)?	
a) no measures in place yet	x
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements	

188. Has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced (10d)?	
a) no measures in place yet	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	X
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biodiversity has been reduced	
<p>Projects aimed to revitalization of degraded areas in cooperation with local people.</p> <p>Forestry: Projects of Forest Restoration in areas damaged by air pollution and natural disasters have been eligible for support from the EU structural funds as well as national funds.</p> <p>Preservation of the original landraces endangered by genetic erosion is secured in cooperation with the local population and local institutions (usually in the frame of research and developmental projects).</p>	
189. Does your country actively encourage cooperation between government authorities and the private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological diversity (10e)?	
a) no	
b) relevant incentives under development	X
c) some incentives or policies in place	
d) comprehensive incentives or policies in place	
e) review of implementation available	

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

190. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on tourism and its impacts on biological diversity, and efforts to effectively plan and manage tourism?	
a) no	X
b) yes, previous national reports (please specify first or second national report or both)	
c) yes, case studies	
d) yes, other means (please give details)	
Further comments on tourism and biological diversity	

191. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on biodiversity-related activities of the CSD (such as SIDS, oceans, seas and freshwater resources, consumption and production patterns)?	
a) no	X
b) yes, previous national reports (please specify first or second national report or both)	
c) yes, correspondence	
d) yes, other means (please give details)	
Further comments on submission of information on biodiversity-related activities of the CSD	

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

192. Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	
a) no indicators, incentive measures identified yet	
b) assessment of potential indicators under way	X
c) indicators identified (please describe)	
Further comments on the identification of indicators and incentive measures for sectors	
National Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management developed in 2004. Criteria and Indicators for assessing conservation status of habitats and species of European importance	
193. Has your country implemented sustainable use practices, programmes and policies for the sustainable use of biological diversity, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation?	
a) no	X
b) potential practices, programmes and policies under review	
c) yes, some policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further information on sustainable use programmes and policies	

194. Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) mechanisms under development	X
c) mechanisms in place (please describe)	
Further comments on the development of mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity	
Discussions with owners of the land in the frame NATURA 2000.	
195. Has your country identified areas for conservation that would benefit through the sustainable use of biological diversity and communicated this information to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
196. Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve indigenous and local communities in initiatives on the sustainable use of biological resources and mechanisms to ensure that indigenous and local communities benefit from such sustainable uses?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) yes, mechanisms in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the mechanisms to involve indigenous and local communities in the sustainable use of biological resources	
e.g. Participation of the stakeholders and local communities in the forest management planning.	

Decision V/25. Biological diversity and tourism

197. Has your country based its policies, programmes and activities in the field of sustainable tourism on an assessment of the inter-linkages between tourism and biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	
198. Has your country submitted case studies on tourism as an example of the sustainable use of biological diversity to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

199. Has your country established mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes, mechanisms in place (please specify)	
e) existing mechanisms under review	
Further comments on the establishment of mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity	
<p>Development of tourism sector in the Slovakia is rapidly grown and supported by national and regional authorities. It is also supported by resources and programs of European Union but is targeted to the maximal commercial benefit and profit incl. solution of social situation in the regions where are any other industrial or commercial possibilities. It is very complicated and hindered due to political aspects of this question to reach a balance between tourism interests and biodiversity protection; there is a low involving of responsible decision makers to prefer biodiversity in spite to the political solution of social state (f.e. employment, local economic profit) within concrete territory incl. sensitive to biodiversity.</p> <p>The EIA is in place but not efficient enough.</p>	
200. Has your country established mechanisms for the participation of indigenous and local communities in the development and management of tourism activities?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes, mechanisms in place (please specify)	
e) existing mechanisms under review	
Further comments on the establishment of mechanisms for the participation of indigenous and local communities in the development and management of tourism activities	
<p>Only some local communities (village, rural community) are invited to the development of tourism, only nature conservation rules (the level of nature protection and degree of conservation by law) are on the place and put limits to the development. See and add described above.</p>	
201. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
202. Has your country established enabling policies and legal frameworks to complement voluntary efforts for the effective implementation of sustainable tourism?	
a) no	X
b) to a limited extent	

c) to a significant extent (please describe)	
Further comments on the establishment of enabling policies and legal frameworks to complement voluntary efforts for the effective implementation of sustainable tourism	

203. 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?	
a) no	X
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) yes, relevant programmes in place (please describe)	
Further comments on educational and training programmes provided to tourism operators	
<p>Generally not, but there are some initiatives run by local and non-governmental organisations related to education and trainings on sustainable tourism management (sustainable, environmental friendly, testing CBD Guidelines on Tourism and other) and some project or events on alternative tourism development.</p> <p>E.g., NGO Amber Trail with the cooperation of ETE Germany included some municipalities and local persons into an effort to built-up sustainable tourist agency using local disponibilities and attractions. NGO Sosna in cooperation with municipalities manages a long-term project on the improving of tourism capacities in the local villages in the poor region of South-East Slovakia.</p>	

Decision VI/13. Sustainable use

204. Has your country submitted to the Executive Secretary case studies on the sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Article 11 Incentive measures

205. 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) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	
e) review of implementation available	
206. Do these incentives and the programmes above cover the full range of sectoral activities?	
a) no	X
b) some sectors	
c) all major sectors	
d) all sectors	

Decision III/18. Incentive measures

207. Has your country reviewed legislation and economic policies to identify and promote incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) reviews in progress	X
c) some reviews complete	
d) comprehensive reviews made	
208. Has your country ensured the development of mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas, <i>inter alia</i> , national accounting systems and investment strategies?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of identifying mechanisms	
c) advanced stages of identifying mechanisms	
d) mechanisms in place	
e) review of impact of mechanisms available	
209. Has your country developed training and capacity-building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives?	
a) no programmes developed yet	
b) programme under development	
c) some programmes in place	X
d) many programmes in place	

210. Has your country incorporated biological diversity considerations into impact assessments as a step in the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
211. Has your country shared experience on incentive measures with other Parties, including making relevant case studies available to the Secretariat?	
a) no	X
b) yes, through previous national reports (please specify first or second national report or both)	
c) yes, through case studies	
d) yes, through other means (please give details)	
Further comments on shared experiences on incentive measures	

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

212. Is your country actively designing and implementing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) measures in place (please provide details)	X
e) review of implementation available (please provide details)	
Further information on incentive measures designed and implemented	
<p>Various sectoral laws provides for incentives addressing specific purposes and objectives, for instance :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • § 60 of the Act of The Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection provides for Financial Contribution to the owner or manager of the land for maintaining or restoring species and natural habitats at a favourable conservation status. Financial Contribution is provided prior to implementing required management measures, and on the basis of the Agreement between the owner and the competent nature conservation body or authorised nature conservation agency. • § 61 of the Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection provides for compensation for restrictions on common use of land. Procedure is outlined in the Decree of the Government of SR No. 184/2003 Coll. on the Method of Calculation and Compensation of the Property Loss Resulting from the Restriction of Common Cultivation (Use) at Land that is not a State Property. Compensation can only be claimed by non-state stakeholders, who are owners of the land and within 3 years period from either the date of approval of amended Forest Management Plan (in case of forest lands) or the 1st day of the year following after the year for which the claim is to be submitted 	

(in case of agricultural land).

- Compensation of damages/ injuries caused by protected animal species (§§ 97-102 of the Act No.543/2002) is also possible but it is used not very often because of difficult proving process.
- The Act No. 100/1977 Coll. on Forestry and State Forestry Administration sets up several incentive instruments for the sustainable forestry. Within last ten years the value of given incentives drop down to one tenth. The Act No. 217/2004 Coll. on Forest Reproductive Material gives a possibility of incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of forest reproductive resources. In 2004 this incentive was not given.
- The Act No. 215/2003 Coll. on the Conservation of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture introduces a commitment to contribute to the conservation of genetic resources but this provision applies only for agriculture.

Since the entrance of SR into the EU financial support is available through EU Structural Funds (such as European Rural Development Fund) on the basis of sectoral operational plans.⁷

For nature conservation activities the support is also provided under measure "Conservation and Restoration of Natural Environment". Eligible areas of support are

- nature conservation infrastructure , and
- development and implementation of management plans for protected areas.

Total allocation for the period 2004 - 2006 amounts to 7,626 thousand EUR (of that - 5,720 thousand EUR is from Structural Funds) .

Measure 5. "Agroenvironment and Animal Living Conditions" of the Agriculture and Rural Development Plan is a key measure for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Other EU schemes, most particularly LIFE and INTERREG can be accessed for support as well.

213. Has your country identified threats to biological diversity and underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including the relevant actors, as a stage in designing incentive measures?

a) no	
b) some threats identified (please provide details)	X
c) many threats identified (please provide details)	
d) measures designed based on the reviews (please provide details)	
e) review of implementation available (please provide	

(1) ⁷ SOP Agriculture and Rural Development (agro-environmental measures), SOP Basic Infrastructure

details)	
Further information on incentive measures designed to address threats to biodiversity and underlying causes of biodiversity loss	
Exploitation of natural resources, natural disasters, non-monitored tourism, ...	
During the preparation for the EU's Natura 2000 in Slovakia, threats to the ecosystems of European significance have been identified for consideration in the designs of incentive measures and/or implementation programmes.	
214. Do the existing incentive measures take account of economic, social, cultural and ethical valuation of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	x
c) yes, significant extent	
215. Has your country developed legal and policy frameworks for the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	x
d) frameworks in place	
e) review of implementation available	
216. Does your country carry out consultative processes to define clear target-oriented incentive measures to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss?	
a) no	x
b) consultative processes being developed	
c) consultative processes developed but not implemented	
d) processes in place	
217. Has your country identified and considered neutralizing perverse incentives?	
a) no	x
b) identification of programme under way	
c) identified but not all neutralized (please provide details)	
d) identified and neutralized (please provide details)	
Further information on perverse incentives identified and/or neutralized	

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

218. Has your country reviewed the incentive measures promoted through the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide further details)	x
Further information on the review of the incentive measures promoted through the Kyoto Protocol	

219. Has your country explored possible ways and means by which these incentive measures can support the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in your country?	
a) no	
b) ways and means being identified	x
c) yes, some ways and means identified (please provide details)	
d) yes, a comprehensive set of ways and means identified (please provide details)	
Further information on the ways and means through which the incentive measures can support the objectives of the Convention	

Decision VI/15. Incentive Measures

220. Is your country taking into consideration proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures in Annex I to this decision when designing and implementing incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	x
Further information on the proposals considered when designing and implementing the incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	
Identification and monitoring of biotops and habitats in the frame of NATURA 2000. Observation of the occurrence and mapping of the threatened species.	
221. Has your country submitted to the Executive Secretary case studies, lessons learned and other relevant information on incentive measures?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
222. Has your country provided financial support for the programme of work on incentive measures?	
a) no	x

b) financial support programme under development	
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a significant extent	

Article 12 Research and training

223. Has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	x
d) programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the programmes for scientific and technical education and training the measures for identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	
<p>Forestry: Courses in botany, zoology, forest phytosociology, forest surveying, mapping, management planning, silviculture are compulsory parts of the forestry curricula at the secondary professional schools and at the forestry faculty of the university.</p> <p>Agrobiodiversity: At the Slovak Agricultural university of Nitra are introduced courses on Biodiversity protection - such as Plant geneticresources conservation, Invasive plant species, Nature and land protection, Land revitalisation, Botanical gardens and arboreta. In the frame of lifelong education different target groups are trained on the above mentioned topics.</p>	
224. Has your country provided support to other Parties for education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
225. Does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (12b)?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent (please provide details)	x
c) yes, significant extent (please provide details)	
Further information the research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	

Forestry: *Improvement of Forest Inventory, *Research of the Effects of Climate Change on Biodiversity and * of Forest Genetic Resources (facultatively).	
Agrobiodiversity: Research projects are oriented on monitoring, inventory, propagation, evaluation, recording, cataloguing, preservation and use of plant genetic resources of cultural, less known, neglected and unusual plant species.	
226. Does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources (12c)?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent (please provide details)	x
c) yes, significant extent (please provide details)	
Further information on the use of scientific advances in biodiversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	
Cooperation between research and scientific institutions.	

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

Article 13 Public education and awareness

228. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through the inclusion of this topic in education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	x
c) yes, significant extent	

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

229. Has your country allocated appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?	
a) no resources allocated	
b) limited resources allocated	x
c) adequate resources allocated	
230. Does your country support initiatives by major groups that foster stakeholder participation and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
231. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	x
d) yes (please provide further details)	
Further information on integrating biodiversity concerns into education strategies	
232. Has your country made available any case studies on public education and awareness and public participation, or sought to share experiences in this field?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
233. Has your country illustrated and translated the provisions of the Convention into any local languages to promote public education and awareness raising of relevant sectors?	
a) not relevant	
b) still to be done	
c) under development	

d) yes	x
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234. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent (please provide details)	x
c) yes, significant extent (please provide details)	
Further information on the support provided to local, national, subregional and regional education programmes	
Administrative units (Administrations of National Parks, Protected Landscape Areas and Regional Offices for Nature and Landscape Conservation) of the organization - the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic support environmental education aimed to biological diversity on the local, regional level through the Regional Plan for Public and Schools.	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
235. Has your country requested GEF funding for the projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 of the Convention?	
a) no	x
b) yes	

Decision V/17. Education and public awareness

236. Does your country support capacity-building for education and communication in biological diversity as part of the national biodiversity strategy and action plans?	
a) no	
b) limited support	x
c) yes (please give details)	
Further comments on support for capacity-building for education and communication as part of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans	
Universities are in charge of providing the education on rural development programme on all levels and in all economic branches.	

VI/19. Communication, education and public awareness

237. Has your country reviewed the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)?	
a) no	X
b) review under way	
c) yes	
238. Has your country developed an electronic portal for CEPA?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on electronic portal for CEPA	
239. If the answer to the above question was yes, has your country linked the CEPA electronic portal to the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and other environmental education networks/websites of UN organizations, IGOs, NGOs, universities, etc.?	
a) no	
b) yes	
240. What type(s) of dissemination mechanisms does your country use to communicate biodiversity information?	
a) not applicable (no dissemination mechanisms are used)	
b) fliers, brochures, pamphlets, textbooks and other printed matters	X
c) television, documentaries, videos	X
d) electronic (e.g. Internet, e-mail)	X
e) radio	x
f) theatre/dance/music	
g) others (please specify)	X
Further comments on dissemination mechanisms	
<p>There was established the Slovak Platform for biodiversity - http://www.uke.sav.sk/bioplatform/domace.htm</p> <p>Within area of Slovak National Parks and Protected Landscape Areasb there are established educational trails with information panels, informational centres for tourists and public. There is also the School of Natural Protection in Varín as a part of Malá Fatra National Park Administration. Its job is education of pupils, public and traing of professional staff.</p> <p>Based on researcg projects there are developed and created many specialized databases, information systems - used as means of ICT for recording and evaluation of plant genetic resources.</p>	

241. Does your country celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May each year?	
a) no (please specify reasons)	
b) yes (please provide a brief account of the activities undertaken on this occasion)	X
Further comments on International Day for Biological Diversity	
Only occasional technical events, such as workshops and or articles in newspapers.	
242. Has your country created a registry of education and communications experts?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	
c) under development	X
Further comments on registry of education and communications experts	
243. Has your country established partnerships with media organizations engaged in publicizing biodiversity-related issues?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide some examples in this regard)	
Further information on the partnerships established with media organizations	
244. Does your country encourage the development of expertise in the communication, education and public awareness raising of biodiversity by providing scholarships to qualified candidates?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on the encouragement of the development of expertise	

245. Has your country conducted workshops or training seminars in regard to issues related to the implementation of the work programme for the Global Initiative?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
246. Has your country developed distance-learning programmes to facilitate the implementation of the Global Initiative?	
a) no (please specify reasons)	x
b) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on distance-learning programmes	
247. Has your country collected and exchanged knowledge and experience related to the communication and public awareness of biodiversity, at the regional and international levels?	
a) no	
b) yes (provide details)	x
Further comments on the collection and exchange of knowledge and experience at the regional and international levels	
The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic developed the project: Communication in nature conservancy in cooperation with IUCN in the period 1998 - 2003 aimed to improvement of public awareness of wise use of nature resources and restoration of depredated areas.	
248. Does your country promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the community level?	
a) no	
b) yes (provide details)	x
Further information on the efforts to promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the community level	
Through meetings with stakeholders within NATURA 2000. Professional staff of Slovak protected areas works with local communities.	
249. Has your country identified synergies among various networks within your country that deal with issues related to the communication, education and public awareness raising of biodiversity?	
a) no	x
b) yes (provide details)	
Further comments on identification of synergies	

250. Does your country promote twinning programmes, student and professional exchange programmes, at the national, regional and international levels?	
a) no	
b) yes (provide details)	X
Further comments on the promotion of twinning programmes, student and professional exchange programmes, at the national, regional and international levels	
State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic promoted professional exchange programme with the EUROPARC Federation within protected areas in Europe. Some exchange programmes exist between Slovakian and Hungarian, Poland and Czech protected areas in cross-border areas within joint cooperation.	
251. What type of awareness programmes has your country developed for children?	
a) component within electronic portal	
b) mass media	X
c) curriculums and after-school programmes	X
d) other (please specify)	
Further comments on awareness programmes developed for children	
Various competitions, exhibitions, seminars at schools, excursions in protected areas, quizzes.	
252. What sectors does your national biodiversity strategy and action plan target as relates to the implementation of Article 13?	
a) Not applicable (NBSAP not yet completed)	
b) Government	X
c) NGO	X
d) Education	X
e) Media	
f) Indigenous	
g) Business	
h) Industry (Agriculture, Fisheries, Forests, Tourism, etc.)	X
i) Other (please specify)	
Further comments on sectors	

Article 14 Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

253. Has your country developed legislation requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity (14 (1a))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation in place (please provide details)	X
e) review of implementation available (please provide details)	
Further information on the legislation requiring EIA of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biodiversity	
Projects with likely adverse effects on biodiversity must be assessed according to EIA legislation.	
254. Do such environmental impact assessment procedures in your national legislation allow for public participation (14(1a))?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	
c) yes, significant extent	X
255. Has your country developed mechanisms to ensure that the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account(14(1b))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes, mechanisms in place	X
256. Is your country involved in bilateral, regional and/or multilateral discussion on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	
c) yes, significant extent	X
257. Is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) no, assessment of options in progress	
c) some completed, others in progress (please provide details)	
d) yes (please provide details)	X

Further information on the bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biodiversity outside your country's jurisdiction	
Slovakia ratified the Espoo Convention. Bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biodiversity outside Slovakia's jurisdiction are solved in the 3rd part of the Act No. 127/1994 on Environmental Impact Assessment.	
258. Has your country established mechanisms to notify other States of cases of imminent or grave danger or damage to biological diversity originating in your country and potentially affecting those States (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	X
e) no need identified	
259. Has your country put mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your State to biological diversity in other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes, a mechanism in place based on current scientific knowledge	X
e) no need identified	
260. Has your country established national mechanisms for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place (please provide details)	X
Further information on national mechanisms for emergency response to the activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biodiversity	
One of the mechanisms is an organization, the Slovak Environmental Inspection - the control body of the Ministry of Environment. Also IPPC and SEVESO are taken into consideration in our legislation - the Act NO. 245/2003 on integrated prevention and control of pollution.	
261. Has your country encouraged international cooperation to establish joint contingency plans for emergency responses to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

c) no need identified	
262. Is your country a participant in any international or regional agreements applicable to liability and redress for damage to biological diversity?	
a) no	x
b) yes (please specify the agreements)	
Further comments on the international or regional agreements your country has participated applicable to liability and redress for damage to biological diversity	

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

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

Decision V/18. Impact assessment, liability and redress

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

a) no	
b) in some circumstances (please provide details)	
c) in all circumstances (please provide details)	X
Further information on the mechanisms to ensure the consideration of biodiversity concerns from the early stages of drafting legislation and regulations	
<p>The mechanisms which ensure the consideration of biodiversity within Slovak legislation are following: Aarhus convention, Espoo Convention, Convention on biological diversity and Guidelines of the Council and the European Parliament:</p> <p>Council Directive 85/337/EHS of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment</p> <p>Council Directive 92/43/EHS of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora</p> <p>Council Directive 79/409/EHS of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds</p> <p>Council Directive 96/61/EC of 24 September 1996 concerning integrated pollution prevention and control</p> <p>Directive 2001/42/ES of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of certain plans and programmes on the environment</p> <p>Council Directive 90/313/EHS of 7 May 1990 on freedom of access to information on the environment</p>	
268. Does your country ensure the involvement of all interested and affected stakeholders in a participatory approach to all stages of the assessment process?	
a) no	
b) yes, in certain circumstances	
c) yes, in all cases	X
269. Has your country organised any activities or programmes in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures for impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) some programmes in place	
d) many programmes in place	X
270. Has your country carried out pilot environmental impact assessment projects, in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide further details)	X
Further comments on pilot environmental impact assessment projects	

271. Does your country use strategic environmental assessments to assess not only the impact of individual projects, but also their cumulative and global effects, and ensure the results are applied in the decision making and planning processes?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
272. Does your country require the inclusion of development of alternatives, mitigation measures and consideration of the elaboration of compensation measures in environmental impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	X
273. Is national information available on the practices, systems, mechanisms and experiences in the area of strategic environmental assessment and impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) yes (please append or summarize)	X
Further comments on the practices, systems, mechanisms and experiences in the area of strategic environmental assessment and impact assessment	
There is developed the information system accessible on the portal: www.enviroportal.sk.	

Decision VI/7. Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessments

274. Has your country reviewed the draft guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment, as contained in the annex to this decision?	
a) no	
b) review under way	X
c) yes	X
275. Is your country applying the guidelines mentioned above in the context of the implementation of paragraph 1 of Article 14?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
d) yes, some aspects being applied (please specify)	
e) yes, major aspects being applied (please specify)	X
Further comments on application of guidelines	
The Act No. 127/1994 on Environmental Impact Assessment and its Annexes 2 and 3 define closer the aspects.	
276. If the answer to the above question is yes, has your country shared its experience through CHM and/or national reporting?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide further details)	
Further comments on experiences shared through CHM and/or national reporting	

Decision VI/11. Liability and redress (Article 14, paragraph 2)

277. Has your country submitted to the Executive Secretary any information relating to regional and national legal regimes applicable to liability and redress for damage to biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

278. Does your country have in place national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity?	
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 Slovak Inspection of the Environment lide a controle body and local authorities with relevant power solve these problems.	
279. Does your country require capacity-building actions with regard to measures for the prevention of damage to biological diversity, and the establishment and implementation of national legislative, administrative or policy measures on liability and redress for damage to biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
280. Is your country cooperating with other Parties to strengthen capacities at the national level for the prevention of damages to biodiversity, establishment and implementation of national legislative regimes, policy and administrative measures on liability and redress?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) relevant cooperative programmes under development	
d) yes, some cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details)	X
e) yes, comprehensive cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details)	
Further comments on cooperation with other Parties to strengthen capacities	
ESPOO Convention	

Article 15 Access to genetic resources

281. Has your country endeavoured to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties(15(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	X
c) yes, significant extent	
282. Is there any mutual understanding or agreement in place between different	

interest groups and the State on access to genetic resources (15(4))?	
a) no	x
b) yes, some MOUs and agreements signed or in force	
c) yes, many MOUs and agreements signed or in force	
283. Has your country developed an open participatory planning process, or any other process, to ensure that access to genetic resources is subject to prior informed consent (15(5))?	
a) no	x
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) processes in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the processes to ensure that access to genetic resources is subject to prior informed consent	
284. Has your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Contracting Parties(15(6))?	
a) no measures	x
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	
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	
285. Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources (15(7))?	
a) no measures	x
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	

e) legislation	
f) statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
g) policy and administrative measures	

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

286. Has your country provided the secretariat with information on relevant legislation, administrative and policy measures, participatory processes and research programmes?	
a) no	x
b) yes, within the previous national reports (please specify first or second national report or both)	
c) yes, through case studies	
d) yes, through other means (please give details)	
Further comments on information provided to the secretariat	

287. Has your country implemented capacity-building programmes to promote successful development and implementation of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including scientific, technical, business, legal and management skills and capacities?	
a) no	
b) some programmes covering some needs (please provide details)	
c) many programmes covering some needs (please provide details)	x
d) programmes covering all identified needs (please provide details)	
e) no perceived need	
Further information on the capacity-building programmes to promote successful development and implementation of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access	
National program for conservation plant genetic resources for food and agriculture on the years 2005-2009	
288. Has your country analysed experiences of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including regional efforts and initiatives, for use in further development and implementation of measures and guidelines?	
a) no	
b) analysis in progress	x
c) analysis completed	

289. Is your country collaborating with all relevant stakeholders to explore, develop and implement guidelines and practices that ensure mutual benefits to providers and users of access measures?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	X
c) yes, significant extent	
290. Has your country identified national authorities responsible for granting access to genetic resources?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
291. Did your country take an active role in the negotiation leading to the adoption of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources

292. Has your country designated a national focal point and one or more competent national authorities to be responsible for access and benefit-sharing arrangements or to provide information on such arrangements?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) yes, Executive Secretary notified	
293. Does your country's national biodiversity strategy, and legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, contribute to conservation and sustainable use objectives?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent (please provide details)	X
c) to a significant extent (please provide details)	
Further information on the contribution of NBSAP, and legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing to conservation and sustainable use objectives	
National Programme for Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture launched in 2005. On a facultative basis, also Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources and Biodiversity.	
Parties that are recipients of genetic resources -	
294. Has your country adopted administrative or policy measures that are supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) other arrangements made	

c) yes (please provide details)	x
Further information on administrative or policy measures that support the provider's effort to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention	
Law No 215/2001 about Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. National Program on Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Slovak Republic for years 2005-2009.	
295. Does your country cooperate with other Parties in order to find practical and equitable solutions supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention?	
a) no	x
b) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on cooperation with other Parties find solutions	

296. In developing its legislation on access, has your country taken into account and allowed for the development of a multilateral system to facilitate access and benefit-sharing as set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
297. Did your country coordinate its positions in order to ensure coherence between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
298. Has your country provided information to the Executive Secretary on user institutions, the market for genetic resources, non-monetary benefits, new and emerging mechanisms for benefit sharing, incentive measures, clarification of definitions, <i>sui generis</i> systems and "intermediaries"?	
a) no	x
b) some information provided	
c) substantial information provided	
299. Has your country submitted information on specific issues related to the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
300. Has your country provided capacity-building and technology development and transfer for the maintenance and utilization of <i>ex situ</i> collections?	

a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent	x
c) yes, to a significant extent	

Decision VI/24. Access and benefit-sharing as related to genetic resources

301. Has your country reviewed the Bonn Guidelines as annexed to this decision?	
a) no	x
b) review under way	
c) yes	
302. Is your country using the Bonn Guidelines when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, and contracts and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for access and benefit-sharing?	
a) no	x
b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes (please provide details)	
If a developed country Party -	
303. Has your country provided financial and technical assistance to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the Bonn Guidelines?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes of support under development	
c) some programmes being implemented within existing cooperative frameworks (please provide details)	x
Further comments on financial and technical assistance provided for the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines	
Assistance with implementing Bonn Guidelines has been provided to Nicaragua within a framework of the NEWS Programme.	
304. Has your country submitted information on the issues referred to in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) of paragraph 8 of this decision?	
a) no	x
b) yes, on some issues	
c) yes, on all issues	
305. Has your country submitted to the Executive Secretary information regarding capacity-building needs, priorities and existing initiatives for capacity-building for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing?	

a) no	
b) yes	x

306. Does your country consider the following criteria when nominating the experts on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing: gender balance, involvement of indigenous and local communities, relevant disciplines and expertise?

a) no	
b) yes, some of these criteria considered	x
c) yes, these are the main criteria considered	
d) other criteria also considered (please provide details)	

Further comments on other criteria considered when nominating the experts on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing

When nominating the experts on access to genetic resources, above all expertise is considered. Gender issues are not regarded specifically.

307. Has your country reviewed the elements for an action plan for capacity-building for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing and identified key areas for capacity-building at the national level?

a) no	
b) review under way	x
c) yes, some areas for capacity-building identified (please provide details)	

Further comments on review of elements for action plan and identification of key areas

308. Has your country adopted national policies or measures, including legislation which addresses the issue of intellectual property rights in relation to access and benefit-sharing arrangements?

a) no	
b) potential policies or measures identified	
c) relevant policies or measures under development	
d) yes, some policies or measures in place	x
e) yes, comprehensive policies or measures adopted	

309. Does your country encourage the disclosure of the country of origin 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	x
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b) under consideration	
c) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on encouragement of disclosure of country of origin of genetic resources in applications	
310. Has your country submitted case studies on the issues referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Decision VI/24 C?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
311. Is your country facilitating the participation of indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders in the various forums, as well as in the preparation of NBSAPs and legislation related to access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, from a very early stage?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
312. Has your country submitted to the Executive Secretary any information concerning the principles, legal mechanisms and procedures for obtaining prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities under national access regimes for genetic resources?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
313. Has your country submitted to the Executive Secretary any information concerning the measures adopted to implement access and benefit-sharing, case studies on the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements and other information such as that listed in paragraph 12 of decision V/26?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology

314. Has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment (16(1))?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place (please provide details)	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or make sure of genetic resources	
315. Is your country aware of any initiatives under which relevant technology is transferred to your country on concessional or preferential terms (16(2))?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please give brief details)	
Further comments on known initiatives	
316. Has your country taken measures so that Contracting Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms (16(3))?	
a) not relevant	
b) relevant, but no measures	X
c) some measures in place	
d) potential measures under review	
e) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
f) legislation	
g) statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
h) policy and administrative arrangements	

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

Decision III/17. Intellectual property rights

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

Article 17 Exchange of information

321. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources (17(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) restricted by lack of resources	
c) potential measures under review	
d) some measures in place	X
e) comprehensive measures in place	

<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
322. Do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries (17(1))?	
a) no	X
b) yes, limited extent	
c) yes, significant extent	
323. If so, do these measures include all the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), including technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?	
a) no	X
b) yes, limited extent	
c) yes, significant extent	

Article 18 Technical and scientific cooperation

324. Has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (18(1))?	
a) no measures in place	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place (please provide details)	X
d) comprehensive measures in place (please provide details)	
Further information on the measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation	
European Forest Genetic Resources Programme EUFORGEN.	
325. Do these cooperative measures pay special attention to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution building (18(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	X
c) yes, significant extent	
326. Has your country encouraged and developed methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention (18(4))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) methods in place	

327. Does such cooperation include the training of personnel and exchange of experts (18(4))?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	X
c) yes, significant extent	
328. Has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention (18(5))?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent (please provide some examples)	X
c) yes, significant extent (please provide some examples)	
Examples for the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention	
<p>The Slovak Agricultural University submitted a development project in the frame of FAO-GIAHS oriented on conservation, revitalisation and use of traditional agroecosystems in the Carpathian region, where were involved partners of Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Czech Republic and Hungary. The project deals with revitalization of traditional methods in agriculture, and their use in a sustainable manner.</p>	

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

329. Is your country cooperating in the development and operation of the Clearing-house Mechanism (CHM)?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
330. Is your country helping to develop national capabilities through exchanging and disseminating information on experiences and lessons learned in implementing the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	X
c) yes, significant extent	
331. Has your country designated a national focal point for the Clearing-house Mechanism?	
a) no	

b) yes	X
332. Is your country providing resources for the development and implementation of the Clearing-house Mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) yes, at the national level	
c) yes, at national and international levels	
333. Is your country facilitating and participating in workshops and other expert meetings to further the development of the Clearing-house Mechanism at international levels?	
a) no	X
b) participation only	
c) supporting some meetings and participating	
334. Is your Clearing-house Mechanism operational?	
a) no	X
b) under development	
c) yes (please give details)	
Further comments on CHM operationalization	
National CHM home page was established within Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra. CHM Focal point is designated also in Slovak Agriculture University in Nitra. CHM is not opretaional due to lacking operational concept and absence of formal support.	
335. Is your Clearing-house Mechanism linked to the Internet?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
336. Has your country established a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary CHM steering committee or working group at the national level?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision V/14. Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanisms (Article 18)

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

338. Has your country established national directories and/or rosters of scientific institutions and experts working on thematic areas of the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes, information available through CHM	
339. Has your country strengthened the national focal point for the clearing-house mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
340. Has your country established links to non-governmental organizations and other institutions holding important databases or undertaking significant work on biological diversity through CHM?	
a) no	X
b) coordination with NGOs and other institutions under way	
c) yes, links established with some NGOs and institutions	
d) yes, links established with most of NGOs and institutions	
341. Has your country established thematic focal points for the clearing-house mechanism at the national level?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
342. Has your country worked with other countries in the same region and subregion to establish thematic focal points for CHM?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

If a developed country -

343. Has your country further developed CHM to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
If yes, what means has been employed by your country for this purpose?	
c) funding opportunities	
d) access to and transfer of technology	
e) research cooperation facilities	
f) repatriation of information	
g) training opportunities	
h) promotion of contacts with relevant institutions, organizations and the private sector	

i) others (please specify)	
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	
Slovak Republic hosted in 2002 The Central and Eastern Europe Regional Meeting on the Biosafety Clearing House. The venue took place at the Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra on February 7, 2002. The main goals - i.e. Evaluation of existing biodiversity and biosafety information exchange mechanisms in CEE countries, ii. Pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing House, iii. Preparation of regional needs assessments and priorities.	
344. Has your country identified and established important target audiences for CHM?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide further details)	
Further comments on CHM target audiences	
345. Has your country developed any initiatives to make information available through CHM more useful for researchers and decision-makers?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	X
c) relevant initiatives under development	
d) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on development of initiatives	
346. Has your country developed, provided and shared services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please specify services and tools)	
Further comments on services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions	
347. Has your country undertaken an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) analysis under way	
c) yes, results available through CHM	

348. Has your country identified the difficulties and constraints met in the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide further details)	x
Further comments on difficulties and constraints met in the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism	

Decision VI/8. Scientific and technical cooperation and the clearing-house mechanism

349. Is your country effectively using the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism?	
a) no	x
b) yes	

Article 19 Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

350. Has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research (19(1))?	
a) no measures	x
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures in place	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures:	
e) legislation	
f) statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	
g) policy and administrative measures	
351. Has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Parties the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties(19(2))?	
a) no measures	
b) potential measures under review	x
c) some measures in place	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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

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

**Decision VI/1. Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol
on Biosafety**

353. Has your country designated national focal points and competent national authorities for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?	
a) no	
b) yes, national focal points only	
c) yes, both designated	X

Article 20 Financial resources

354. Please describe for each of the following items the quantity of financial resources, both internal and external, that have been utilized to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, on an annual basis, since your country became a Party to the Convention	
a) budgetary allocations by national and local governments as well as different sectoral ministries	Data not available
b) extra-budgetary resources	Data not available
c) bilateral assistance by donors	Data not available
d) regional assistance by donors	Data not available
e) multilateral assistance by donors	Data not available
f) private sources by donors	Data not available
g) resources generated through financial instruments, such as charges for use of biodiversity	Data not available
355. Please describe in detail below any major financing programmes, such as biodiversity trust funds or specific programmes, that have been established in your country.	
<p>Biodiversity Conservation activities are mostly financed from public sources. Principal Nature Conservation Agencies are receiving full or partial contributions from the state budget.</p> <p>In 2004, Environmental Fund was established through the Act No. 587/2004.</p> <p>The Fund is managed through the Ministry of the Environment. Revenues of the Fund comes from 19 sources identified in § 3, including inter alia,</p>	

penalties, fines, donations, interested from credits, collections of entrance fees to protected areas, etc.

The funds can be provided to eligible recipients in the form of grants or credits. Eligible areas of support include actions supporting implementation of the State Environmental Policy (i.e. including conservation of biodiversity), research and surveys aiming at improving of the state of the Environment, environmental education and training , etc.

Annual Fund Management costs can not exceed 3 % of the annual revenue of the Fund.

The projects for support are approved by the Minister of the Environment upon recommendations made by the Board of the Environment Fund that is an Advisory Body to the Minister.

Since the entrance of SR into the EU financial support is available through EU Structural Funds (such as European Rural Development Fund) on the basis of sectoral operational plans.⁸

For nature conservation activities the support is provided under measure "Conservation and Restoration of Natural Environment". Eligible areas of support are

- nature conservation infrastructure , and
- development and implementation of management plans for protected areas.

Total allocation for the period 2004 - 2006 amounts to 7,626 thousand EUR (of that - 5,720 thousand EUR is from Structural Funds) .

Measure 5. "Agroenvironment and Animal Living Conditions" of the Agriculture and Rural Development Plan is a key measure for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Other EU schemes, most particularly LIFE and INTERREG can be accessed for support as well.

Except for above mentioned, certain amount of annual budget of the Ministry of the Environment is earmarked for implementing the BD ACTION PLAN.

Event though only small projects and its limited amount, many projects were successfully done.

356. Please describe in detail below funding needs that have not been addressed by available financial resources.

Forestry:

Incentives and Compensation of Forest Owners for measures taken in order to conserve components of biological diversity.

Reconstruction of Forests Damaged by Anthropogenic Factors.

Control of Invasive Species in Forests.

Programme for Conservation and Sustainable use of Forest Genetic Resources.

Active Support to the Close-to-nature Silvicultural Practices.

Forest Biodiversity Assessment and Valuation of Related Externalities.

Compensation of the owners within protected areas for measures taken in order to conserve components of biological diversity and/or purchasing of land with vulnerable components of biodiversity from them to the found of state for

(2) ⁸ SOP Agriculture and Rural Development (agro-environmental measures), SOP Basic Infrastructure

nature and biodiversity conservation. CHM Operations	
357. Has your country provided financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention (20(1))?	
a) no	
b) yes, incentives only (please provide a list of such incentives)	
c) yes, financial support only	X
d) yes, financial support and incentives (please provide details)	
Further comments on financial support and incentives provided	

<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
358. Has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention, as agreed between you and the interim financial mechanism(20(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes (please indicate the amount, on an annual basis, of new and additional financial resources your country has provided)	X
4 mil USD, within 1 st GEF Replenishment	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
359. Has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable you to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention (20(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
360. Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
a) no	
b) yes (please indicate the amount, on an annual basis, of financial resources your country has provided related to the implementation of the Convention)	X

If yes, please indicate through what channel your country has provided financial resources related to the implementation of the Convention?	
c) bilateral channels by agencies	X
d) regional channels by agencies	X
e) multilateral channels by agencies	X
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
361. Has your country used financial resources from bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels for the implementation of the Convention(20(3))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision III/6. Additional financial resources

362. Is your country making any efforts to develop standardized information on financial support for the objectives of the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please attach information about existing processes, planned efforts and suggestions for further action)	

Decision V/11. Additional financial resources

363. Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity?	
a) no	X
b) procedures being established	
c) yes (please provide details concerning existing processes, planned efforts and suggestions for further action)	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
364. Does your country promote support for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention in the funding policy of its bilateral funding institutions and those of regional and multilateral funding institutions?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details concerning existing and planned efforts and suggestions for further action)	
Further comments on support for implementation of the objectives of the Convention in funding policy	

<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
365. Does your country discuss ways and means to support implementation of the objectives of the Convention in its dialogue with funding institutions?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details concerning existing and planned efforts and suggestions for further action)	x
Further comments on ways and means to support implementation of the objectives of the Convention in dialogue with funding institutions	
f.e. with GEF and its implementing agencies (WB, UNEP, UNDP, FAO) most recently with the World Bank project idea was consulted concerning - Conservation of internationally significant forest biodiversity in Slovakia. With EU institutions	
366. Has your country compiled information on the additional financial support provided by the private sector?	
a) no	x
b) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on additional financial support provided by the private sector	
367. Has your country considered tax exemptions in national taxation systems for biodiversity-related donations?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national conditions	
c) exemptions under development (please provide details concerning planned exemption measures)	x
d) exemptions in place (please provide details concerning existing measures and suggestions for further action)	
Further comments on consideration of tax exemptions for biodiversity-related donations	
<u>Forestry</u> : Exemption from the Land Tax for the gene reserve forests with voluntary long-term protection commitment in the new Act on Forests.	

Decision VI/16. Additional financial resources

<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
368. Has your country communicated to the Executive Secretary information concerning funding procedures, eligibility criteria and programme priorities in relation to biodiversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide an outline of the information submitted)	
Further comments on funding procedures, eligibility criteria and programme priorities	

<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
369. Has your country communicated to the Executive Secretary information concerning its experience in mainstreaming biodiversity into funding operations?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on information concerning experience in mainstreaming biodiversity into funding operations	
370. Is your country sharing through CHM its experience in developing and implementing financial measures for supporting national biodiversity strategies and action plans?	
a) no	X
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on experiences shared through CHM on developing and implementing financial measures for supporting national biodiversity strategies and action plans	
371. 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?	
a) no	X
b) review under way	
c) yes (please provide results of review)	

Further comments on review of national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance

372. 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?

a) no	
b) review under way	X
c) yes, in some initiatives and plans (please provide details)	
b) yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details)	

Further comments on review and integration of biodiversity considerations in initiatives, policies and plans

373. Has your country submitted to the Executive Secretary any information concerning the impacts of external debts on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?

a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	

Further comments on the impacts of external debts on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Article 21 Financial mechanism

374. Please indicate in detail potential biodiversity project proposals that your country will submit for consideration by the financial mechanism in the next five years.	
GEF Conservation of internationally significant forest biodiversity in Slovakia. EA - add -on	
375. Please indicate in detail potential biodiversity project proposals that your country will submit to any other existing financial institutions in the next five years.	
List of project proposals for next five years has not been compiled. Generally, funding shall be sought from EU sources (Structural Funds, LIFE + , etc.) for all possible activities related to implementing the CBD. UN-FAO TCP: Restoration of damaged forests	
376. Has your country worked to strengthen existing financial institutions to provide financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details concerning existing and planned activities and suggestions for further action)	
Further comments on the strengthening of financial institutions	
377. Has any guidance to the financial mechanism been implemented in your country?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
If yes, please provide details concerning:	
c) existing project activities related to the guidance to the financial mechanism	
d) planned project activities related to the guidance to the financial mechanism	
e) areas of further efforts required to implement the guidance to the financial mechanism	
f) suggestions for further guidance to the financial mechanism, bearing in mind the existing guidance to the financial mechanism	
Further comments on implementation of guidance to the financial mechanism	

378. Has your country taken any action to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in your country?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details concerning existing and planned activities and suggestions for further action)	
Further comments on actions taken to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism	

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

379. Has your country provided information on experiences gained through activities funded by the financial mechanism?	
a) no funded activities	
b) no, although there are funded activities	
c) yes, within the previous national report (please specify first or second national report or both)	
d) yes, through case studies	
e) yes, through other means (please give details)	X
Further comments on experiences gained through activities funded by the financial mechanism	
<p>Experience gained through activities funded by the financial mechanism distributed by various means- project technical and completion reports, through presentations at conferences and meetings, on web sites, etc.</p>	

Article 26 National Reports

380. What is the status of your first national report?	
a) not submitted	
b) summary report submitted	
c) interim/draft report submitted	
d) final report submitted	X
If b), c) or d), was your report submitted:	
e) by the original deadline of 1.1.98 (Decision III/9)?	
f) by the extended deadline of 31.12.98 (Decision IV/14)?	x
g) later (please specify date)	
381. What is the status of your second national report?	
a) not submitted	
b) summary report submitted	
c) interim/draft report submitted	
d) final report submitted	X
If b), c) or d), was your report submitted:	
e) by the deadline of May 15, 2001 (Decision V/19)?	X
f) after the deadline above?	

Decision IV/14. National reports

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

Decision V/19. National reporting

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

Decision VI/25. National reports

385. Has your country submitted thematic reports on mountain ecosystems, protected areas and transfer of technology and technology cooperation?	
a) no	
b) yes, some reports submitted (please specify)	x
c) yes, all thematic reports submitted	
Further comments on thematic reports submitted	
Slovakia has submitted thematic reports on: Invasive Alien Species and Global Taxonomy Initiative	
If a developing country Party or country with economy in transition -	
386. Has your country received funding from the Global Environment Facility for preparing the second national report?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
If no, was this due to:	
c) delay in project proposal preparation?	
d) coordination with implementing agencies?	
e) other sources of funding?	
f) issue of eligibility for GEF funding?	
g) other (please specify)	
Further comments on why funding was not received for preparing the second national report	
Preparation of the second national report was funded from the budget of Ministry of the Environment.	

Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach

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

388) National Forest Programme has been under preparation since 2004, National Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management defined in 2004.

Decision VI/12. Ecosystem Approach

392. Has your country submitted to the Executive Secretary case studies and lessons learned on the development and implementation of the ecosystem approach at the national and regional levels?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
393. Is your country facilitating the exchange of experiences and regional, national and local capacity-building, and enhancing awareness through provision of technical and financial resources?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide further details)	
Further comments on the facilitation of exchange of experiences and regional, national and local capacity-building, and enhancing awareness through provision of technical and financial resources	

Inland water ecosystems

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

394. Has your country reviewed the programme of work on inland water biodiversity?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) review under way	
c) yes, review completed	X
d) If a review was completed, which priority actions were identified for implementation at national level (please specify)	X
Further comments on priority actions identified	
<p>There was the National Wetland Policy (updated Wetlands Management Program of Slovakia) approved by Slovak government (2000) with the Action Plan, which was reviewed. New actions were proposed for duration of period 2003-2007.</p> <p>Partially, there were some projects concerning inventory of wetlands (database for NATURA 2000), management of wetland protected areas and also proposals of wetland restoration measures.</p>	
395. Has your country developed a sectoral plan for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biodiversity or integrated it into the national biodiversity strategy and action plan?	

a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes, integrated as a part of NBSAP (please specify the elements included)	
c) yes, a separate sector plan developed	x
Further comments on a sectoral plan	
Action Plan for implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy for period 2003-2010. For explanation concerning sectoral plan: there exists the National Wetland Policy (updated Wetlands Management Program of Slovakia) approved by Slovak government (2000) with the Action Plans (see above 394).	
396. Is your country promoting the synergy between this programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan at the national level?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	x
b) potential measures identified for synergy and joint implementation	
c) yes, some measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	
d) yes, comprehensive measures taken for joint implementation (please specify)	
Further comments on the promotion of the synergy between the programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan at the national level	

397. Has your country included activities specified in the programme of work on inland water biodiversity in its participation and collaboration with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with inland water resources?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes (please give examples)	x
Further comments	
There are several organizations like Slovak Water Management Company, Slovak Botanical Institute, State Nature Conservancy, Institute of Landscape Ecology, Water Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture with which there was co-operation on the programme of work.	
<i>If a developing country Party or a country with economy in transition -</i>	
398. When requesting financing from the Global Environment Facility, has your country included projects related to inland water ecosystems?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) relevant project proposals under development	
c) yes	x
If yes, is priority given to	

d) identification and monitoring of inland water ecosystems as specified in Annex I to the Convention?	X
e) preparation and implementation of integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management plans?	
f) investigating the processes contributing to the loss of biodiversity of inland water ecosystems?	X
g) other (please specify)	
399. Has your country adopted integrated land and watershed management approaches for the protection, use, planning and management of inland water ecosystems?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) relevant approaches under development	
c) yes, some approaches adopted (please specify)	
d) yes, comprehensive approaches adopted (please specify)	X
Further comments on the adoption of integrated land and watershed management approaches	
<p>Slovak Republic has transposed, adopted and at present implements legislation of European Union (concerning this topic e.g. Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) and Nitrate Directive (Directive 91/676/EEC).</p> <p>Forests & Forestry: Forests, which are important for water and watershed management, have been in the legally fixed categories of Protective or Special Purpose Forests with special management regimes putting emphasis on the continuous-cover forestry.</p>	
400. Has your country adopted integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management strategies?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) relevant strategies under development	
c) yes, relevant strategies adopted	X
d) yes, relevant strategies being implemented	
Further comments on adoption of integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management strategies	
401. Is your country encouraging the use of low-cost appropriate technology, non-structural and innovative approaches to meet watershed management goals?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please specify ways of doing this)	
Further information on the ways to encourage the use of low-cost technology, non-structural and innovative approaches	

402. Is your country encouraging the development of preventative strategies to avoid degradation and promote restoration of inland water ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes (please specify ways of doing this)	X
Further information on the ways of encouraging the development of preventative strategies to avoid degradation and promote restoration	
Yes, preventive measures came into force by a new act since 1.1.2003. According to the Act on Protection of nature and landscape every activity leading to the change of wetlands and river beds must have permission from nature protection authority.	
403. Is your country encouraging research on the application of the ecosystem approach for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biodiversity?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) relevant research programmes under development	X
c) yes, some research programmes being implemented (please give examples)	
d) yes, comprehensive research programmes being implemented (please give examples)	
Further information on the research on the application of the ecosystem approach for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biodiversity	
404. Has your country made an assessment of the status, trends and threats of inland waters?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) assessment under way	
c) yes, some assessment undertaken (please provide further details concerning the results of assessments)	
d) yes, comprehensive assessments undertaken (please provide further details concerning the results of assessments)	X
Further comments on assessment of status, trends and threats	
Implementation of EU Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive), Habitat's and Bird's Directive	
405. Has your country developed a set of criteria or indicators for the evaluation of impacts on inland water ecosystems from both physical infrastructure projects and watershed activities?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	

b) development under way	x
c) yes (please provide a list of indicators developed)	
Further comments on development of criteria or indicators	
406. Has your country conducted studies on ecological functions and services so as to improve the understanding of effects on exploitation of non-target species?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
407. Has your country developed and promoted guidance on the sustainable use of inland waters to maintain biological diversity?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) relevant guidelines under development	
c) yes, relevant guidelines developed (please provide further details about the guidelines)	x
d) yes, relevant guidelines developed and being applied (please provide further details about the guidelines)	
Further comments on the development and promotion of guidance	
This aspect is included in EU Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive)	

408. Is your country supporting the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biodiversity through the establishment and implementation of appropriate legal, administrative and incentive measures?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) potential measures identified	
c) relevant measures under development	
d) yes, some measures developed and being implemented (please provide details)	x
e) yes, comprehensive measures developed and being implemented (please provide details)	
Further comments on the establishment and implementation of measures	
EU Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive) Protected areas with wetland biotops are appropriate protected by Act no. 543/2002 on protection of nature and landscape. At an administrative level are district and regional offices as decision makers. Incentive measures: financial contribution (according to § 60 of Act no. 543/2002 on protection of nature and landscape), so far there were not any applications to State Environmental Found (Envirofound).	

409. Does your country require environmental impacts assessment for water development projects and watershed activities?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
410. Is your country strengthening education and awareness programmes relating to the conservation of inland water biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) yes, some programmes and activities undertaken	X
d) yes, comprehensive programmes and activities undertaken	
411. Is your country collaborating with relevant stakeholders within the country and among countries in the planning and implementation of development projects to better integrate inland water biodiversity with water resource development?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes (please give some examples)	X
Further comments	
<p>Implementation of the EU Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive) requires cooperation with stakeholders.</p> <p>Moreover other activities, e.g.DABLAS projects, Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health etc.</p> <p>We are a Party in Convention of Protection and Sustainable Use of Danube River.</p>	

412. Has your country reviewed those incentives and regulations that may adversely affect inland water biodiversity?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	X
b) review under way	
c) yes, review completed and potential adjustment proposed (please provide details)	
d) yes, adjustment made following review (please provide details)	
Further information on the review of those incentives and regulations that may adversely affect inland water biodiversity	
413. Has your country developed research capacity needed to inform the decision-making process in a multi-disciplinary and sectorally-integrated manner?	
a) no	X
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) yes, limited capacity in place	
d) yes, sufficient capacity in place	

414. Has your country adopted participatory approaches to the management of inland water ecosystems?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) under consideration	
c) yes (please specify)	X
Further information on the participatory approaches	
<p>A participatory approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with stakeholders was applied to the management of wetlands habitats - to reach favourable conservation status of protected areas/species. There is a possibility for landowners and occupiers to apply for financial contribution to cover extra financial expenses connected with conservation interests. - State Nature Conservancy is in a contact with landowners in PAs designation process in preparation of documentation for PAs (management plans). 	
415. Has your country implemented those incentives and regulatory measures that have positive impacts on inland water biodiversity?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes, incentives implemented (please provide details)	X
Further information on those incentives and regulatory measures that have positive impacts on inland water biodiversity	
<p>Incentives measures - Proposed Sites of Community Importance, compensation of restriction of economic activities of nature protection goals, donation for farmers from National Rural Development Plan (for example measures concerning biodiversity of wet meadows, etc.)</p> <p>Regulatory measures - biotopes protection, establishment of protected areas, statement of design-makers.</p>	

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

416. Is your country supporting and/or participating in the River Basin Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
417. Is your country gathering information on the status of inland water biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) assessments ongoing	X
c) assessments completed	
418. Is this information available to other Parties?	
a) no	

b) yes, through national report (please specify first or second national report or both)	
c) yes, through the CHM	
d) yes, through other means (please give details)	x
Further comments on information available to Parties	
There are Reports of the Environment Status of the Slovak Republic every year (available at the web site also in English), where is also a chapter of biodiversity included.	
419. Has your country developed national and/or sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes, national plans only	
c) yes, national plans and major sectors	x
d) yes, national plans and all sectors	
420. Has your country implemented capacity-building measures for developing and implementing these plans?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

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

421. Is the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, and of migratory species and their habitats, fully incorporated into your national strategies, plans and programmes for conserving biological diversity?	
a) no (please specify the limiting factors)	
b) yes	x
Further information on the limiting factors	

Please list below constraints or impediments encountered by your country in the implementation of this article and associated decisions.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of coordination of all stakeholders involved - No financial resources available - Not enough of capacities to reach all of proposed goals
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Marine and coastal biological diversity - NOT PRIORITY TO SLOVAKIA
Decision II/10 and Decision IV/5. Conservation and sustainable use of
marine and coastal biological diversity

422. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in an annex to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes (please provide a list of priorities identified)	
Further comments on review of programme of work and identified priorities	
423. Does your national strategy and action plan promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	
c) yes, significant extent	
424. Has your country implemented integrated marine and coastal area management (IMCAM) including the establishment and/or strengthening of institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) arrangements in place	
425. Does your country integrate biodiversity concerns into all socio-economic sectors impacting the marine and coastal environment?	
a) no	
b) yes, this is done with some sectors	
c) yes, this is done with all socio-economic sectors impacting the marine and coastal environment	
426. Has your country identified key habitats for marine living resources, with a view to further developing policies for action to prevent the physical alteration and destruction of these habitats?	
a) no	
b) identification under way	
c) yes, maps of key marine and coastal habitats developed and being used in coastal management activities	

427. Does your country protect areas important for reproduction, such as spawning and nursery areas?	
a) no	
b) protected areas important for reproduction being identified	
c) yes, protected areas identified and special measures established for their protection	
d) yes, rehabilitation and/or restoration undertaken in addition to implementing special protection measures	
428. Has your country implemented the ecosystem approach for the sustainable management of marine and coastal living resources?	
a) no	
b) the principles of ecosystem approach being identified for this purpose	
c) yes, ecosystem approach implemented for the management of marine and coastal living resources	
429. Has your country established any marine and coastal protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes, a few protected areas established but a network not yet established	
c) yes, a national network of marine and coastal protected areas in place	
430. Has your country developed criteria for the establishment and management of marine and coastal protected areas?	
a) no	
b) relevant criteria under development	
c) yes, relevant criteria developed and being applied (please provide additional information in this regard)	
Further comments on criteria developed	
431. Is your country applying techniques aimed at minimizing the adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) use of appropriate techniques being investigated	
c) yes, techniques being applied to minimize adverse impacts of mariculture (please provide further details on types of techniques)	
Further comments on techniques applied	

432. Has your country experienced introductions of invasive alien species in the marine environment?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide additional information)	
c) not known	
Further comments on introductions of invasive alien species	
433. Has your country put in place legal instruments, guidelines or procedures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species in the marine and coastal environment?	
a) no	
b) relevant instruments and guidelines being proposed	
c) yes, relevant instruments and guidelines implemented	
434. Has your country undertaken the eradication of invasive alien species in the marine and coastal environment?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide additional information)	
Further comments on eradication of invasive alien species	

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

435. Has your country reviewed the work plan on coral bleaching and identified priorities for national action?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	
d) not relevant	X

436. Is your country implementing other measures in response to coral bleaching?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	
c) not relevant	X
Further comments on implementation of other measures	

437. Is your country implementing measures to prevent the physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs?	
a) no	
b) yes (please specify types of measures)	
c) not relevant	X
Further comments on measures implemented to prevent the physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs	
438. Has your country implemented measures to involve local and indigenous communities in the management of marine and costal living resources?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide further information about types of measures)	
Further comments on measures implemented to involve local and indigenous communities	

Agricultural biological diversity

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

439. Has your country identified and assessed relevant ongoing activities and existing instruments at the national level in order to support the implementation of ongoing or new policies, programmes and plans in the field of agricultural biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) review and assessment in progress	
d) yes, assessment completed	X
440. Has your country identified issues and priorities that need to be addressed at the national level?	
a) no	
b) identification in progress	
c) yes (please specify issues and priorities)	X
Further comments on issues and priorities identified	

<p>One of the specific objectives of the Rural Development Plan of the Slovak republic 2004 - 2006 (RDP) is <i>To guarantee environmental protection and biodiversity of rural environments, while taking care of sustainability of utilisation of rural resources</i>. One of the priorities of RDP is <i>Protection and improvement of rural environment</i> with global objective: <i>To guarantee protection of all natural resources, to maintain and renew attractive environment</i>. Measure of the RDP "Agri-environment and animal welfare" is focused on <i>To introduce agricultural production procedures for protection and improvement to the environment</i> with specific objectives - <i>To support agricultural and pasture management with an appropriate intensity friendly to the environment, To renew ecological stability of agricultural landscape through protection and renewal of the networks of eco-stabilisation elements, To keep landscape and historical heritage on agricultural areas, To include planning of environment protection into agricultural practice</i>.</p> <p>Conservation of cultural heritage for actual and future generation from the plant genetic resources. Contribute for national development, food safety, conservation and sustainable use of agriculture and for saving of biodiversity through conservation and utilisation plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.</p>	
441. Is your country using any methods and indicators to monitor the impacts of agricultural development projects on biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant methods and indicators under development	
c) yes, some methods and indicators developed and being used (please provide details about methods and indicators used)	X
d) yes, comprehensive methods and indicators developed and used (please specify)	
Further comments on methods and indicators to monitor the impacts of agricultural development projects	
<p>These tools are realised under the submeasure: Protection of seminatural and natural grasslands. This is component of the Measure No. 2.5 - Agroenvironment of Rural development Plan.</p> <p>Soil monitoring is based on the three levels - physical and chemical observations. Methods of biological parameters monitoring are under preparation.</p> <p>Indicators for "Agri-environment and animal welfare" are based on the acreage of area where the relevant scheme is realised, number of projects, number of subjects of organic farming, number of animals, etc.</p>	
442. Is your country sharing experiences in the field of the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity with other Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes, through CHM	
c) yes, through other means (please specify)	X
Further comments on other means of sharing experiences with other Parties	

Slovakia share experiences with other Parties through workshops, trainings, vocational education, conferences and seminars as well as through bilateral and multilateral projects.

Examples of projects are provided below:

in the field of soil: within the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union,
in the field of plant genetic resources:

- European Crop Wild Relative Diversity Assessment and Conservation "Forum" is project coordinated by University of Birmingham UK,
- Survey, collection, conservation and utilisation of plant genetic resources and relative wild cultural plant species is project of Slovak-Chinese ISTC,
- Conservation and utilisation of plant genetic resources and wild species related to cultivated crops (Slovak-Chinese project),
- Mapping and collection genetic diversity of plant genetic resources in the West Carpathian and Great Hungarian Plain (Slovak-Hungarian project),
- Collecting, describing and utilisation of genetic resources in the field crops in Slovenia and Slovakia (Slovak-Slovenian project),
- Mapping of diversity and collection of indigenous Western Carpathian plants and termophyts of the Czech Republic (Slovak-Czech project),
- Survey and utilisation and protection of unconventional genetic plant resources diversity in Slovakia and the Czech Republic (Slovak-Czech project).

In the field of farm animals:

- Survey and utilisation and protection of unconventional genetic plant resources diversity in Slovakia and the Czech Republic (Slovak-Czech project)
- FAO TCP project „Strategy for active conservation of dual purpose Pinzgau breed" (participants: Austria, Romania, Slovakia)
- ERFPP (European Regional Focal Point for Farm Animals) project „Possible way of conservation of multipurpose Tsigai and other indigenous sheep breeds in Central-, Eastern European and Balkan countries" (participants: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Turkey)

443. Has your country conducted case studies on the following issues identified by SBSTTA: i) pollinators, ii) soil biota, and iii) integrated landscape management and farming systems?	
a) no	
b) yes (please specify below the issues on which case studies have been conducted and where these case studies can be accessed)	X
Further comments on case studies	
444. Is your country establishing or enhancing mechanisms for increasing public awareness and understanding of the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place (please specify)	
Further comments on the mechanisms for increasing public awareness of the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components	
445. Has your country developed national strategies, programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components?	
a) no	
b) development of relevant strategies, programmes and plans in progress	
c) some strategies, programmes and plans in place (please provide details)	X
d) comprehensive strategies, programmes and plans in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on national strategies, programmes and plans	
<p>Slovak republic does not have a specific plan or strategy for agricultural biological diversity yet. As we mentioned above, we have the Rural Development Plan of the Slovak republic 2004 - 2006 and we are preparing a new Rural Development Program for the period 2007 - 2013. In frame of RDP, one of the measures is Agri-environment and animal welfare which contains the scheme Organic farming. In this field, Slovak republic worked out the Action plan of the Organic farming.</p> <p>National Programme for Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture launched 2005.</p>	

If yes, has your country taken into consideration elements in (a) to (n) in paragraph 15 of Decision III/11?	
e) no	X
f) yes (please specify)	
Further comments on consideration of elements in (a) to (n) in paragraph 15 of Decision III/11	
446. Is your country promoting the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions, in conformity with the ecosystem or integrated land use approach?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	X
c) yes, significant extent	
447. Is your country promoting the use of farming practices which not only increase productivity, but also arrest degradation as well as reclaim, rehabilitate, restore and enhance biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	X
c) yes, significant extent	
448. Is your country promoting mobilization of farming communities for the development, maintenance and use of their knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited extent	X
c) yes, significant extent	
449. Is your country helping to implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
450. Is your country collaborating with other Parties to identify and promote sustainable agricultural practices and integrated landscape management, as well as appropriate farming systems?	
a) no	
b) yes (please specify relevant practices and case studies)	X
Further comments on collaboration with other Parties	
Exchange of information e.g. in area of agri-environmental practices.	

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

451. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified the means of implementation?	
a) no	
b) review under way	X
c) yes (please specify means of implementation)	
Further comments on means of implementation	
452. Is your country promoting regional and thematic cooperation within this framework of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant cooperative programmes under development	
c) some cooperation in some areas	X
d) full cooperation in all areas	
453. Has your country provided financial support for the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) Yes, limited funds	X
c) yes, significant funds (please specify below the components of the programme of work to which these funds have been allocated and which activity these funds are supporting)	
Further comments on financial support	
If a developed country Party -	
454. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity, in particular for capacity-building and case studies, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition?	
a) no	
b) yes, within existing cooperation programme(s)	X
b) yes, including limited additional funds	
c) yes, with significant additional funds	
455. Is your country a Contracting Party to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade?	
a) not a signatory	X
b) signed, ratification in process	

c) instrument of ratification deposited	
456. Is your country supporting the application of the Executive Secretary for observer status in the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
457. Has your country collaborated with the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations?	
a) No	
b) yes (please provide more details)	X
Further comments on collaboration with the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators	
From FAO Programme we have concrete information of crosscutting initiatives under CBD Programme related to agricultural biodiversity to the International Pollinators Initiative and Soil Biodiversity Initiative. In future we have opportunity to participate on this international initiatives from national level.	
458. Has your country provided to other Contracting Parties any information on scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies through media such as CHM?	
a) no	X
b) yes, through the CHM	
c) yes, through national report (please specify first or second national report or both)	
d) yes, other means	
Further comments on information provided to other Contracting Parties	
459. Has your country approved field testing and commercial use of products incorporating genetic use restriction technologies?	
b) no	X
c) yes	
460. Has your country considered how to address generic concerns regarding such technologies as genetic use restriction technologies under international and national approaches to the safe and sustainable use of germplasm?	
a) no	X
b) under consideration	
c) relevant measures under development	
d) yes, some measures in place	

461. Has your country carried out scientific assessments on <i>inter alia</i> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes, some assessments made (please provide details)	
c) yes, major assessments made (please provide details)	
Further comments on the assessments on ecological, social and economic effects of GURT	
462. Has your country disseminated the results of scientific assessments on <i>inter alia</i> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes, through the CHM	
c) yes, other means	
463. Has your country identified the ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures identified (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive measures identified (please provide details)	
Further information on the ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity	
464. Has your country assessed whether there is a need for effective regulations at the national level with respect to genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes, regulation needed	
c) yes, regulation not needed	
465. Has your country developed and applied such regulations taking into account, <i>inter alia</i> , the specific nature of variety-specific and trait-specific genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes, developed but not yet applied	

c) yes, developed and applied (please provide details)	
Further comments on the development and application of regulations regarding genetic use restriction technologies	

Annex to Decision V/5. Programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

466. Has your country reported to the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on its activities related to the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	x
Further comments on activities reported	
<p>The Slovak Republic participates in reporting activities of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food for Food and Agriculture related to the Plant Genetic Resources in accordance with the conclusion of the Global Plan of Action for Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of PGR (Leipzig Conference 1996). The Slovak experts participate at FAO work through Commission on Genetic Resources and in negotiation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the access of the Slovak Republic to the International Treaty of PRG and supports the fund for implementation of this Treaty 2004. In this occasion the Slovak Republic participate in reporting and preparing of FAO Funding Strategy Questioner in April 2005. The Slovak Republic has National report on State of Plant Genetic Resources and Forest Genetic Resources, which was prepared in accordance with implementation of conclusions of Leipzig Conference. In parallel work in international negotiation for preparing the International Treaty. The International Treaty was prepared The National Act on Plant Genetic Resources. Through the Agreement between FAO and CBD the Slovak experts cooperate in selected articles to CBD.</p>	
Programme element 1. Assessment	
467. Has your country undertaken a comprehensive analysis of the status and trends of the agricultural biodiversity and their underlying causes?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes, assessment in progress	x
c) yes, assessment completed (please specify results)	
Further comments on analysis of status and trends	
468. Has your country contributed to relevant reports and assessment of different components of agricultural biodiversity led by FAO and other organizations?	

a) no	
b) yes, assessment in progress	
c) yes, assessment completed (please specify report/assessment and date of completion)	x
Further comments on contribution to reports and assessment of different components of agricultural biodiversity	
<p>The Slovak Republic has contributed, for instance, to above-mentioned report:</p> <p>The Evaluation of the Implementation Word Food Summit - WFS (Rome 1996, 2002) in Slovakia in all five years and in this connection the Slovak Republic supports the preparing process of Evaluation Report of the European Communities to WFS (2004).</p> <p>National Report on State of Animal Genetic Resources in Slovak Republic prepared in 2004 as part of the First Report on State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. In connection the contribution of the biodiversity to world food security problem the Slovak Government, institutions and experts support the implementation of the national celebration of World Food Day 2004 to the theme "Biodiversity for Food Security", which was held on 16 October 2004 in Nitra, Slovakia.</p> <p>In connection with the reporting process the Slovak experts participate also in activities of World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The Slovak experts supported the workshop and dialogue, which was organized in FAO work for supporting the genetic resources through sessions of FAO Council and FAO Conference. In Slovak Republic supported the cooperation with IPGRI through Plant Gene Bank (Plant Research Institute Piešťany, Forestry Research Institute, Technical University in Zvolen).</p> <p>The Slovak Republic supports the FAO work in accordance with the document with was reviewed at Tenth Regular Session of the Commission PRG from position that the FAO will be leader in CBD's Programme of work in relation to Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry and in this connection we appreciate the preparation of the revised cooperation between FAO and CBD - Memorandum.</p> <p>The Slovak Republic currently prepared the position to contribute in FAO cooperation for preparing the national element for Second Report on State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources from position on existing FAO Program of work is very important the cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition (future thematic role, study and other activities focus on health and dietary diversity).</p> <p>Very important contribution for national work is the ongoing solution, the National Capacity Self Assessment - NCSA, a project of UNDP and GEF and the Government of Slovak Republic (ME SR, MA SR) in implementation of Soil Sciences and Protection Research Institute Bratislava that include strengthening the national capacity needs of global environmental conventions (CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD).</p> <p>The SR participates in activities of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture related to animal genetic resources (Intergovernmental Technical Working Group) in context of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animals. The SR also participates in activities of ERFPP which is the European implementation of FAO's Global Strategy.</p> <p>The SR contributes to FAO and EAAP (European Association for Animal Production) data banks on domestic animal species and breeds.</p>	

469. Has your country developed specific assessment of additional components of agricultural biodiversity such as on loss of pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?	
a) no	
b) yes, assessment in progress	X
c) yes, assessment completed (please specify results of assessment)	
Further comments on specific assessment of additional components	
470. 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 and in support of food production and food security?	
a) no	
b) relevant assessment under way	X
c) yes (please specify where information can be retrieved)	
Further comments on assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities	
471. Is your country promoting and developing assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity referred to in Annex I to the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) relevant assessment under way	
c) yes, basic assessments made	
d) yes, thorough assessments made	
472. Has your country developed methods and techniques for assessing and monitoring the status and trends of agricultural biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant assessment under way	X
c) yes, most methods and techniques developed (please provide below relevant details, taking into consideration the elements (a) to (d) in activity 1.5 annexed to Decision V/6)	
Further comments on methods and techniques	

473. Is your country observing an overall degradation, <i>status quo</i> or restoration/rehabilitation of the agricultural biodiversity since 1993 when the Convention entered into force?	
a) no assessment	
b) yes, no change found	
c) yes, overall degradation found (please provide details concerning those degraded areas)	
d) yes - overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below concerning areas restored or rehabilitated, including where relevant information can be retrieved)	x
Further comments on observations	
Since 1993 agricultural landscape has been restored in consequence of reduction of chemicals, but a huge amount of the land was degraded in consequence of abandon of farming.	
474. Has your country identified the main constraints to conducting an efficient and effective assessment and monitoring of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no constraints identified	x
b) yes (please specify the constraints identified)	
Further comments on main constraints identified	
Programme element 2. Adaptive management	
475. 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) potential practices, technologies and policies being identified	x
c) yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details)	
Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies	
Good farming practices - minimal conditions for environmental protection - Rural Development Plan - Agri-environment and animal welfare.	

476. Has your country carried out a series of case studies concerning multiple goods and services provided by the different levels and functions of agricultural biodiversity and the interaction between its various components?	
a) no	x
b) yes (please specify below areas/components where these case studies have been made, taking into account the elements highlighted in activity 2.1)	
Further comments on case studies	
477. Is your country promoting methods of sustainable agriculture that employ management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, with particular focus on the needs of farmers and indigenous and local communities?	
a) no (please specify the constraints)	
b) yes (please specify the methods)	x
Further comments on the methods being promoted as well as the main constraints to promoting the methods	
Practices of the part of agroenvironment and LFA problems from the Rural Development Plan. Good farming practices - minimal conditions for environmental protection - Rural Development Plan - Agri-environment and animal welfare	
<i>Programme element 3. Capacity-building</i>	
478. Has your country increased the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainable agricultural biodiversity?	
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	
Rural Development Plan -Agri-environment and animal welfare measure and Organic farming scheme - final beneficiaries are farmers (natural and legal persons making business in primary agricultural production). Rural Development Plan came into force 13 May 2004.	
479. 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) relevant mechanisms under development	
c) potential mechanisms identified	x

d) yes, mechanisms in place	
480. Is your country enhancing the capacity of indigenous and local communities for the development of strategies and methodologies for <i>in situ</i> conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	X
c) some measures identified but not implemented	
d) yes, some measures being implemented	
481. Has your country provided opportunities for farmers and local communities, and other stakeholder groups, to participate in the development of national strategies, plans and programmes for agricultural biodiversity, through decentralized policies and plans, and local government structures?	
a) no	
b) yes (please specify the mechanisms)	X
Further comments on opportunities provided	
Rural Development Plan is a horizontal programming document. We have cooperated with farmers and their communities and groups, Slovak Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Rural parliament, Agri-eko forum, State Protection of Nature, Cities and municipalities association, etc.	
482. Has your country identified and promoted improvements in the policy environment, including benefit-sharing arrangements and incentive measures, to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) some measures and arrangements identified	
c) relevant measures and arrangements under development	
d) yes, some measures and arrangements being implemented (please specify)	X
Further comments on identified and promoted improvements in the policy environment	
Agri-environmental measure with horizontal capacity. Farmers are supported when they keep the special forms of agricultural land managing in the environmental-friendly specified forms.	
483. Is your country promoting farmers' networks and organizations at the regional level for exchange of information and experiences?	
a) no	
b) potential mechanisms identified	
c) relevant networks under development	X
d) yes, some networks in place	

484. Has your country identified the main constraints to strengthening the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainably agricultural biological diversity so as to increase their benefits, and to promote awareness and responsible action?	
a) no constraints identified	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on main constraints	
Programme element 4. Mainstreaming	
485. 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) relevant review under way	
c) potential frameworks and mechanisms identified	X
d) yes, mainstreamed and integrated into some sectoral plans and programmes (please specify)	
e) yes, mainstreamed and integrated into major sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details)	
Further comments on mainstreaming and integrating national plans or strategies in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes	
<p>In the Slovak Republic the Sectoral operational programme: "Agricultural and rural development" is implemented.</p> <p>Rural Development Plan of the Slovak republic 2004 - 2006 with the Agri-environment and animal welfare measure is the document on the national level worked out under the regulations of European Union (mainstream).</p>	
486. 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 (please specify means of support)	X
Further comments on support for institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms	
<p>Slovakia has adopted the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Strategy of biodiversity for the period 2003 - 2010.</p> <p>Rural Development Plan of the Slovak republic 2004 - 2006 with the Agri-environment and animal welfare measure is the document on the national level worked out under the regulations of European Union (mainstream).</p>	

487. Is your country supporting the development or adaptation of relevant systems of information, early warning and communication to enable effective assessments of the state of agricultural biodiversity and threats to it?	
a) no	
b) relevant systems under development	
c) relevant systems being adapted	
d) some systems developed or adapted	x
e) all systems developed or adapted	
488. Is your country promoting activities for the conservation, on farm, <i>in situ</i> , and <i>ex situ</i> , of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including their wild relatives?	
a) no	
b) yes (please specify activities and component of biodiversity involved)	x
Further comments on promotion of conservation of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture	
Our legislative solves this problems through specific legal adjustments. All landscape and farming activities have to be done in compliance with The Act No. 543/2002 Coll. of June 25, 2002 on Nature and Landscape Protection and the other relevant national acts.	
489. Has your country identified the main constraints to support the development of national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and to promote their mainstreaming and integration in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes?	
a) no constraints identified	x
b) yes (please specify the constraints identified)	
Further comments on main constraints identified	

Decision VI/5. Agricultural biological diversity

490. Has your country reviewed the steps for further implementation of the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified the means of implementation?	
a) no	
b) review under way	X
c) yes (please specify means of implementation)	
Further comments on the means of implementation	
491. Has your country submitted case studies on its experiences with mainstreaming matters related to agricultural biodiversity in their plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
492. Is your country contributing to the implementation of the International Pollinators Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) Yes	
493. Has your country allocated adequate and timely financial support to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Pollinators Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes, limited funds	
c) yes, significant funds	
494. Is your country participating in the development of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on participation in the development of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity	
495. Is your country participating in the development of the first Report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) yes, country reports submitted	X

<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
496. Has your country provided adequate and timely support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enable them to participate fully in the process of preparation of the first report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources?	
a) no	x
b) relevant collaborative programmes under development	
b) yes	
497. Is your country protecting native species and associated traditional knowledge to promote the sustainable use and <i>in situ</i> development of genetic resources?	
a) no	
b) potential measures under review	
c) some measures identified	
d) yes, some measures being implemented	x
<i>If a developing country Party or country with economy in transition -</i>	
498. Has your country requested financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility for funding the activities for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on financial assistance requested from the Global Environment Facility	

Annex II to Decision VI/5. Plan of Action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators

499. Is your country monitoring the status and trends of pollinators?	
a) no	
b) yes (please specify means or methods of monitoring)	x
Further comments on the means or methods of monitoring	
There has been investigated species composition of pollinating Insecta on various crops for approximately 25 years in many regions of the Slovak Republic.	
500. Has your country made an assessment of the economic value of pollinators and of different crop-pollinator-pollination system?	
a) no	
b) assessment under way	x
c) yes, some results available (please specify methods and results of assessment)	
Further comments on assessment of economic value of pollinators and of different crop-pollinator-pollination system	
501. Has your country made an assessment of the state of scientific and indigenous knowledge on pollinator conservation?	
a) no	
b) assessment under way	x
c) yes (please specify methods and results of assessment)	
Further comments on assessment of the state of scientific and indigenous knowledge on pollinator conservation	
502. Is your country promoting the development of identification keys for bee genera?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	x
c) yes (please specify measures taken for this purpose)	
Further comments on the development of identification keys for bee genera	

503. Has your country carried out a series of case studies concerning the goods and services provided by pollinator diversity and the interaction between its various components?	
a) no	x
b) yes (please specify those case studies already carried out)	
Further comments on case studies	
504. Is your country building taxonomic capacity to carry out inventories of pollinator diversity and distribution?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	x
c) yes	
505. Has your country developed tools and mechanisms for the international and regional exchange of information for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	
b) relevant tools and mechanisms under development	x
c) yes, some tools and mechanisms developed (please specify)	
Further comments on the development of tools and mechanisms	
506. Has your country integrated considerations of pollinator diversity and related dimensions of agricultural biodiversity into its national biodiversity strategy and action plan, as well as into planning processes in the agricultural sector?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	x
c) yes	
507. Is your country strengthening national institutions to support taxonomy of bees and other pollinators?	
a) no	
b) potential measures identified	x
c) yes (please specify means of institutional strengthening)	
Further comments on means of institutional strengthening	

508. Has your country included considerations of pollinator diversity and related dimensions of agricultural biodiversity in formal educational programmes at all levels?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) some dimensions included	x
d) most dimensions included	

Please list below constraints or impediments encountered by your country in the implementation of this article and associated decisions.

Between constraints or impediments in our country belongs very low number of research workers to be engaged in investigation of pollinating activities of various Insecta. Interest of the agricultural practice on pollination research results is in the Slovak Republic insufficient nowadays.

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

Comments to question 494: Now Slovak republic is participating mainly on national level. In frame of CBD we have international contracts on biodiversity restoration.

*Forest biological diversity**Decision VI/22. Forest biological diversity*

509. Has your country reviewed the expanded programme of work annexed to Decision VI/22?	
a) no	
b) review under way	x
c) review completed and priority actions identified (please provide a list of priority actions identified)	
Further comments on review of expanded programme of work and identified priority actions	
U	
510. Has your country allocated financial resources for the implementation of the expanded programme of work?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	x
c) yes (please provide detailed information)	
Further comments on allocated financial resources	
The National Forest Programme has been under development. It will integrate certain elements of the Work Programme on Forest Biological Diversity.	
511. Is your country collaborating with any regional or international organizations in the implementation of the expanded programme of work?	
a) no	
b) relevant collaborative programmes under development	
c) some activities being undertaken (please specify the organizations your country is collaborating with)	x
Further comments on collaboration with regional or international organizations	
Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe, European Forest Genet Resources Network EUFORGEN at the IPGRI (International Plant Genetic Resources Institute), Pan-European Forest Certification System, Pro-Silva: The European NGO and network of demonstration areas for close-to-nature forest management.	
512. Has your country incorporated relevant objectives of the expanded programme of work into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programme?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

513. Has your country provided adequate and timely support to facilitate the international and regional actions identified in the expanded programme of work?	
a) no	x
b) yes (please provide relevant details)	
Further comments on support provided to facilitate international and regional actions	
514. Is your country developing closer collaboration with other countries for the conservation and sustainable use of transboundary forest ecosystems and populations of species?	
a) no	
b) yes (please indicate which countries)	x
Further comments on collaboration with other countries	
Cooperation developed with Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary Poland: Ecosystems: Tatra National Park, Species: European bison, European chamoix, Priority Areas: Protection of Forests in the Crossborder Areas)	
515. Is your country fostering cooperation and synergy between the expanded programme of work under CBD and the multi-year programme of work under UNFF?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
Further comments on cooperation and synergy between the expanded programme of work under CBD and the multi-year programme of work under UNFF	
Partially: participation of the Slovak representatives in relevant processes and actions of the UNFF.	

Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity

Programme Element 1: Conservation, Sustainable Use and Benefit-sharing

516. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?	
a) no	
b) potential measures being identified	
c) yes, in some types of forests (please specify measures undertaken)	
d) yes, in most types of forests (please specify measures undertaken)	x
Further comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests	
<p>Soil erosion control, avalanche control measures.</p> <p>Forest Management Models differentiated according to the natural forest regions (47), natural forest types (350), actual structure of forest vegetation (35 Forest Management Types) and condition of the forest cover.</p>	

517. Is your country reducing the threats and mitigating the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) potential measures being identified	
c) relevant measures and practices under development	
d) yes, some measures being implemented (please provide further details about these measures)	
e) yes, comprehensive measures being implemented (please provide further details about these measures)	x
Further comments on measures to reduce threats and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity	
<p>Forest Policy Concept recognises as one of its objectives sustainable development of the forest and conservation of forest biodiversity.</p> <p>Forest Policy and Forest law instruments are reflected in the 10 years Forest Management Plans.</p> <p>National Criteria of the forest certification developed and promoted.</p> <p>Management of all types of forests is carried out under forest management plans.</p> <p>Forest Management Models differentiated according to the natural forest regions (47), natural forest types (350), actual structure of forest vegetation (35 Forest Management Types) and condition of the forest cover.</p> <p>Forest Management Planning is compulsory for all forest holdings.</p> <p><u>National Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management</u> developed in 2004. Report on the Status of Forests and Forestry, presented to the parliament annually, will follow these criteria this year and in the future.</p> <p><u>National PEFC Centre</u> (Pan-European Forest Certification) system has been under development since 2001. Its full accreditation, after completion of the pilot certification project, is expected in 2005. <u>FSC Certificate</u> awarded to 1 larger state-owned holding + 2 group-certification schemes completed.</p>	

518. Is your country taking measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) potential measures being identified	
c) relevant measures under development	
d) yes, some measures being implemented (please specify)	
e) yes, comprehensive measures being implemented (please specify)	x
Further comments on measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity	
<p>Within Forest Management Plans stand composition is determined on the basis of appropriate site types of wood species.</p> <p>Restoration measures taken at the local scale in the forests damaged by long-lasting transboundary air pollution in North-western Slovakia, Tatra National Park and Spis Region.</p>	
519. Is your country promoting the sustainable use of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) yes, some measures being implemented (please specify)	
d) yes, comprehensive measures being implemented (please specify)	x
Further comments on the promotion of the sustainable use of forest biological diversity	
<p>Management of all types of forests is carried out under forest management plans.</p> <p>Network of Forest Gene Reserves + voluntary conservation of economically valuable forest genetic resources <i>in situ</i> (approved stands, reproductive plantations) and <i>ex situ</i> (seed orchards, clonal orchards).</p> <p>National Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management developed in 2004.</p> <p>Report on the Status of Forests and Forestry, presented to the parliament annually, will follow these criteria this year and in the future.</p> <p>National PEFC Centre (Pan-European Forest Certification) system has been under development since 2001. Its full accreditation, after completion of the pilot certification project, is expected in 2005.</p>	
520. Is your country promoting access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources?	
a) no	
b) yes (please specify policies, measures and regulations adopted in this field)	x
Further comments on the promotion of access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources	

Act No. 217/2004 on forest reproductive material.

Legal consolidation and harmonisation with the European union by means of the

- Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no. 571/2004 on Forest Reproductive Material and change of some acts.

Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic no. 571/2004 on sources of forest reproductive material, its collection, production, marketing and use.

Programme Element 2: Institutional and Socio-economic Enabling Environment

521. Is your country enhancing the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing?	
a) no	
b) yes (please specify below measures or steps taken in this regard)	X
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	
Reform of institutions in forestry sector is under preparation.	

522. Is your country addressing socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) yes, some problems identified and some measures being taken (please specify results of review and measures taken)	X
d) yes, complete review completed and some measures being taken (please specify results of review and measures taken)	
Further comments on review of socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity	
Slovakia make effort to eliminate socio-economic failures and distortions by application of the Act on EIA..	
Partial assessment of conservation status of forest habitats was made in the framework of preparation for the EU's conservation network Natura 2000 in Slovakia in a project funded by the Danish DANCEE programme in 2003-2004.	
523. Is your country increasing public education, participation and awareness for the purpose of conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity?	

a) no	
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) yes, some programmes being implemented (please specify)	X
c) yes, comprehensive programmes being implemented (please specify)	
Further comments on increasing public education, participation and awareness for the purpose of conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity	
<p>Regular lectures on this topic available for public (adults, children), TV programmes and films.</p> <p>National Forest Programme has been under development since 2004.</p> <p>National Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management developed in 2004. Report on the Status of Forests and Forestry, presented to the parliament annually, will follow these criteria this year and in the future.</p> <p>National PEFC Centre (Pan-European Forest Certification) system has been under development since 2001. Its full accreditation, after completion of the pilot certification project, is expected in 2005.</p>	

Programme Element 3: Knowledge, Assessment and Monitoring

524. Has your country developed a general classification of forests on various scales in order to improve the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
525. Is your country improving knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide further details)	X
Further comments on improvement of knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends	
<p>National Forest Inventory based on fixed sample plots launched 2004.</p> <p>Assessment of the Forest Habitats and Species of the Community (EU) importance carried out in 2004.</p> <p>National criteria and indicators of their conservation status (favourable or unfavourable) developed.</p>	
526. Is your country improving understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide relevant details)	X
Further comments on the improvement of the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning	

Regular lectures on this topic available to public (adults, children), TV programmes and films.	
Outside of forestry and nature conservation sectors, related matters receive very low publicity and have not been a political priority.	
527. Is your country improving the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide relevant details)	X
Further comments on the improvement of the infrastructure for data and information management	
Monitoring forest ecosystems through ecological surveys within forest management plans development.	
National Forest Inventory based on fixed sample plots launched in 2004.	
The National Forest Information System and conventional (standwise) forest inventory shall be improved in order to match with the National Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management (developed 2004).	
Criteria for assessing conservation status developed for forest habitats of the Community (EU) importance in relation to the Natura-2000 system in Slovakia.	

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

- NOT DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO SLOVAKIA

Decision V/23 and Decision VI/4. Implementation of Programme of Work on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems

528. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how to implement it?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	
529. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent	
c) yes, to a significant extent	
530. Has your country integrated actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) of the CBD or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent	
c) yes, to a significant extent	
531. 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?	
a) no	
b) yes, some linkages made (please provide details)	
c) yes, extensive linkages made (please give details)	
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	
The NAP to UN CCD is under elaboration. So no common activity with UN CBD was realised. The UN CCD national structures has developed closer cooperation with national UN FCCC structures.	
532. Has your country assessed and analysed information of the state of dryland biological diversity and the pressures on it, to disseminate existing knowledge and best practices, and to fill knowledge gaps in order to determine adequate activities?	
a) no	
b) assessment ongoing	
c) yes, some assessments made	
d) yes, a comprehensive assessment undertaken	
Further comments on the relevant information on assessments of the status and trends, e.g. participation in relevant global, regional, national assessments; webpage addresses of relevant documentation	
533. Has your country identified specific areas within dry and sub-humid lands of particular value for biological diversity and/or under particular threat?	
a) no	
b) yes, some areas identified and protective measures are being planned	
c) yes, many areas identified and protective measures in place	
534. Has your country set specific targets for the protection of such areas of particular value for each ecosystem under consideration?	
a) no	
b) yes, some targets developed and relevant measures being planned (please provide details)	
c) yes, many targets set and protective measures in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on the identification of areas of particular value and/or under threat and targets developed and implemented	

535. Has your country developed explicit indicators for use in the assessment of status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands?	
a) no	
b) some indicators developed and being tested (please provide details)	
c) a comprehensive set of indicators being applied in the systematic assessment of status and trends (please provide details)	
Further comments on the development of indicators for use in the assessment of status and trends of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands	
536. Are specific studies/projects being undertaken to help build the knowledge on ecological, physical and social processes that affect the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands?	
a) no	
b) some studies/projects under way or planned	
c) a well developed national research framework in place and information systematically gathered (please provide details)	
Further comments on the studies/projects undertaken to help build the knowledge on ecological, physical and social processes that affect the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands	
537. Is your country undertaking some studies/projects that aim to identify local and global benefits of biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, including the interrelationship between biodiversity, the loss thereof and poverty?	
a) no	
b) some studies/projects under way or planned	
c) comprehensive information on these issues available (please provide details)	
Further comments on the studies/projects that aim to identify local and global benefits of biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands (including information on contact addresses of relevant institutions undertaking such studies/projects, lists of publications and webpage addresses of relevant documentation)	
538. Is your country identifying and evaluating best management practices systematically and disseminating these information more widely?	
a) no	

b) some best management practices in place but need to be evaluated and documented (please provide details)	
c) many best practices known, well documented and readily available (please provide details)	
Further comments on the best management practices	
539. Has your country taken measures to implement the proposals for targeted actions, as specified in Part B of Annex I of Decision V/23, i.e. Activities 7,8 and 9?	
a) no	
b) some measures taken (please provide details)	
c) many measures taken (please provide details)	
Further comments on the measures taken to implement the proposals for targeted actions as specified in Part B of Annex I of Decision V/23	
540. Has your country implemented the above-mentioned activities (Activities 7,8 and 9 in Part B of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands) in the ways as identified in Part B?	
a) no	
b) yes	
If yes, in what way has your country implemented the activities mentioned above?	
c) capacity building	
d) demonstration sites	
e) case studies	
f) improved consultation	
g) enhanced coordination between CBD and UNCCD implementation	
h) partnerships	
Further comments on the ways and means of implementation	
541. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) some measures taken	
c) comprehensive measures taken	
d) all identified capacity needs met	

Decision V/20. Operations of the Convention

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

Decision VI/27 B. Operations of the Convention

545. Has your country submitted to the Executive Secretary written comments and proposals regarding the retirement of decisions and elements of decisions adopted at the third and fourth meetings of the Conference of the Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
546. Is your country strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, enhancing the integration and promoting synergies with relevant regional and subregional processes?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent (please provide further details)	
c) yes, to a significant extent (please provide further details)	X
Further comments on regional and subregional cooperation and processes	
<p><u>Exapmle is provided for forest sector:</u></p> <p>Both GOs and NGOs participate in the following processes: Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe, European Forest Genet Resources Network EUFORGEN at the IPGRI (International Plant Gentic Resources Institute), Pan-European Forest Certification System, Pro-Silva: The European NGO and network of demonstration areas for close-to-nature forest management.</p>	

Pro-Silva: The European NGO of forest owners. National network of demonstration areas for close-to-nature forest management established as a part of the wider Europe-wide network.	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
547. Is your country supporting the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes?	
a) no	
b) related programmes under development	
c) yes, included in existing cooperation frameworks (please provide details)	x
d) yes, some cooperative activities ongoing (please provide details)	
Further comments on support for the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes	
Ministerial Conferences "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe, European Forest Genet Resources Network EUFORGEN at the IPGRI (International Plant Genetic Resources Institute), Pan-European Forest Certification System, Pro-Silva: The European NGO of forest owners. National network of demonstration areas for close-to-nature forest management established as a part of the wider Europe-wide network.	
548. Is your country working with other Parties to strengthen the existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
549. Has your country contributed to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent (please provide further details)	x
c) yes, to a significant extent (please provide further details)	
Further comments on contribution to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms	
Slovakia participated in Capacity Development Initiative, most particularly in the assessment of the capacity development needs for implementing of the CBD at the EECA region(Eastern Europe and Central Asia). Expert from Slovakia coordinated regional assessment of capacity development needs.	

Strategic Plan of the Convention

Decision VI/26. Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity

550. Has your country reviewed its activities, especially its national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) in the light of the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity?	
a) no	
b) review under way	X
c) yes (please provide details)	
Further comments on review of activities	

Annex to Decision VI/26. Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity

551. Has your country improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacities to implement the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes (please elaborate)	X
Further comments on improvement of capacity	
Capacities strengthened as a side-effect of accession process of the country into EU.	
552. Does your country have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited capacity (please provide further details)	X
c) yes, sufficient capacity (please provide further details)	
Further comments on capacity for implementation of priority actions	
In the Slovak Republic the complex institutional basis exists to implement strategy, policy, legislation and programs. At the institutional level, however, planning is not connected to the conceptual and strategic planning and during the decision-making on the allocation of resources strategic priorities are not taken into consideration. This results in insufficient ability to implement approved strategies and programs. Activities of particular institutions are in many cases modified and accommodated to the opportunities of financing via the external (not from the state budget) resources, moving the priority needs. On the other hand, the approach to the external resources (outside the state budget) and the growing capacities of the institutions, including the ones in the public sector, to utilize these resources means a positive stimulation to implement the strategy, policy, legislation and programs, including the NBSAP. The use of expert and technical background within the private sector and NGOs also creates opportunities to improve current situation.	

<i>If a developing country Party or country with economy in transition -</i>	
553. Has your country received adequate resources to implement the three objectives of the Convention?	
a) no, due to lack of resources	
b) yes, some resources available	X
c) yes, sufficient resources available	

<i>If a developing country Party and a country with economy in transition,</i>	
554. Does your country receive increased resources and transfer of technology for implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?	
a) no, limited resources and technology transfer	
b) no, very limited resources and technology transfer	
c) yes, some resources available and transfers of technology undertaken to some extent	X
d) yes, significant resources available and transfers of technology	
555. Does your country have adequate capacity to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?	
a) no, very limited capacity (please provide further details)	
b) no, limited capacity (please provide further details)	
c) yes, some capacities established	X
d) yes, comprehensive capacities established/available	
Further comments on capacity to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	
556. Is your country building capacity through technical and scientific cooperation?	
a) no	
b) yes (please elaborate)	X
Further comments on capacity-building through technical and scientific cooperation	
<p>During the preparation of the capacities for the nature conservation and biodiversity protection as new EU member country a broad technical and scientific cooperation was developed with EU member states as well as with other accession countries.</p> <p><u>Forestry</u>: The UN FAO has provided technical assistance via 2 technical cooperation projects (1998-2002) aimed at the improvement of the sustainability of forest management through the legal reform and support to the forest owners.</p>	

557. Does your country have effective national strategies, plans and programmes in place to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes, some strategies, plans and programmes in place (please provide further details)	x
c) yes, comprehensive strategies, plans and programmes in place (please provide further details)	
Further comments on national strategies, plans and programmes in place	
<p>Conservation of biological diversity, protection and wise use of natural resources, optimizing the spatial structure and use of landscape are considered one of five priorities of the state environmental policy⁹. National Biodiversity Strategy (hereinafter as NBS) is a specific strategic document for the implementation of the Convention in Slovakia¹⁰. NBS reflects the ambition of SR for the comprehensive and balanced implementation of the Convention as a whole. It does not define clear priorities but rather sets out 24 objectives for reinforcement of the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components in Slovakia. For the achievement of these objectives, NBS defines 126 strategic directions all together¹¹. Strategy does not contain measurable indicators, which would enable an objective assessment of its implementation.</p> <p>NSOB is implemented through the action plans (hereinafter as AP NBS). Implementation of AP NBS is monitored and evaluated within three-year-intervals. Government of SR is informed on results of evaluation. However, evaluation is based on checking of which activities are implemented without assessing the impact of particular implemented activities on the status of biodiversity¹². At the sub-national level, (e.g. at level of county office) there is no tradition to develop strategies on the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.</p> <p>Government of SR, through its Resolution of the No. 978/2001 approved another important strategic document - National Strategy on the Sustainable Development of SR (NSSD)¹³. Biodiversity related issues (i.e. <i>biodiversity loss</i>) is not however included among 28 primary problem areas or strategic objectives of the NSSD of SR. And it is in spite of the fact that biodiversity issues have their own place in the global or regional agenda for sustainable development.</p>	

⁹ State environmental policy was approved by the Government Resolution No. 18/1992. Strategy, Principles and Priorities of the State Environmental Policy is the basic strategic document (Government Resolution No. 619/1993 and Resolution of the National Council (NC) of SR No.339/1993).

¹⁰ NBS in Slovakia was approved through the Government Resolution No. 231/1997 and through the Resolution of NC SR No. 676/1997. NBS was developed with financial support of GEF.

¹¹ Text of NBS is available at the webpage: www.enviro.gov.sk.

¹² Currently there is AP NBS for period of 2003 - 2010 under implementation.

¹³ NSSD of SR was developed within the project " [Support of the Sustainable Development in the Slovak Republic e](#), which was implemented with the financial support from UNDP in 1999 - 2001. The project was implemented by REC Slovakia and MoE supervised is.

Besides NBS and AP NBS there are sectoral strategies, programs and plans, which in a different way relates to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components. These, however, represent responses to on-going initiatives. However, planning in general has weak co-ordination and integration with existing strategic documents. One of the effects of the "planning inflation" is difficult orientation for various stakeholders as well as decision-makers in priorities.

Examples of sectoral strategies

Forestry: National Forest Programme has been under development since 2004.

National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS 1998)

National Sustainable Strategy (NST 2001)

Strategy on Alien Invasive Species

National Forest and Timber Development Conception

Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management

National Programme for Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

558. Does your country have a regulatory framework in place to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?

a) no

b) related regulatory framework under development

c) yes, some regulations in place

d) yes, a comprehensive set of regulations in place

x

559. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies?

a) no (please specify the reasons)

b) review under way

c) yes, biodiversity concerns integrated into some sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies (please specify)

x

d) yes, biodiversity concerns integrated into major sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies (please specify)

Further comments on integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies

Agriculture:

Agroenvironmental Schemes launched 2004,

National Programme for Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture launched 2005.

560. Is your country actively implementing the priorities in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan as a means to achieving national implementation of the Convention, and as a significant contribution towards the global biodiversity agenda?

a) no (please specify the reasons)

b) priorities and potential measures being identified	
c) relevant programmes under development	x
d) yes, some priorities being implemented (please provide details)	
e) yes, most of the priorities being implemented (please provide details)	
Further comments on implementation of priorities	
<p>NBS and AP provides for balanced implementation of the CBD. Level of implementation depends mostly on budget allocation to single sectors. Some of the recent achievements include:</p> <p>National Forest Programme</p> <p>Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management developed in 2004.</p> <p>Accreditation of the National Forest Certification Centre PEFC (www.pefc.sk) after completion of a pilot project expected in 2005</p>	

561. Is your country implementing a communication, education and public awareness strategy and promoting public support for the Convention ?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	x
b) relevant programmes under development	
c) yes, a strategy in place and some programmes being implemented (please provide further details)	
d) yes, a strategy in place and comprehensive programmes being implemented (please provide further details)	
Further comments on implementation of a communication, education and public awareness strategy and promotion of public support for the Convention	
<p>At national level, the Convention on Biodiversity was promoted mainly in the second half of nineties, when NBS and the first Action Plan were developing and Slovakia was receiving support from various international donors, most notably from GEF, to pursuit implementing of the CBD.</p> <p>When Slovakia started accession to EU process, promotional priorities were changed and awareness-raising programmes were aimed at promoting EU strategies, policies and concepts in order to gain public support for accession.</p> <p>Promotion of EU concepts, however, did not run contrary to the Convention objectives. Nevertheless direct reference to the CBD, its objectives and articles is missing in PA Campaigns and Biodiversity related communication strategies.</p>	
562. Is your country promoting and facilitating public awareness, education and participation in support of the Cartagena Protocol?	
a) no	x
b) relevant programmes under development	

c) yes, some programmes being implemented	
d) yes, comprehensive programmes being implemented	
563. Does your country involve key actors and stakeholders, including the private sector, in partnerships to implement the Convention?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes, to a limited extent (please elaborate)	X
c) yes, to a significant extent (please elaborate)	
Further comments on partnerships to implement the Convention	
<p>Stakeholders are mostly involved in implementing the CBD indirectly, in relation to specific concepts, without referring to CBD.</p> <p>No continuous effort has been made so far to formally involve private sector and local communities into coordination of implementation process at the national level, for instance through participation at the National Commission fro the CBD. Other stakeholders (government, academic, NGOs) are formally involved through the National Commission and in the process of monitoring implementation of the NBAP and in its regular update.</p>	
564. What are the political obstacles to the implementation of the Convention that your country has identified?	
a) lack of political will and support	X
b) limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	X
c) lack of mainstreaming and integrating of biodiversity into other sectors	X
d) political instability	
e) lack of precautionary and proactive measures	X
f) other (please specify)	
Further comments on identified political obstacles to the implementation of the Convention	
565. What are the institutional, technical and capacity-related obstacles to the implementation of the Convention that your country has identified?	
a) inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	X
b) lack of human resources	
c) lack of transfer of technology and expertise	
d) loss of traditional knowledge	
e) lack of adequate scientific research capacities	
f) other (please specify)	X
Further comments on identified institutional, technical and capacity-related obstacles to the implementation of the Convention	

In the Slovakia there is a comprehensive network of technical, expert and scientific organization for biodiversity components. But main institutional, technical and capacity-related obstacles arise from lacking direct political support and consequently lacking adequate financial resources, coordination and cooperation.	
566. What are the constraints your country has encountered in accessing information or knowledge for the implementation of the Convention?	
a) improper understanding and documentation of the corresponding goods and services	
b) inadequate utilization of existing scientific and traditional knowledge	X
c) inefficient dissemination of information	X
d) lack of public education and awareness at all levels	X
e) others (please specify)	
Further comments on the constraints encountered in terms of accessible knowledge or information for the implementation of the Convention	

567. What are the obstacles your country has encountered in terms of economic policy and financial resources for the implementation of the Convention?	
a) lack of financial and human resources	
b) fragmentation of GEF financing	
c) lack of economic incentive measures	X
d) lack of benefit-sharing	X
e) other (please provide details)	X
Further comments on obstacles encountered in terms of economic policy and financial resources for the implementation of the Convention	
Underdeveloped participatory approach and benefit sharing in relation to the land owners. Absent policy and system, which would allow to incorporate forest and forestry externalities into the forestry economy (applicable to all sectors/ circumstances). Uncompensated legal restrictions and increasing fiscal pressure to land owners.	
568. What are the challenges your country has experienced in terms of collaboration/cooperation for the implementation of the Convention?	
a) lack of synergies at the national and international levels	X
b) lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	X
c) lack of effective partnerships	X
d) lack of engagement of scientific community	
e) other (please specify)	

Further comments on challenges experienced in terms of collaboration/cooperation for the implementation of the Convention	
569. What are the legal/judicial impediments your country has experienced in the implementation of the Convention?	
a) lack of appropriate policies and laws	
b) others (please specify)	X
Further comments on the legal/judicial impediments experienced in the implementation of the Convention	
Low level of enforcement of existing laws and by laws	
570. What are the socio-economic factors your country has identified affecting the implementation of the Convention?	
a) poverty	
b) population pressure	
c) unsustainable production and consumption patterns	X
d) lack of capacities for local communities	X
e) others (please specify)	X
Further comments on identified socio-economic factors affecting the implementation of the Convention	
<p>Abandonment of farmlands and traditional land-use patterns in agriculture.</p> <p>Lack of political will in legal re-categorization of abandoned farmlands naturally colonized by a forest into the Forest Land Fund. Still present cases of unsustainable practice in the land and water management.</p> <p>Lacking cross-sectoral steering and coordination.</p> <p>Lack of integrated and participatory approaches.</p>	
571. What are the natural phenomena and environmental changes your country has identified affecting the implementation of the Convention?	
a) climate change	
b) natural disasters	
c) others (please specify)	X
Further comments on identified natural phenomena and environmental changes affecting the implementation of the Convention	

Forestry: Air pollution effects on forests are of limiting importance in borderline areas of the north-western and northern part of the country.

Agriculture: High extent of abandonment of farmlands and disappearance of the traditional land-use patterns in the hilly and mountainous areas.

Invasive species mainly in the forests and riverain ecosystems: particularly black locust, alien tall herb plants.

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

- establishment of the National Secretariat for the CBD in 1994 and of the Slovak Commission for the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1995,
- compilation of the National Country Study on Biodiversity
- preparation of National Biodiversity Strategy and AP
- implementing actions included in the AP
- earmarking public finances for implementing certain actions included into the AP
- Developing of the National Reports
- Effort to establish National CHM (not yet successful)
- invitation and organising of COP4 CBD and various regional and national meetings and workshops,
- development of legal, institutional and financial capacities for addressing of GMO control,
- promotion of biotechnology (to a limited extent influenced by participation at the CBD)
- implementing of projects related to the biodiversity protection and sustainable use of its components (particularly those where CBD participation in CBD was among eligibility criteria, one of the most recent project was NCSA Project)
- review of curricula at universities with a purpose to include the concept of biodiversity conservation and issues covered by the Convention

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

- for example active participation in the process "Biodiversity in Europe" and "Sophia Initiative on Biodiversity" with cooperation of European parties,
- bilateral cooperation on in-situ biodiversity protection with neighbouring countries/parties targeted mostly to protection of transfrontier protected areas and migratory species

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

Level of implementing of the CBD at the national level can not be considered ideal. Country, that has been undergoing profound reforms of its economic and social systems, put biodiversity conservation among lower level priorities. Not adequate attitudes to and perceptions of the biodiversity conservation are reinforced with lack of understanding of the CBD objectives in its entire

complexity and with underestimation of the importance of biodiversity conservation within a framework of sustainable development.

In order to strengthen capacities for implementing the CBD and Biosafety Protocol it is of vital importance to revise the NBS taking due regard of the latest developments of international agenda and other facts such as membership of Slovakia in EU. Revised Strategy should include measurable implementation and impact indicators. Revised strategy should be based on ecosystem approach. It should integrate existing national strategic documents that had been developed in response to international BD related law instruments. This will contribute to overall clarifying of national strategic framework in the area of BD.

Valuation of BD components should become a common practice and should be integrated into national planning and decision making processes. At the same time this would affirm that the importance of biodiversity is not purely scientific or conservation, but rather it has an influence on quality of life.

In order to support integrated approaches to conservation of BD, it is inevitable to improve and complement existing incentive measures and ensure coordination of sectoral planning.

It is also necessary to renew at the nearest future, operations of the National CBD Secretariat and possibly restructure it into integrated Secretariat for BD related MEAs. Simultaneously it is needed to improve operations of the Slovak CBD Commission in order to facilitate transfer of information from international to national level as well as among sectors.

It is also necessary to complete appointments of the National Focal Points and integrate them, ex-offo, into activities of the National CBD Commission. Responsibilities of the National Focal Points should include cooperation with all relevant bodies and agencies active in implementing of those commitments/themes under the CBD, for which they have been appointed focal points.

It is of imminent importance to ensure that Government and public sector institutions have ready and free of charge access to information that are needed for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components. It is also vital to improve capacity of the agencies that are entrusted with monitoring of BD to enable them to generate up-to-date information in support of both decision making processes and assessing impact of implementing strategic instruments and national laws.

Continuous effort should be made to raise awareness of the public, while promoting and encouraging understanding of the importance of biodiversity and biological resources, including its production and non-production functions, as a source of human well being. Access to education on and training in the measures required for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components should be facilitated for civil servants and public sector employees. Less developed concepts of commitments under the CBD such as the conservation of traditional knowledge on the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components, application of intellectual property rights over BD components and liability for damages to BD should be promoted and also included into education and training programs. Increased level of information and education should be ensured for decision makers at all levels - from the central to local level. Formal and informal education on biodiversity should be integrated within a broader framework of sustainable development concept.

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

When answering questions included into present questionnaire we have encountered that meaning of some questions was clear only to people who are familiar with the Convention and well- informed of the Convention developments.

For instance questions relating to "financial mechanism" were not always understood as ones relevant to GEF, questions related to CHM were misunderstood and information were provided on various web-pages, not formally related to CHM, which is not operational in Slovakia yet, etc.. Similar situations occurred when questions were based on reference to certain Decisions/Annexes to decisions.

Therefore, for the next questionnaire(s) we recommend to consider formulation of clearly focused questions, while using the Convention terminology for more detailed explanation only (for instance, instead of referring to financial mechanism, reference to GEF should be used, etc.).

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

Date of completion:	1997 - National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) 1998 - Action Plan for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy for the period 1998-2010 (AP)
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government	
By which authority?	NSB adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic and by the National Council of the Slovak Republic (i.e.Parliament). AP adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic
On what date?	NBS adopted on 1 st . April 1997 by the Government of the Slovak Republic NBS adopted on 2nd June 1997 by the National Council of the Slovak Republic. AP adopted on 4 th August 1998 by the Government of the Slovak Republic .
If the NBSAP has been published please give	
Title:	National Biodiversity Strategy in Slovakia
Name and address of publisher:	Zuzana Guziova, Peter Straka, Eds.,1998, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, Nam. L. Stura 1, 812 35 Bratislava
ISBN:	80-88833-10-8
Price (if applicable):	N/A
Other information on ordering:	
If the NBSAP has not been published	
Please give full details of how copies can be obtained:	copy by requirement or web page of MoE SR
If the NBSAP has been posted on a national website	
Please give full URL:	www.enviro.gov.sk
If the NBSAP has been lodged with an Implementing Agency of the GEF	
Please indicate which agency:	The World Bank was IA of the Slovakian Enabling Activities Project for the

	NBSAP. Hard Copies of the NBS were broadly distributed, including to GEF IAs (WB, UNEP, UNDP).		
Has a copy of the NBSAP been lodged with the Convention Secretariat?			
Yes	X	No	

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

In the period of 1995 - 6, Country Study was prepared summarising status of biodiversity in Slovakia, including micro-organisms and status of biotechnology. The study was funded in full from the state budget. Framework for the National Biodiversity Strategy, developed with assistance from UNEP was developed and published in 1997. The Framework was a basic document for developing NBS as described above. Action Plan for implementing of the NBS was developed and approved in 1998. National Programme for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources was developed in 2005.

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

In Slovakia there is no national body mandated with regular reviews/audits of the implementation of the Convention. At certain extent, intersectorial Slovak CBD Commission, which is advisory body to Minister of the Environment, may undertake a review upon request of the Minister.

National Reporting in the format of a comprehensive questionnaire provides a good (and so far the only opportunity) to undertake a review of the implementation of the Convention at a national level.

Review of national capacities for implementing the Convention was performed in 2004-2005 within a framework of GEF funded NCSA project.