

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

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

In 1997 the Environment Unit established a National Biodiversity Advisory Committee. This committee has met several times a year between 1997 and 2002. This has provided an inter-agency steering committee for discussion of biodiversity matters including the national reports to the COP. Membership of the National Biodiversity Advisory Committee is drawn from relevant government Departments, Academic Institutions and NGOs.

In early 2001 the Environment Unit established four working groups to maintain discussion in greater detail on specific biodiversity issues of importance to Vanuatu. These draw on the specific interests of members of the National Biodiversity Advisory Committee and additional expertise available in the wider community, including academic institutions, statutory authorities and NGOs. These groups provide a forum for discussion on technical and scientific capacity issue; for discussion of traditional knowledge and rights; for discussion of institutional capacity for biodiversity conservation; and lastly for discussion of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. These working groups and their discussions have fed into the compilation of this report.

Staff attached to the NBSAP Project worked on the report, collating information from published and unpublished sources, and drawing on the work of the Biodiversity Unit within the Environment Unit, and from the Advisory Committee and Working Groups. Supplementary information where required has been obtained from individuals or organisations active within Vanuatu through meetings and interviews.

The report has passed through normal Government channels to receive Ministerial level endorsement.

The report's long and detailed format makes it a difficult document to present as a whole for review. Securing views on discrete issues within the report prior to compilation has been more practical.

Please provide information on any particular circumstances in your country that are relevant to understanding the answers to the questions in this report

Vanuatu is an archipelago of over 80 islands in the south west Pacific stretching 1,300 kilometres from north to south. Despite a small population, estimated at 193,219 people in 1999¹, Vanuatu is culturally diverse with over 110 language and cultural groups. Seventy-nine percent of the population live in rural villages, ranging from one family to several hundred people, meeting their subsistence and cash needs from locally available terrestrial and inshore marine resources.

The Vanuatu constitution states that

- all land and resources on that land belongs to the indigenous custom owners and their descendants;
- custom rules are the basis for the ownership and use of land and resources on that land.

Land cannot be alienated, but can be leased from the landholders for fixed periods and agreed purposes. This system of land and resource management differs from most countries. It limits the capacity of government to conserve biodiversity without the support, understanding & commitment of landholders.

The national office responsible for the environment, the Environment Unit, now has only 3 permanent staff and an annual government budget of less than US\$50,000. The provincial governments have diverse responsibilities with the best resourced having a total staff of less than 15 people, some only 3 or 4 staff. The Forestry Department maintains officers on only 4 islands, with two of these islands having only a single officer responsible for all aspects of extension, conservation, overseeing forest operations, compliance monitoring and enforcement. Similarly the Fisheries Department maintains officers on only 4 islands, with two of these islands having only a single officer responsible for all aspects of commercial and subsistence fisheries and marine management.

Consequently Vanuatu has special issues that come from geographic and social diversity and isolation (...sea separating islands; diverse languages and cultures; limited transport and communication facilities...) and the limited ability of government to provide adequate services to all islands in the country.

¹ Statistics Office, 1999. 1999 Population Census Preliminary Result.

The COP has established programmes of work that respond to a number of Articles. Please identify the relative priority accorded to each theme and the adequacy of resources. This will allow subsequent information on implementation of each Article to be put into context. There are other questions on implementation of the programmes of work at the end of these guidelines.

Inland water ecosystems

1. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
b) Medium	
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	
2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	
d) Severely limiting	X

Marine and coastal biological diversity

3. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
b) Medium	
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	
4. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	
d) Severely limiting	X

Agricultural biological diversity

5. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
b) Medium	
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	

6. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	
d) Severely limiting	X

Forest biological diversity

7. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
b) Medium	
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	
8. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	
d) Severely limiting	X

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

9. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	
b) Medium	
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	X
10. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	
d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

Within all relevant GEF work programmes, Vanuatu's BSAP emphasises the importance of building in-country capacity for biodiversity conservation at every level and sector: government, Province, community and individual. Capacity has been defined broadly. It is the ways and means needed to do what has to be done, **effectively, efficiently and sustainably**. Capacity is much broader than simply skills, people and plans. It includes commitment, resources and all that is brought to bear on a process to make it successful.

Existing capacity was a key consideration in development of the national Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan and in prioritising work programmes for action, with capacity building the key to realising in the future actions that are not possible today.

Even so the resources available at a Provincial and National level for biodiversity management are extremely limiting. Vanuatu will be reliant on external support if key strategies relating to freshwater ecosystems, forests and marine and coastal environments are to be achieved. As a medium term strategy capacity building initiatives includes attempts to identify national level funding sources.

Given the inter-relatedness of ecosystems on small tropical islands, particularly where subsistence agricultural systems predominate, the division into GEF work programmes is artificial and problematic. Integrated and holistic approaches are considered more appropriate.

Article 5 Cooperation

11. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
12. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>Vanuatu's ability to meet its CBD obligations is to a significant extent dependent on the co-operation it receives from neighbouring countries; from regional intergovernmental organisations (SPREP, SPC etc.); and from the international government and non government community. Co-operation and collaboration have been important in providing technical assistance; in-country capacity building; networking; and accessing funding to enable programme and project delivery.</p> <p>However this experience is also limiting. Vanuatu is not always able to address its priority issues, but often finds work confined to the priorities of those with whom it collaborates.</p>					

13. 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 below)	Yes
b) international programmes (please give details below)	Yes
c) international agreements (please give details below)	Yes

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

14. 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	

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

15. Has your country developed management practices for transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

Decision V/21. Co-operation with other bodies

16. Has your country collaborated with the International Biodiversity Observation Year of DIVERSITAS, and ensured complementarity with the initiative foreseen to be undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity 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 V/27. Contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the ten-year review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

17. Is your country planning to highlight and emphasize biological diversity considerations in its contribution to the ten-year review of progress since the Earth Summit?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Vanuatu actively cooperates with other Parties in a range of bilateral and multilateral initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Many of these are programmes coordinated through regional inter-governmental organisations : South Pacific Regional Environment Programme; South Pacific Community; South Pacific Forum; Forum Fisheries Agency. Others are organised by international organisations or specific countries. The World Wide Fund for Nature South Pacific Programme has been particularly active in promoting regional level dialogue on biodiversity matters.

Vanuatu's biodiversity conservation initiatives have also benefited from informal technical assistance provided (often by remote means such as email communications) by scientific staff within government and academic institutions in other countries. Given the limited technical capacity in-country it will be vital that such assistance is forthcoming and readily accessible. It is also helpful if it can be provided in a collaborative way that enables young professional staff in-country to develop their own confidence and expertise.

Vanuatu is still preparing its national in-put to the ten-year review of UNCED. Vanuatu has participated in the preparation of a regional communication. It is intended that the National Biodiversity Advisory Committee, established to support preparation of the BSAP, will be a key agency involved in preparation of a national communication.

Article 6 General measures for conservation and sustainable use

18. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low			
19. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Vanuatu completed and adopted its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in 2000. This document gives guidance at a national level on measures for conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>With GEF enabling financing Vanuatu has established a working group that is leading discussion and debate on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and provides an advisory team to government.</p> <p>However Vanuatu has only been able to proceed to develop a national strategy for conservation and sustainable use and to work on its implementation through access to enabling funds from the GEF. Without this support progress would have been limited.</p> <p>Considerable emphasis is being placed on improved cross sectoral collaboration as a means of realising sustainable use of biodiversity within the limited resources and capacities available in-country.</p>							

20. What is the status of your national biodiversity strategy (6a)?	
a) none	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) completed ₂	
e) completed and adopted ₂	X
f) reports on implementation available	
21. 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 ₂	
e) completed and adopted ₂	X
f) reports on implementation available	

2/ Please provide information requested at the end of these guidelines.

22. 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	

23. Do your national strategies and action plans cover integration of other sectoral activities (6b)?	
a) no	
b) some sectors	
c) all major sectors	
d) all sectors	X

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

24. Is action being taken to exchange information and share experience on the national action planning process with other Contracting Parties?	
a) little or no action	
b) sharing of strategies, plans and/or case-studies	X
c) regional meetings	X
25. Do all of your country's strategies and action plans include an international cooperation component?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
26. Are your country's strategies and action plans coordinated with those of neighbouring countries?	
a) no	Not yet
b) bilateral/multilateral discussions under way	
c) coordinated in some areas/themes	
d) fully coordinated	
e) not applicable	
27. Has your country set measurable targets within its strategies and action plans?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	

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

28. Has your country received support from the financial mechanism for the preparation of its national strategy and action plan?

a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, which was the Implementing Agency (UNDP/UNEP/World Bank)?	UNEP

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

29. 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) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Vanuatu's BSAP includes crude but measurable targets related to achieving specific outputs. Setting targets relating to biological or ecological parameters is impossible given the lack of baseline data on Vanuatu's biodiversity, and the limited resources available in-country. At present GEF administrative policy views monitoring as primarily a national responsibility, so there is limited access to international funding for this purpose.

As part of the current enabling add-on a capacity assessment of monitoring needs will be conducted, to include capacity sharing between sectors and institutions. It is anticipated that this capacity will fall well below that required to establish measurable and verifiable biodiversity indicators and targets.

Regional organisations and international organisations have established platforms for communication between Pacific Island Countries on CBD implementation. This has not moved to supporting international coordination of strategy content, and this is not considered appropriate. These fora are not always accessible, or are accessible with constraints e.g. travel funding might be at the expense of in-country programme delivery. Vanuatu has not participated in some of these meetings as funds were not available.

While beneficial in numerous ways, participation in regional and international platforms is also a burden with negative impacts. Given the small pool of professionals able to speak for Vanuatu at an international level, key individuals can be pulled out of the country for significant periods. There may not be resources available to replace their inputs to in-country work programmes, leading to delay or "stop-start" initiatives. Greater coordination of events, leading to reduced out of country time would be an advantage.

Article 7 Identification and monitoring

30. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>		
31. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Establishing baseline data and monitoring selected indicators was given high priority in Vanuatu's BSAP. However the GEF policy that monitoring and information management is a national priority has been a barrier to establishing effective systems to date, as in-country funds have not become available.</p> <p>Monitoring also depends on a degree of scientific capacity being available. At present Vanuatu lacks the most basic capacity: lack of scientific equipment and furnished laboratories; lack of taxonomic skills and resources; lack of baseline data and inventories. A first step must be to build in-country capacity, and establish procedures for capacity support from external parties. It is desirable that any technical capacity sharing takes place in a manner that builds local capacity (through training initiatives, partnerships, mentoring etc.) not purely as service delivery.</p>							

32. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial stages, ad hoc rather than strategic.
c) for a range of major groups	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) for a comprehensive range of species	<input type="checkbox"/>
33. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at ecosystem level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial stages, ad hoc rather than strategic.
c) for major ecosystems	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	<input type="checkbox"/>
34. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at genetic level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) minor programme in some sectors	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) major programme in some sectors	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	<input type="checkbox"/>

35. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	Initial stages, ad hoc rather than strategic.
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	

36. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at ecosystem level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	Initial stages, ad hoc rather than strategic.
c) for major ecosystems	
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	

37. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at genetic level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	X
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors	
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	

38. 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	
e) reports available	

39. Is your country monitoring these activities and their effects (7c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	X
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	

40. Does your country coordinate information collection and management at the national level (7d)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	X
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	

Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment

41. Has your country identified national indicators of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	X (no donor)
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	
42. Is your country using rapid assessment and remote sensing techniques?	
a) no	
b) assessing opportunities	
c) yes, to a limited extent	X Rapid assessment Remote sensing too expensive and not used for biodiversity maangement.
d) yes, to a major extent	
e) reports on implementation available	
43. 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	To limited extent
44. Is your country cooperating with other Contracting Parties on pilot projects to demonstrate the use of assessment and indicator methodologies?	
a) no	
b) yes (if so give details below)	In early stages in context of a GEF MSP
45. Has your country prepared any reports of experience with application of assessment methodologies and made these available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
46. Is your country seeking to make taxonomic information held in its collections more widely available?	
a) no relevant collections	
b) no action	
c) yes (if so, please give details below)	X very limited collections

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

47. Is your country actively involved in co-operating with other countries in your region in the field of indicators, monitoring and assessment?	
a) no	
b) limited co-operation	X
c) extensive co-operation on some issues	
d) extensive co-operation on a wide range of issues	
48. Has your country made available case studies concerning the development and implementation of assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes?	
a) no	No case studies to circulate.
b) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
c) yes - through the national CHM	
d) yes - other means (please specify)	
49. Is your country assisting other Parties to increase their capacity to develop indicator and monitoring programmes?	
a) no	X
b) providing training	
c) providing direct support	
d) sharing experience	
e) other (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Vanuatu has made limited progress to date in developing effective identification, monitoring and assessment indicators. At present there is inadequate baseline knowledge, and a lack of in-country capacity and resources.

Work is scheduled under the NBSAP add-on to stock take existing monitoring and assessment activities within country, and to identify how information from these diverse often sectoral activities could be used in a collaborative and integrated fashion to provide a foundation for biodiversity monitoring.

Vanuatu is receiving technical support from the Australian Government to improve its herbarium and fauna databases and to include GIS and mapping functions. This is an important tool that will build more effective capacity for species identification and monitoring, illustration of range and historical changes in species distribution. Currently this information is not accessible, and work on this system has been delayed.

Decisions on Taxonomy

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

50. Has your country carried out a national taxonomic needs assessment, and/or held workshops to determine national taxonomic priorities?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of assessment	
c) advanced stages of assessment	
d) assessment completed	
51. Has your country developed a national taxonomic action plan?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) action plan in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
52. Is your country making available appropriate resources to enhance the availability of taxonomic information?	
a) no	
b) yes, but this does not cover all known needs adequately	X
c) yes, covering all known needs	
53. 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 (receiving assistance from others)
c) significant opportunities	
54. Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections?	
a) no	X Need identified but no resources available to invest.
b) some investment	
c) significant investment	
55. Is your country encouraging partnerships between taxonomic institutions in developed and developing countries?	
a) no	
Yes on an ad hoc basis when a need arises.	X
b) yes - stated policy	
c) yes - systematic national programme	

56. Has your country adopted any international agreed levels of collection housing?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) being implemented by some collections	
d) being implemented by all major collections	
57. Has your country provided training programmes in taxonomy?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	
58. 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 below)	
59. Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes for some institutions	
d) yes for all major institutions	
60. 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	
61. 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	X
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	

62. 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

63. Has your country identified its information requirements in the area of taxonomy, and assessed its national capacity to meet these requirements?	
a) no	X
b) basic assessment	
c) thorough assessment	
64. Has your country established or consolidated taxonomic reference centres?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
65. Has your country worked to increase its capacity in the area of taxonomic research?	
a) no	
b) yes	X Very early stages
66. 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	X
b) yes	
67. Has your country designated a national Global Taxonomy Initiative focal point linked to other national focal points?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
68. Has your country participated in the development of regional networks to facilitate information-sharing for the Global Taxonomy Initiative?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
69. Has your country sought resources through the financial mechanism for the priority actions identified in the decision?	
a) no	
b) applied for unsuccessfully	X
c) applied for successfully	

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

Vanuatu presently has limited taxonomic capacity. A herbarium collection is poorly housed and deteriorating in condition. There are scattered, incomplete and often inadequately housed collections of some fauna. There are no professional taxonomists within the country and no facilities to support their work. Requests have been made for assistance in developing taxonomic infrastructure to enable appropriate housing of collections and to make them more accessible for use, but donor funding has not been available.

The Australian Government has assisted Vanuatu to establish a computer flora and fauna database. However this work has been delayed and remains incomplete.

Vanuatu has been represented in meetings to discuss a regional taxonomic initiative.

Other biological information is of more immediate priority to Vanuatu. This includes information on ecosystem function, species and ecosystem ecology, and populations' dynamics. There is limited information on many of the species present in the country, and knowledge is mainly limited to larger species of plants and animals, especially those with commercial use values. There is very limited knowledge of Vanuatu's insects, fungi and micro-organisms.

It is important to Vanuatu that specialist taxonomists in regional centres are available and accessible to support rapid assessments and ecological studies with information on un-identified collections.

On-going taxonomic revisions of several significant genera and families present in Vanuatu have been important in enhancing knowledge of the country's biodiversity. However these have taken place at the initiative of academic or international interests.

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

70. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low			
71. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>The protection and wise use of biodiversity is objective one of Vanuatu's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Priorities within this objective are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • watershed or catchment management, • management of introduced species, • management of biodiversity used for subsistence and commercial purposes, • management of cultural heritage and biodiversity knowledge and • conservation of significant species and places. <p>Under an enabling add-on for internal capacity assessments a working group has been established that is focusing on these issues, discussing capacity gaps and strategies through which these needs can be addressed. Some progress has been made in co-operative approaches to these issues.</p> <p>Biodiversity management at the watershed or catchment scale requires cooperation among agencies and interested communities, often despite them having different needs and responsibilities. Emphasis to date has been on encouraging collaboration between agencies; facilitating discussions over the Regional International Waters Project being managed by SPREP; and seeking external funding for pilot and demonstration initiatives that will enable in-country organisations to build their capacity in this area. Water resource legislation is in draft form, but has not yet been introduced to parliament.</p> <p>A preliminary study of invasive species has been completed. Red Fire Ant has been chosen as an example that can be used to assess capacity. It is hoped to schedule a national workshop in the first quarter of 2002 to set national action plan priorities relating to invasive species.</p> <p>A series of participatory meetings have been held to identify local level capacity for in-situ conservation and management of biodiversity. It is anticipated this will become an important focus of medium and long term conservation work because of the extremely limited capacity for government involvement at a national or Provincial level. The Environment Unit currently has GEF PDF funding to develop a proposal to strengthen local level conservation capacity.</p> <p>There is limited knowledge of the ecology and population dynamics of Vanuatu's significant species and places. Facilitating research and improved access to information is perceived as a necessary first step. Significant progress has been made in 2001 toward identifying capacity needs for more effective co-ordination and facilitation of research. There is also a need to build in-country research capacity - however this remains problematic given the limited research facilities in-country and the lack of resources available.</p> <p>Priority has been given to building the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components rather than an immediate focus on protected area systems. The latter is problematic in the social and economic context of Vanuatu, where land is unalienable from traditional owners who are dependent on their biological resources for their subsistence livelihoods and to generate cash income.</p>							

72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?	
a) system under development	
b) national review of protected areas coverage available	
c) national protected area systems plan in place	
d) relatively complete system in place	
e) other	X
73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	X
b) no, under development	
c) yes	
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	
74. 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) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
f) An ad-hoc fragmented system in place. Some resources well managed (notably resources of commercial value in the forestry and fisheries sector); some resources not able to be managed due to lack of knowledge; some resources not managed due to lack of capacity.	X
75. 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	
b) some measures in place	X (But not geographically specific to protected areas.)
c) potential measures under review	
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	

76. Has your country undertaken measures that promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas (8e)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X (But not geographically specific to protected areas.)
c) potential measures under review	
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	
77. Has your country undertaken measures to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
78. Has your country undertaken measures to promote the recovery of threatened species (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
79. 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 yet	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
80. Has your country made attempts 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) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	

81. Has your country developed and 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	X
d) legislation or other measures in place	
82. 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	X
d) yes, to a significant extent	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
83. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for <i>in-situ</i> conservation particularly to developing countries (8m)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
84. Does your country receive financial and other support for <i>in situ</i> conservation (8m)?	
a) no	
b) yes (if so, please give details below)	X

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

85. Is action being taken to share information and experience on implementation of this Article with other Contracting Parties?	
a) little or no action	
b) sharing of written materials and/or case-studies	X
c) regional meetings	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Q.84 Vanuatu has received limited support for in situ conservation. The support received includes:

- Financial support for establishment and management of 3 major conservation areas. Financial support has not been available in the long term, and the sustainability of these initiatives remains in doubt.
- Financial support for work to rehabilitate degraded areas on Aneityum.
- Financial support and technical assistance in studying significant species and places, building the knowledge and capacity to regulate resource use to a sustainable level. This assistance has been most forthcoming for specific resources of commercial significance at a regional level (e.g. Coconut crab (*Birgus latro*) and trochus (*Trochus niloticus*)), but difficult to access for species with primarily subsistence use or not used.
- Support for protective measures such as improved quarantine and phytosanitary facilities.
- Support for more sustainable resource usage practices, such as for development of a national code of logging practice.

The focus of much present work in country is on resource use and management systems, that are both applicable and practical at a local level, and that are compatible with in-situ conservation of biodiversity. Support will be needed for monitoring to document the effectiveness of these approaches; extension services to promote and expand awareness of compatible resource use systems. Significant gains have initially been made in the Fisheries sector, but much work is still required for forest and agricultural ecosystems. Given the limited resources within country external financial support for this work will be necessary.

Article 8h Alien species

86. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>		
87. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Alien species are identified as a high priority within the first objective of the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. A preliminary study of invasive species has been completed. Red Fire Ant has been chosen as an example that can be used to assess capacity. It is hoped to schedule a national workshop in the first quarter of 2002 to set national action plan priorities relating to invasive species and finalise a thematic report to the CBD on invasive species.</p>							

88. Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) only major species of concern	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) only new or recent introductions	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Introduced species have been identified, but no tracking system in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) a comprehensive system tracks new introductions	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) a comprehensive system tracks all known introductions	<input type="checkbox"/>
89. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) most alien species have been assessed	<input type="checkbox"/>
90. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) some measures in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) potential measures under review	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

91. 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	X
92. Does your national 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

93. Is your country applying the interim guiding principles for prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species in the context of activities aimed at implementing article 8(h) of the Convention, and in the various sectors?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	X
c) limited implementation in some sectors	
d) extensive implementation in some sectors	
e) extensive implementation in most sectors	
94. Has your country submitted case-studies to the Executive Secretary focusing on thematic assessments?	
a) no	
b) in preparation	X
c) yes	
95. Has your country submitted written comments on the interim guiding principles to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
96. Has your country given priority to the development and implementation of alien invasive species strategies and action plans?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
97. In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed or involved itself in mechanisms for international co-operation, including the exchange of best practices?	
a) no	
b) trans-boundary co-operation	
c) regional co-operation	X
d) multilateral co-operation	

98. Is your country giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
99. 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	X
100. Has your country developed effective education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) some initiatives	X
c) many initiatives	
101. Is your country making available the information which it holds on alien species through the CHM?	
a) no	X
b) some information	
c) all available information	
d) information available through other channels (please specify)	
102. Is your country providing support to enable the Global Invasive Species Programme to fulfil the tasks outlined in the decision and its annexes?	
a) no	X
b) limited support	
c) substantial support	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Alien species is a priority issue for Vanuatu. Most recent introductions have been intentionally brought to Vanuatu to contribute to development of the productive forest or agriculture sector or as pets and curiosities.

Assessments of capacity have identified that a priority need is to develop policy and legal mechanisms for management of introductions, in accord with the Guiding Principles under this article. Initial work has focused on developing an understanding of the issue, and encouraging cross-sectoral dialogue. Informal arrangements are being promoted as an interim measure.

A second issue is awareness of invasive species, at a community level, to reduce the incidence of purposeful or negligent extension of a species' range. Progress in this respect has been more limited. There are few in-country resources available to dedicate awareness and extension purposes.

There are capacity limitations at a National, Provincial and island level that prevent effective control mechanisms and/or eradication. Legislation providing for the eradication of designated weeds exists, but is neither applied nor enforced. There is no legislation addressing other invasive species. Given the very limited national resources available, priority has been directed to the control of significant pests to agriculture and forestry (e.g. fruit flies), leaving little capacity to address environmentally invasive species. With collaboration from the New Zealand Government a first step is being taken with the invasive Red Fire Ant, which is a recent AND serious introduction to several islands in the north of Vanuatu.

With limited community awareness of the concept of environmentally invasive species and no regulatory capacity there are no barriers to the spread of invasive species from one island to another in canoes and small boats. Only four islands have staff involved in inspection and surveillance, with a focus on international air and ship movements. More widely based professionals such as agricultural field assistants have limited experience and knowledge beyond the scope of agricultural pests and weeds.

On-going international support is going to be needed to enable Vanuatu to meet the goals set in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Article 8j Traditional knowledge and related provisions

103. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low			
104. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>The Constitution gives clear recognition to the rights and interests of traditional landholders, who remain the principal managers and users of biological resources and systems in Vanuatu.</p> <p>Objectives 2, 4 and 6 of Vanuatu's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan contain priority actions that relate specifically to the maintenance of, and respect for, the traditional practices and innovations of ni-Vanuatu.</p> <p>Under a capacity building enabling activity a working group has been established to discuss priority concerns relating to the maintenance of and respect for traditional practices and innovations. Priority needs relate to the documentation of traditional knowledge and practices; the management and application of this information; and formal recognition of traditional biodiversity knowledge and management systems within modern legal and administrative systems.</p> <p>Priority has also been given to discussions around the equitable sharing of benefits from the wider use of traditional knowledge and innovations. Administrative systems to protect the rights to traditional information and innovations have been incorporated into draft environmental legislation to be introduced to Parliament in 2002, and into administrative systems to monitor and facilitate research.</p> <p>The Vanuatu Cultural Centre is a key partner in work to record, preserve and maintain traditional practices and innovations. Its network of voluntary field workers have demonstrated valuable capacity to gather information from the many cultural groups in the country.</p> <p>Legislation to endorse traditional chiefly rights and decisions, including roles in the management and regulation of biodiversity use, is in pre-draft form for wider discussion.</p> <p>Provisions for protection of expressions of indigenous knowledge have been included in the Copyright Bill (not yet gazetted) and in the draft Trademarks, Patents and Designs Bills which are currently before parliament.</p> <p>The Malvatamauri (National Body of Chiefs) has a national policy that clearly protects rights to indigenous knowledge, but this has limited legal status.</p> <p>The Vanuatu National Cultural Centre has a national research policy that includes conditions relating to the use of indigenous knowledge and expressions, and this policy is supported by legislation.</p> <p>However despite high profile and public commitment, progress remains slow, measures remain fragmented, and there is a need for strengthening of capacities and administrative capabilities. Progress is affected by the limited personnel and financial resources available.</p>							

105. 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) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
106. Is your country working to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) programme or policy in place	X Some policies in place, some in development stages

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

107. Has your country developed national legislation and corresponding strategies for the implementation of Article 8(j)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	
108. Has your country supplied information on the implementation of Article 8(j) to other Contracting Parties through media such as the national report?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - CHM	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
109. 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	X
b) yes	
110. Is your country participating in appropriate working groups and meetings?	
a) none	
b) some	X
c) all	

111. Is your country facilitating the active participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities in these working groups and meetings?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

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

112. 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	
c) yes (please provide details)	
d) other..... See details below	X
113. 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	
d) yes - to a significant extent	X
114. 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	X
d) yes - to a significant extent	

115. Has your country provided appropriate financial support 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	
116. 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
117. 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	
d) yes - to a significant extent	X
118. 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	X
b) not relevant	
c) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
d) yes - through the national CHM	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	
119. 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 (Other countries in Region)
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	
120. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and maintenance of knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) some measures	X
d) extensive measures	

121. 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	
d) register fully developed	
e) Work is in progress to record traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, but this is not in the context of formal registers. At present records remain fragmented and incomplete.	X
122. 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) not appropriate	
c) yes	
d) To date only indigenous ni-Vanuatu have attended meetings held under the CBD, but most are technical and administrative staff of the national government, not representatives of village communities.	X
123. Is your country assisting the Secretariat to fully utilize the clearing-house mechanism to co-operate closely with indigenous and local communities to explore ways that enable them to make informed decisions concerning release of their traditional knowledge?	
a) no, there is very limited access to the internet outside of Vanuatu's 2 urban centres.	X
b) awaiting information on how to proceed	
c) yes	
124. Has your country identified resources for funding the activities identified in the decision?	
a) no	X
b) not relevant	
c) partly	
d) fully	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Q.106 ... Vanuatu authorities are actively engaged in cross-sectoral activities to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of indigenous knowledge, innovations and practices. Some measures (e.g. Vanuatu Cultural Centre Research Policy) have been in place for some time. Other responses are in various stages of development, including draft legislation before parliament, and mentioned after question Q. 104. However more work is required before an effective and comprehensive programme of responses is in place that fully ensures the equitable sharing of benefits from applications of traditional knowledge and use of biodiversity and protects the rights of the knowledge holders. One weakness inherent to much of the existing body of work relates to limited capacity to enforce national policies at an international level.

Q. 112... The Programme of Work on the implementation of article 8j and related provisions of the CBD has not been formally reviewed at a national level. However the priorities it prescribes are mainstream development issues and practices in Vanuatu.

Vanuatu's constitution recognises the status and position of the traditional landholders. Land, and hence decisions relating to the use of resources on land, cannot be alienated from the traditional landholders. It is national practice for traditional landholders to be a party to all decisions relating to the management and use of resources and biodiversity. Without their agreement very limited progress can be made, while disputes between and among landholders are recognised as a major barrier to the progress of many proposed development initiatives.

Strengthening the capacity of traditional landholders and developing effective systems for resolving disputes and uncertainties over traditional ownership and rights is a major and mainstream national issue.

The experience of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre provides a good case study on "methods and approaches concerning the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge." However, there is limited capacity to prepare formal case-studies and reports to the CBD secretariat.

Article 9 Ex situ conservation

125. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low		X	
126. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Vanuatu lacks facilities for the ex-situ conservation of, and research on, biodiversity. It has not been able to dedicate national resources toward the recovery and rehabilitation of threatened species or their reintroduction into natural habitats.</p> <p>Urban street plantings of <i>Carpoxydon macrospermum</i> (An endangered mono-specific genera of palm) have been established, but these are small in extent.</p> <p>Establishing systems to monitor, regulate and manage the collection of biological resources for ex-situ research and conservation purposes has been given initial priority.</p>							

127. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>native</i> to your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
128. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>originating outside</i> your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
129. 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	
b) yes	
130. 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	X
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	

131. 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	X
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
132. 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	
b) yes	
133. Has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions (9c)?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
134. 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) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
135. 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)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
136. Has your country received financial and 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	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 10 Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

137. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>		
138. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>The principal objective of Vanuatu's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity. This recognises that 80% of the population live traditional subsistence lifestyles fully dependent on biodiversity to meet their needs. These needs include food, shelter, medicines and adequate fresh water supplies. It further recognises that these peoples are the owners and users of biodiversity and integrally involved in any actions to manage biodiversity at a national or local level.</p> <p>The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan describes 4 issues toward meeting this objective: wise use of biodiversity that is sustainable for the long term; reduction of threats; protection of indigenous biological resources; and managing and protecting endangered species and places that are under threat.</p> <p>Specific priorities include improving the capacity of custom chiefs, local communities and landowners to manage water catchment areas and foster cooperation at the watershed scale; to manage introduced invasive species; to maintain stocks of socially or economically used resources; and to integrate technical conservation knowledge with traditional management approaches and to strengthen traditional conservation mechanisms.</p>							

139. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making (10a)?	
a) no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) programme or policy in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) review of implementation available	<input type="checkbox"/>
140. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) some measures in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) potential measures under review	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>

141. 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	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

142. 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	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

143. 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) early stages of development	X (Very small private sector present in Vanuatu)
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
e) review of implementation available	

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

144. 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 report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
145. 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 report	
c) yes - correspondence	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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

146. Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	
a) no	X
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	
147. Has your country assisted other Parties to increase their capacity to implement sustainable-use practices, programmes and policies at regional, national and local levels, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation?	
a) no	X
b) not relevant	
c) to a limited extent	
d) to a significant extent (please provide details)	
148. Has your country developed mechanisms to involve the private sector and indigenous and local communities in initiatives on sustainable use, and in mechanisms to ensure that indigenous and local communities benefit from such sustainable use?	
a) no	
b) mechanisms under development	
c) mechanisms in place (please describe)	X
149. 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	

Decision V/25. Biological diversity and tourism

150. 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	
151. 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	
152. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Ecotourism?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

153. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Mountains?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
154. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
155. 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 implementation of this Article

The sustainable use of biological resources by indigenous local communities is a core focus of biodiversity conservation efforts in Vanuatu. All resources are the property of traditional landowners, who practice subsistence cultivation and harvest wild resources to meet their daily needs. Conservation cannot take place in Vanuatu without the express involvement and agreement of landowners. Consequently conservation must be compatible with sustainable subsistence livelihoods. Sustainable resource use is consequently a natural emphasis of conservation work.

For species at risk of over-harvesting regulations apply tools such as size limits and closed seasons, and these are complemented by periodic closures imposed by chiefs in accord with traditional customs. Sustainable use principles guides forestry activities with a Logging Code of Practice in place, a licensing system in place, and designation of areas vulnerable to degradation (such as steep gradients and highly rugged terrain) as inappropriate for timber harvesting. Similarly with marine fisheries there are licensing provisions that manage commercial fishing, size limits and closed seasons and restrictions on the use of some fishing techniques with potential to damage biodiversity.

However many areas are inadequately provided for within the present system. Particular gaps relate to fauna hunted for subsistence purposes but not on a commercial basis; and to land clearing and forest conversion activities within the agriculture sector. The current regulatory environment also fails to address issues relating to newer practices that are just being introduced to Vanuatu - e.g. the live reef fish trade. Work is needed to address these gaps and external assistance may be needed for research to document sustainable use levels, consulting with communities, for assistance in identifying and drafting appropriate regulations and in establishing awareness and understanding of new measures to be introduced.

Article 11 Incentive measures

156. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low		X	
157. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Very little attention has been given to economic and legal aspects of incentive measures. To date, most of the community level conservation work that has proceeded in Vanuatu provides direct benefits to the communities in terms of access to subsistence resources, practice of traditional customs or income generation from managed harvesting or ecotourism. These benefits have been adequate incentive for many.</p> <p>The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan gives initial priority to other areas including sustainable use, developing appropriate management systems, developing understanding of biodiversity to guide future decisions and building in-country capacity. These will employ existing capacity. Incentive measures remain an area for future work.</p> <p>There are presently many perverse incentives in place, and preliminary work needs to focus on garnering cross-sectoral support for change</p>							

158. Are programmes in place to identify and ensure the adoption of economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	
e) review of implementation available	
159. Do these incentives, and the programmes to identify them and ensure their adoption, 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

160. 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) as far as practically possible	
161. 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	
162. Has your country developed training and capacity building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives?	
a) no	X
b) planned	
c) some	
d) many	
163. 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	
164. Has your country shared experience on incentive measures with other Contracting Parties, including making relevant case-studies available to the Secretariat?	
a) no	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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

165. Is your country actively designing and implementing incentive measures?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) measures in place	
e) review of implementation available	
166. 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) partially reviewed	X
c) thoroughly reviewed	
d) measures designed based on the reviews	
e) review of implementation available	
167. Do the existing incentive measures take account of economic, social, cultural and ethical valuation of biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
168. Has your country developed legal and policy frameworks for the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) frameworks in place	
e) review of implementation available	
169. Does your country carry out consultative processes to define clear target-oriented incentive measures to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss?	
a) no	
b) processes being identified	
c) processes identified but not implemented	
d) processes in place	X
170. Has your country identified and considered neutralizing perverse incentives?	
a) no	
b) identification programme under way	X
c) identified but not all neutralized	
d) identified and neutralized	

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

171. Has your country reviewed the incentive measures promoted through the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change?	
a) no	X (Involvement at a diplomatic level have not filtered through to a practical implementation level as yet)
b) yes	
172. 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	X
b) under consideration	
c) early stages of development	
d) advanced stages of development	
e) further information available	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Vanuatu has limited capacity. Initial emphasis have been given to setting up base capacity to meet priorities established, and building support for cooperative approaches to biodiversity conservation. With this base in place the country will be in a better position to address and respond to important issues such as incentives and perverse incentives, which have broad cross-sectoral implications.

Article 12 Research and training

173. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low			
174. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Establishing and maintaining programmes for scientific research and training is a high priority of the Vanuatu Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>Objectives 3 and 4 of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan relate to research, assessment and monitoring of biodiversity and capacity building for environmental management. Priority issues addressed are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building knowledge of Vanuatu's biodiversity so that appropriate mechanisms for better management and conservation can be identified. • Collecting information on changes that are taking place among species populations and their ecosystems so that appropriate management decisions can be made • Monitoring the impact of development activities on biodiversity, including the success and failure of conservation programmes and projects. • Improving the technical capacity of relevant sectors plus the resource people within governments, provinces and communities <p>At present there is very limited capacity in terms of knowledge of biodiversity, scientifically trained staff, access to equipment and technical resources such as collections, and few institutions able to conduct scientific work. Initial priority has been given to identifying an appropriate system to better harness and direct research work being conducted by international researchers, to collect published and unpublished data and to develop networks with regional organisations available to provide scientific advise and expertise.</p> <p>International assistance is needed to allow Vanuatu to establish facilities for scientific work, housing collections etc. To date such assistance has not been forthcoming.</p>							
175. 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							X
b) early stages of development							
c) advanced stages of development							
d) programmes in place							

176. 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	X
b) yes	
177. 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	X
c) yes - significant extent	
178. 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	X
c) yes - significant extent	

If a developed country Party -

179. Does your country's implementation of the above activities take into account the special needs of developing countries?	
a) no	
b) yes, where relevant	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 13 Public education and awareness

180. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
181. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>Environmental education, awareness and information sharing is the 5th objective of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Priority issues addressed include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving environmental education within the school system. 2. Raising wider awareness of biodiversity and its values. 3. Encouraging information sharing and co-operation within and between sectors and between local communities. 4. Raising community awareness of the provisions of environmental natural resource legislation. <p>Since adoption of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan limited progress has been made. This is primarily due to lack of resources and staff to coordinate and conduct awareness and information sharing activities and to prepare relevant resource materials.</p> <p>Activities have often been focused in the week around World Environment Day.</p>					

182. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through media?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X (limited media outlets in Vanuatu)
c) yes - significant extent	
183. 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 (yes but inadequate)
c) yes - significant extent	

184. Does your country cooperate with other States and international organizations in developing relevant educational and public awareness programmes (13b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

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

185. Are public education and awareness needs covered in the national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X

186. 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) limited resources	
b) significant but not adequate resources	X (Financing through GEF)
c) adequate resources	

187. 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

188. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
Yes, but only partially.	X
d) yes	

189. Has your country made available any case-studies on public education and awareness and public participation, or otherwise sought to share experiences?	
a) no	
b) yes	X (Regional networking)

190. 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	
Vanuatu has 116 languages in a population of under 200,000 with limited literacy. Translating the CBD into local languages is not a priority. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is in 3 languages used formally: English, French and Bislama.	X
b) still to be done	
c) under development	
d) yes	

191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
192. When requesting assistance through the GEF, has your country proposed projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision V/17. Education and public awareness

193. 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	
c) yes (please give details)	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 14 Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

194. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
195. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>Ensuring all government planning documents, policies and laws recognise the importance and values of biodiversity, and introducing environmental impact assessments so as to minimise the adverse affects of development activities are both high priorities in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Progress to date has been limited.</p> <p>Legislation that requires impact assessment is currently in draft form. It is hoped that this will be tabled in parliament during 2002. However it is not clear whether the resources to manage and implement these provisions will become available.</p> <p>At present government procedures require that all government development proposals review their environmental and social impacts. However these are often superficial and do not adequately review impacts on biodiversity. Environmental Impact Assessments are also requested of major private sector development activities, although without formal legal status, and are often superficial by international standards. Detailed impact assessments primarily occur in the context of development projects financed externally, where requirements of the financing country must be met.</p>					

196. Is legislation in place 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	X
d) legislation in place	
e) review of implementation available	
197. Do such environmental impact assessment procedures allow for public participation (14(1a))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

198. Does your country have mechanisms in place 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 but superficial and not systematic	X
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	

199. 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

200. 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) Yes but partially according to priority and interest and availability of finances.	X
c) some completed, others in progress	
b) yes	

201. Has your country mechanisms in place 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	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
e) no need identified	

202. Has your country 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	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	
e) no need identified	

203. Has your country national mechanisms in place for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	
Some mechanisms in specific areas - oil spill contingency plan for Port Vila harbour.	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
204. 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	X
b) yes	
c) no need identified	

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

205. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting 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 (at a regional level)
d) information provided on the national CHM	
206. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting 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 on the national CHM	

Decision V/18. Impact assessment, liability and redress

207. 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	

208. 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	X
c) fully	
209. 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	X
c) in all circumstances	
210. 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	X
b) yes - in certain circumstances	
c) yes - in all cases	
211. Has your country organised expert meetings, workshops and seminars, and/or training, educational and public awareness programmes and exchange programmes in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures for impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) some programmes in place	
c) many programmes in place	X
d) integrated approach to building expertise	
212. <i>Has your country carried out pilot environmental impact assessment projects, in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures?</i>	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide further details)	
213. 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	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	
214. 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	X
c) to a significant extent	

215. Is national information available on the practices, systems, mechanisms and experiences in the area of strategic environmental assessment and impact assessment?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please append or summarise)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 15 Access to genetic resources

216. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low			
217. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Access to genetic resources is an important issue in Vanuatu, and complicated by the fact that land and the resources associated with land belong to the traditional landholders and cannot be alienated.</p> <p>Particular priority has been given to identifying ways to protect the property rights of ni-Vanuatu to their knowledge and use of biodiversity, including local cultivars of subsistence and commercial crops. This results from a strong perception that local knowledge of biodiversity and its uses have been exploited in recent times, with inadequate recognition or benefit to local peoples.</p> <p>Policy, planning and legal mechanisms that monitor, facilitate and regulate access to genetic resources, and provide a means of protecting the rights of traditional landholders are being discussed and developed. Proposals are being drafted for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Scientific Research Council to facilitate and monitor biodiversity related research • licensing of bio-prospecting activities in the context of Environmental legislation 							

218. 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	
219. 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 - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
220. Has your country an open participation planning process, or any other process in place, to ensure that access to resources is subject to prior informed consent (15(5))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) processes in place	
Yes and no (see below)	X
221. 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	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under consideration	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
222. 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	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under consideration	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	

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

223. Has your country provided the secretariat with information on relevant legislation, administrative and policy measures, participatory processes and research programmes?	
a) no, no legislation etc. at present	X
b) yes, within the previous national report	
c) yes, through case-studies	
d) yes, through other means (please give details below)	
224. 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	X
c) many programmes covering some needs	
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	
e) no perceived need	
225. 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	
226. 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	
227. Has your country identified national authorities responsible for granting access to genetic resources?	
a) no,	
b) yes but in process, Draft legislation to go before government in 2002 will confirm this.	X
228. Is your country taking an active role in negotiations associated with the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources

229. 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	
b) yes.. but in process. Draft legislation to go before government in 2002 will confirm authority.	X
c) yes, and Executive Secretary notified	
230. Do 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	
c) to a significant extent	X
Parties that are recipients of genetic resources	
231. 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	
232. Does your country co-operate 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, recognizing the complexity of the issue, with particular consideration of the multiplicity of prior informed consent considerations?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	
233. 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 in the context of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no, not yet	X
b) legislation under development	
c) yes	
234. Is your country co-ordinating its positions in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	X
c) yes	

235. 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	
236. 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	
237. Has your country provided capacity-building and technology development and transfer for the maintenance and utilization of ex situ collections?	
a) no	X
b) yes to a limited extent	
c) yes to a significant extent	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Q 218. At present State players are discussing appropriate responses, and having discussions with key interest groups. These are not sufficiently firm to be described as a mutual understanding or agreement.

Q. 220 Legal provisions requiring formal prior informed consent apply to cultural research in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, linguistics etc. Temporary provisions applying to other forms of scientific research are not in a capacity to formally require informed consent prior to research commencing. It is hoped that as this system is refined and legalised, such provisions can be included and enforced.

A major barrier is researchers (usually international) being reluctant to incur the costs of gaining prior informed consent prior to commencing research, and the difficulties in fully explaining research purposes to local peoples. However, there are cases in which prior informed consent has been abused. For example blood samples collected from throughout the archipelago for malaria studies with informed consent, were stored and subsequently used for unrelated DNA and genome studies for which consent had not been given.

It is very difficult for a country such as Vanuatu to establish a legal basis to protect parties from such mis-use of consent, and there is a perception that increasingly samples collected for one purpose, may be stored and subsequently used for a separate purpose without recourse to the people involved.

Full international collaboration will be needed if Prior Informed Consent requirements are to be enforceable.

Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology

238. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low			
239. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Vanuatu has limited access to technology. Access to the internet through the CHM has given the Environment Unit's biodiversity section greater capacity to access information, but often there is limited information that is directly relevant to the Pacific Region.</p> <p>Technical and scientific cooperation at an international level is vital. The involvement of regional organisations (South Pacific Community, South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, University of the South Pacific) is valuable as intermediaries and organisations with scientific and technical expertise. However it has been difficult to effectively influence the decisions that are taken so as to meet national priorities.</p>							

240. 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	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
241. 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 below)	
242. 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	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements	

243. 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	
a) Legislation?	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation?	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements?	
244. Does your country have a national system for intellectual property right protection (16(5))?	
a) no,	
Almost ... legislation has passed through parliament but is not yet gazetted. Addresses ownership of cultural knowledge, but does not specifically address biodiversity	X
b) yes	
245. If yes, does it cover biological resources (for example, plant species) in any way?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	

Decision III/17. Intellectual property rights

246. 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	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 17 Exchange of information

247. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>		
248. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Countries such as Vanuatu with limited internal scientific capacity are dependent on international colleagues for exchange of information. However it is difficult to fully access information through normal challenges, as technical and scientific publications are not commonly received, there are no technical libraries, there are no staff able to commit time to information searches through external organisations the country inevitably receives that portion of information that is forwarded to us. While the web based CHM has improved access to information this is perceived as being very limited and not always the information that we urgently need.</p>							

249. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources (17(1))?	
a) no measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) restricted by lack of resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) some measures in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) potential measures under review	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
250. Do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries (17(1))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - limited extent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - significant extent	<input type="checkbox"/>

251. 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

252. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
253. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>Vanuatu has extremely limited capacity to initiate technical and scientific work in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, and is dependent on external assistance and development financing for this work. As a consequence most research that has been undertaken is applied and directed towards species of commercial significance.</p> <p>Where ever possible attempt is made to liaise with the international research community and encourage their attention on biodiversity matters of significance to Vanuatu.</p>					

254. 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	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
255. Do the measures taken to promote cooperation with other Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention 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	

256. 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	

257. 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	
258. 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	X
c) yes - significant extent	

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

259. Is your country cooperating in the development and operation of the Clearing House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
260. 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	
261. Has your country designated a national focal point for the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
262. Is your country providing resources for the development and implementation of the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes, at the national level	X
c) yes, at national and international levels	

263. Is your country facilitating and participating in workshops and other expert meetings to further the development of the CHM at international levels?	
a) no	
b) participation only	X
c) supporting some meetings and participating	
264. Is your CHM operational	
a) no	
b) under development	X
c) yes (please give details below)	
265. Is your CHM linked to the Internet	
a) no	
b) yes	X
266. Has your country established a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary CHM steering committee or working group at the national level?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision V/14. Scientific and technical co-operation and the clearinghouse mechanisms (Article 18)

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

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

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Article 19 Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

268. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low		X	
269. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Vanuatu lacks the scientific facilities to enable it to actively implement these decisions. They are consequently of lower priority than many issues that it is within our capacity to address. This will be reconsidered as the National Biodiversity Strategy is revised in 5 years time.</p>							

270. 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	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures:	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	X
271. Has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties (19(2))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
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**

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Vanuatu is seeking to better understand the benefits of signing the Cartagena Protocol, and needs assistance in building cross-sectoral awareness and support prior to becoming a signatory.

Article 20 Financial resources

273. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
274. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting
					X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>Vanuatu has very limited ability to contribute financial resources toward meeting the obligations it has incurred under the CBD. Vanuatu has had difficulty accessing international support from developing country parties to enable it to meet even that portion of its CBD obligations that have been identified as national priorities within its first national Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.</p>					

275. Has your country provided financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention (20(1))?	
a) no	X
b) yes - incentives only	
c) yes - financial support only	
d) yes - financial support and incentives	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
276. 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	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
277. 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 GEF enabling funding only
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
278. Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
279. Has your country used financial resources related to implementation of the Convention from bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision III/6. Additional financial resources

280. Is your country working to ensure that all funding institutions (including bilateral assistance agencies) are striving to make their activities more supportive of the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
281. Is your country cooperating in any efforts to develop standardized information on financial support for the objectives of the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please attach information)	

Decision V/11. Additional financial resources

282. Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity?	
a) no	X
b) procedures being established	
c) yes (please provide details)	
283. Are details available of your country's financial support to national biodiversity activities?	
a) no	
b) not in a standardized format	X
c) yes (please provide details)	
284. Are details available of your country's financial support to biodiversity activities in other countries?	
a) not applicable	X
b) no	
c) not in a standardized format	
d) yes (please provide details)	
Developed country Parties -	
285. 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	
b) yes	
Developing country Parties -	
286. Does your country discuss ways and means to support implementation of the objectives of the Convention in its dialogue with funding institutions?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
287. Has your country compiled information on the additional financial support provided by the private sector?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
288. Has your country considered tax exemptions in national taxation systems for biodiversity-related donations?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national conditions	X
c) exemptions under development	
d) exemptions in place	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Funding and financing opportunities under the GEF are perceived as complex and difficult to access.

Funding and financing opportunities from bilateral, multi-lateral and other organisations are limited, and not particularly in accord with national priorities.

Article 21 Financial mechanism

289. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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290. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	2
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

291. Has your country worked to strengthen existing financial institutions to provide financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

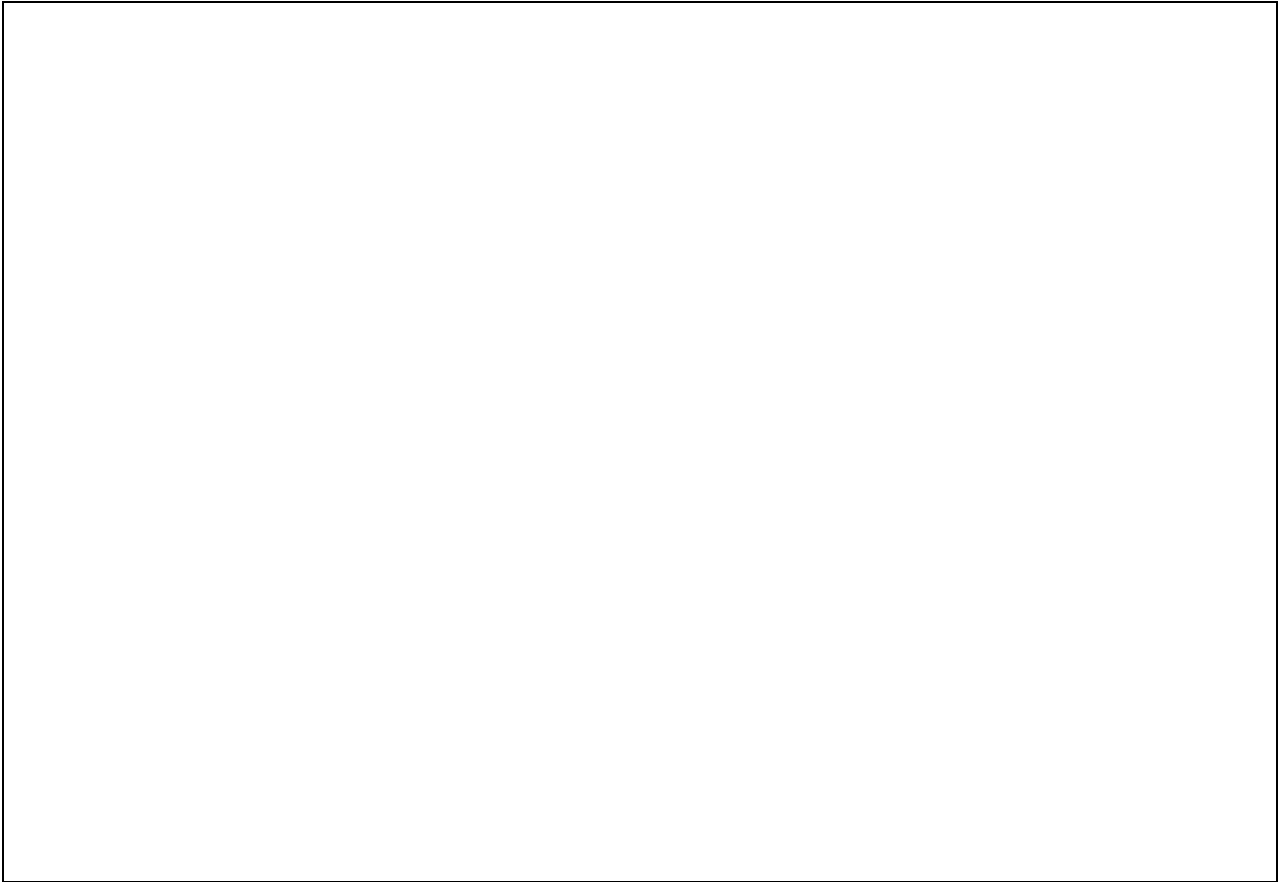
a) no	X
b) yes	

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

292. Has your country provided information on experiences gained through activities funded by the financial mechanism?

a) no activities	
b) no, although there are activities	X
c) yes, within the previous national report	
d) yes, through case-studies	
e) yes, through other means (please give details below)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article



Article 23 Conference of the Parties

293. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties?	
a) COP 1 (Nassau)	0
b) COP 2 (Jakarta)	0
c) COP 3 (Buenos Aires)	1
d) COP 4 (Bratislava)	0
e) COP 5 (Nairobi)	1

**Decision I/6, Decision II/10, Decision III/24 and Decision IV/17.
Finance and budget**

294. Has your country paid all of its contributions to the Trust Fund?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision IV/16 (part) Preparation for meetings of the Conference of the Parties

295. Has your country participated in regional meetings focused on discussing implementation of the Convention before any meetings of the Conference of the Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes (please specify which)	Yes Meetings for the South Pacific Region countries.
If a developed country Party -	
296. Has your country funded regional and sub-regional meetings to prepare for the COP, and facilitated the participation of developing countries in such meetings?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details below)	

Decision V/22. Budget for the programme of work for the biennium 2001-2002

297. Did your country pay its contribution to the core budget (BY Trust Fund) for 2001 by 1 st January 2001?	
a) yes in advance	
b) yes on time	
c) no but subsequently paid	
d) not yet paid	X

298. Has your country made additional voluntary contributions to the trust funds of the Convention?	
a) yes in the 1999-2000 biennium	
b) yes for the 2001-2002 biennium	
c) expect to do so for the 2001-2002 biennium	
d) no	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 24 Secretariat

299. Has your country provided direct support to the Secretariat in terms of seconded staff, financial contribution for Secretariat activities, etc?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 25 Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice

300. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of SBSTTA?	
a) SBSTTA I (Paris)	0
b) SBSTTA II (Montreal)	1
c) SBSTTA III (Montreal)	0
d) SBSTTA IV (Montreal)	0
e) SBSTTA V (Montreal)	0

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 26 Reports

301. 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	
If b), c) or d), was your report submitted:	
by the original deadline of 1.1.98 (Decision III/9)?	
by the extended deadline of 31.12.98 (Decision IV/14)?	X
Later (please specify date)	

Decision IV/14 National reports

302. 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
303. 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:	
a) informal distribution?	
b) publishing the report?	
c) making the report available on request?	X
d) posting the report on the Internet?	

Decision V/19. National reporting

304. 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	
c) yes - alien species	X In preparation
d) yes - benefit sharing	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach

305. 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	
306. 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	X
b) under consideration	
c) some aspects are being applied	
d) substantially implemented	
307. 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	X
b) case-studies identified	
c) pilot projects underway	
d) workshops planned/held	
e) information available through CHM	
308. 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 support to other Parties	

309. Has your country promoted regional co-operation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders?	
a) no	
b) informal co-operation	X
c) formal co-operation (please give details)	

Inland water ecosystems

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

310. Has your country included information on biological diversity in wetlands when providing information and reports to the CSD, and considered including inland water biological diversity issues at meetings to further the recommendations of the CSD?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
311. Has your country included inland water biological diversity considerations in its work with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with inland water?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
312. When requesting support for projects relating to inland water ecosystems from the GEF, has your country given priority to identifying important areas for conservation, preparing and implementing integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management plans, and investigating processes contributing to biodiversity loss?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
313. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in annex 1 to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes	

***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)***

314. Is your country supporting and/or participating in the River Basin Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

315. Is your country gathering information on the status of inland water biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) assessments ongoing	X
c) assessments completed	
316. Is this information available to other Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes - national report	
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X On request
317. Has your country developed national and/or sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems?	
a) no	X
b) yes - national plans only	
c) yes - national plans and major sectors	
d) yes - national plans and all sectors	
318. 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

319. 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	
b) yes	X

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

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Marine and coastal biological diversity

Decision II/10 and Decision IV/5. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity

320. 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	X
321. Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) arrangements in place	
322. Has your country provided the Executive Secretary with advice and information on future options concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
323. Has your country undertaken and/or exchanged information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management?	
a) no	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
324. Has your country programmes in place to enhance and improve knowledge on the genetic structure of local populations of marine species subjected to stock enhancement and/or sea-ranching activities?	
a) no	X
b) programmes are being developed	
c) programmes are being implemented for some species	
d) programmes are being implemented for many species	
e) not a perceived problem	
325. 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?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes	

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

326. Is your country contributing to the implementation of the work plan on coral bleaching?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) not relevant	
327. Is your country implementing other measures in response to coral bleaching?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details below)	X monitoring of sea level change and sea temperatures
c) not relevant	
328. Has your country submitted case-studies on the coral bleaching phenomenon to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) not relevant	

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

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Agricultural biological diversity

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

329. Has your country identified and assessed relevant ongoing activities and existing instruments at the national level?	
a) no	
b) early stages of review and assessment	X
c) advanced stages of review and assessment	
d) assessment completed	
330. Has your country identified issues and priorities that need to be addressed at the national level?	
a) no	
b) in progress	X
c) yes	
331. Is your country using any methods and indicators to monitor the impacts of agricultural development projects, including the intensification and extensification of production systems, on biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
332. Is your country taking steps to share experiences addressing the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes - case-studies	
c) yes - other mechanisms (please specify)	
333. Has your country conducted case-studies on the issues identified by SBSTTA: i) pollinators, ii) soil biota, and iii) integrated landscape management and farming systems?	
a) no	X
b) yes - pollinators	
c) yes - soil biota	
d) yes - integrated landscape management and farming systems	
334. Is your country establishing or enhancing mechanisms for increasing public awareness and understanding of the importance of the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components?	
a) no	
Some measures for some species e.g. Calophyllum nuts, taro and kava (Piper methysticum) BUT no systematic approach	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	

335. Does your country have national strategies, programmes and plans which ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components?	
a) no	
Some measures for some species but no systematic strategy or programmes.	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
336. Is your country promoting the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
337. Is your country promoting the use of farming practices that not only increase productivity, but also arrest degradation as well as reclaim, rehabilitate, restore and enhance biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
338. 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	
339. Is your country helping to implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
340. Is your country collaborating with other Contracting Parties to identify and promote sustainable agricultural practices and integrated landscape management?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

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

341. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
342. Is your country promoting regional and thematic co-operation within this framework of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some co-operation	X
c) widespread co-operation	
d) full co-operation in all areas	
343. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) limited additional funds	
c) significant additional funds	
If a developed country Party -	
344. 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	X
b) yes within existing cooperation programme(s)	
b) yes, including limited additional funds	
c) yes, with significant additional funds	
345. Has your country supported actions to raise public awareness in support of sustainable farming and food production systems that maintain agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent	X
c) yes, to a significant extent	
346. Is your country co-ordinating its position in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	X
b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes	
347. 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	

348. 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
349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
350. Is your country compiling case-studies and implementing pilot projects relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
351. Has information on scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies been supplied to other Contracting Parties through media such as the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) not applicable	
b) no	X
c) yes - national report	
d) yes - through the CHM	
e) yes - other means (please give details below)	
352. 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) yes - under consideration	
c) yes - measures under development	
353. Has your country carried out scientific assessments on <u>inter alia</u> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) some assessments	
c) major programme of assessments	
354. Has your country disseminated the results of scientific assessments on <u>inter alia</u> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	

355. 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) some measures identified	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive review completed	

356. Has your country assessed whether there is a need for effective regulations at the national level with respect to genetic use restriction technologies to ensure the safety of human health, the environment, food security and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - regulation needed	Nor formal assessment, but it is recognised that regulations are needed
c) yes - regulation not needed (please give more details)	

357. 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	
358. Has information about these regulations been made available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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

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Forest biological diversity

Decision II/9 and Decision IV/7. Forest biological diversity

359. Has your country included expertise on forest biodiversity in its delegations to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) not relevant	
360. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	
Informal review, and some ad hoc responses, but no systematic review.	X
b) under review	
c) yes	
361. Has your country integrated forest biological diversity considerations in its participation and collaboration with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
362. Does your country give high priority to allocation of resources to activities that advance the objectives of the Convention in respect of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
For developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition -	
363. When requesting assistance through the GEF, Is your country proposing projects which promote the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision V/4. Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for forest biological diversity

364. Do the actions that your country is taking to address the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity conform with the ecosystem approach?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
365. Do the actions that your country is taking to address the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity take into consideration the outcome of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

366. Will your country contribute to the future work of the UN Forum on Forests?	
a) no	
Will depend on funding assistance	X
b) yes	
367. Has your country provided relevant information on the implementation of this work programme?	
a) no	X
b) yes - submission of case-studies	
c) yes - thematic national report submitted	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
368. Has your country integrated national forest programmes into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans applying the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
369. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure participation by the forest sector, private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes - some stakeholders	X
c) yes - all stakeholders	
370. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities including local capacities, to enhance the effectiveness and functions of forest protected area networks, as well as national and local capacities for implementation of sustainable forest management, including restoration?	
a) no	
b) some programmes covering some needs	X
c) many programmes covering some needs	
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	
e) no perceived need	
371. Has your country taken measures to implement the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on valuation of forest goods and services?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) some measures taken	X

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

Decision V/23. Consideration of options for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems

372. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you will implement it?	
NOT RELEVANT	X
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	
373. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work?	
a) no	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	
374. Is your country fostering cooperation for the regional or subregional implementation of the programme among countries sharing similar biomes?	
a) no	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	

Further comments on implementation of these Decisions and the associated programme of work

Q. 360... The Programme of Work on the implementation of decisions II/9 and IV/7 and related provisions of the CBD has not been formally reviewed at a national level. However work is in place that addresses some of the issues defined in these decisions, often in the context of work related to the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, the work of the ITTO, and regional forest management programmes.

Q.362 ...Issues relating to sustainable harvesting of forest timber resources have been addressed within the Code of Logging Practice, which is overseen by the Forestry Department. This includes some consideration of biological diversity and some aspects of the ecosystem approach, yet is limited in focus to timber harvesting activities. The extent to which this code is enforced or implemented varies, and reflects the availability of in-country and on-island resources.

Q.365 Vanuatu's actions within the Forest sector are geared toward the goals and objectives of the International Forum on Forests and other international conventions. However the extent of progress in meeting these objectives is often limited due to resource constraints.

Vanuatu has recently submitted a report on the status of Vanuatu in implementing the ITTO criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

Decision V/20. Operations of the Convention

375. Does your country take into consideration gender balance, involvement of indigenous people and members of local communities, and the range of relevant disciplines and expertise, when nominating experts for inclusion in the roster?	
NOT RELEVANT, very few in-country experts.	X
a) no	
b) yes	
376. 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	
c) to a significant extent	X
377. 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	
Internal review of national programmes ongoing but no reports to the Executive Secretary	X
b) under way	
c) yes	

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:

- Prepared a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action
- Reviewed and collected at a central location information on national biodiversity
- Consulted widely at community and national level over biodiversity related issues.
- Established a cross-sectoral national biodiversity advisory committee
- Conducted research to better document national biodiversity, with a particular focus on freshwater biodiversity.
- Facilitated research and put in place policy to facilitate, monitor and collect information from research
- Preliminary work to identify system to ensure Prior Informed Consent, protect rights of traditional landholders, and manage biodiversity prospecting.
- Participated in regional projects to document and collect genetic diversity within selected agricultural and forest projects.
- Participated at a regional and international level in activities that build capacity to manage biodiversity, and that shared experience and expertise.
- Establishing a national Clearing House Mechanism and currently developing and internet component.
- Fostered cross sectoral discussion about and participation in issues relating to biodiversity.
- Reviewed legislation relating to biodiversity and made decisions to reconcile some anomalous pieces of legislation and to address gaps with environmental legislation currently in draft form.
- Participated in regional initiatives to promote conservation of biodiversity including the GEF supported South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme.
- Development of a strategy on invasive species in progress.

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

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme is a key agency organising forums for the discussion of biodiversity related issues at a regional level. These include strategies on invasive species; bird conservation; access to benefit sharing and prior informed consent legislation; coastal and marine conservation; sharing of experiences through training and meetings for individuals involved in biodiversity conservation. Vanuatu as a SPREP member country is participating in many of these collaborative initiatives.

The World Wide Fund for Nature South Pacific Programme has also taken a lead in co-ordinating regional collaboration including an periodic training and networking meetings for individuals involved in biodiversity conservation. Vanuatu has benefited through participation in a number of these initiatives.

South Pacific Community is also active in fostering regional collaboration. Vanuatu has participated in SPC initiatives to facilitate exchange relating to agro-biodiversity, including taro genetic collections and participation in the taxonomic initiative.

Vanuatu has participated in the South Pacific Regional Initiative for Forest Genetic Resources (Phase 1 1996 to 2000; Phase 2 2001 to 2006) a collaborative venture between the Forestry Departments of Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Solomon Islands and the Australian Government, developed with inputs from the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources. The SPRIG Programme aims to strengthen the capacity of the participating South Pacific Countries in the areas of collection, assessment, improvement and conservation of priority forest genetic resources and to help conserve and better utilise the genetic resources of priority regionally important, high value forest tree species.

The University of the South Pacific has also contributed in co-ordinating regional opportunities to conserve biodiversity, including involving in-country specialists in creation of a regional herbarium, and human capacity building and training.

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

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 that you have encountered in interpreting the wording of these questions

This report is extremely comprehensive in addressing the articles of the Convention and decisions of the Convention of Parties. The process of report preparation has proved valuable in forcing more in-depth consideration of the provisions of the convention, and the limitations of our national responses so far. It demonstrates the limited capacity of a country such as Vanuatu to meet the obligations it has assumed in becoming signatory to the Convention, and the importance on international support to enable Vanuatu to build the capacity .

However at the same time its preparation has been difficult.

- There have been delays in preparation of this report due to the complexity and detail requested.
- The format of the report presented significant challenges to fostering wide participation in the reports' preparation, leading to indirect discussion of many issues in the context of working groups assisting the National Biodiversity Advisory Committee.
- It has been difficult to get agencies and responsible authorities to systematically review the report because of its length and lack of specific focus.

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

Date of completion:	<i>June 2000</i>		
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government			
By which authority?	<i>Endorsed by Council of Ministers</i>		
On what date?			
If the NBSAP has been published please give			
Title:	<i>Dec, 2000</i>		
Name and address of publisher:	<i>Environment Unit, PMB 9063, Port Vila, VANUATU.</i>		
ISBN:	<i>none</i>		
Price (if applicable):	<i>1,500VT</i>		
Other information on ordering:	<i>Available on enquiry. International orders would need to pay postage costs.</i>		
If the NBSAP has not been published			
Please give full details of how copies can be obtained:	<i>Written or personal enquiry to the Environment Unit, PMB 9063, Port Vila.</i>		
If the NBSAP has been posted on a national website			
Please give full URL:	<i>no</i>		
If the NBSAP has been lodged with an Implementing Agency of the GEF			
Please indicate which agency:	<i>UNEP</i>		
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

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

At present the CBD Operational Focal Point also retains responsibility for review implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity.