



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/MSP/INF/4
19 November 2001

ENGLISH ONLY

OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN, NATIONAL REPORTS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Montreal, 19-21 November 2001

Agenda item 4

NATIONAL REPORTS

Preliminary synthesis of second national reports

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The objective of reporting, as specified in Article 26 of the Convention, is to provide information on measures taken for implementation of the Convention, and the effectiveness of these measures. The reporting process is key to enabling the Conference of the Parties to assess the overall status of implementation of the Convention.
2. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of Parties considered guidelines for future national reporting that had been developed by the Secretariat through a pilot project, carried out with the collaboration of a number of Parties, to identify a methodology for assessing the state of implementation of the Convention. This involved (i) identifying the obligations on Parties deriving from the provisions of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and (ii) formulating these as questions designed to elicit responses that would reveal the level of implementation, relative priorities, constraints encountered and issues not yet addressed.
3. Through decision V/19, the Conference of the Parties endorsed this format as a guide for future national reporting and as a means by which the status of national implementation could be assessed. Parties were requested to submit their second national reports by 15 May 2001 for consideration at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. This paper contains a number of syntheses and assessments of the information contained in the second national reports. The aim of the paper is not to deliver a synthesis of the reports *per se*, but to provide a range of examples of ways in which the information could be used, so as to support consideration of national reporting by the MSP. It is anticipated that further syntheses and assessments will be completed in the light of discussions at this meeting in order to support the work of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

/...

5. Parties were also invited to submit thematic reports on alien species, forest biodiversity and benefit sharing (decision V/19), the three issues to be considered in depth at next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in The Hague. These reports are not considered further in this paper, which is only concerned with the second national reports themselves.

II. REPORTS RECEIVED

6. The information presented in this paper is based on the 55 reports received by the end of October 2001 and listed in annex II below. The majority of Parties have used the format recommended by the Conference of the Parties in decision V/19. The majority of the reports were submitted in English, 13 in French, four in Spanish and one in Russian.

7. All of these reports, and the voluntary thematic reports, are posted on the Convention website. The Secretariat is also in the process of developing a searchable database of national reports that will offer the ability to extract information on the status of implementation by fields of enquiry (for example, by regional group, biogeographical region, Article of the Convention, decision, or programme of work). It is the Secretariat's intention to make this database publicly available on the Convention website.

III. CROSS-CUTTING ANALYSIS

A. Introduction

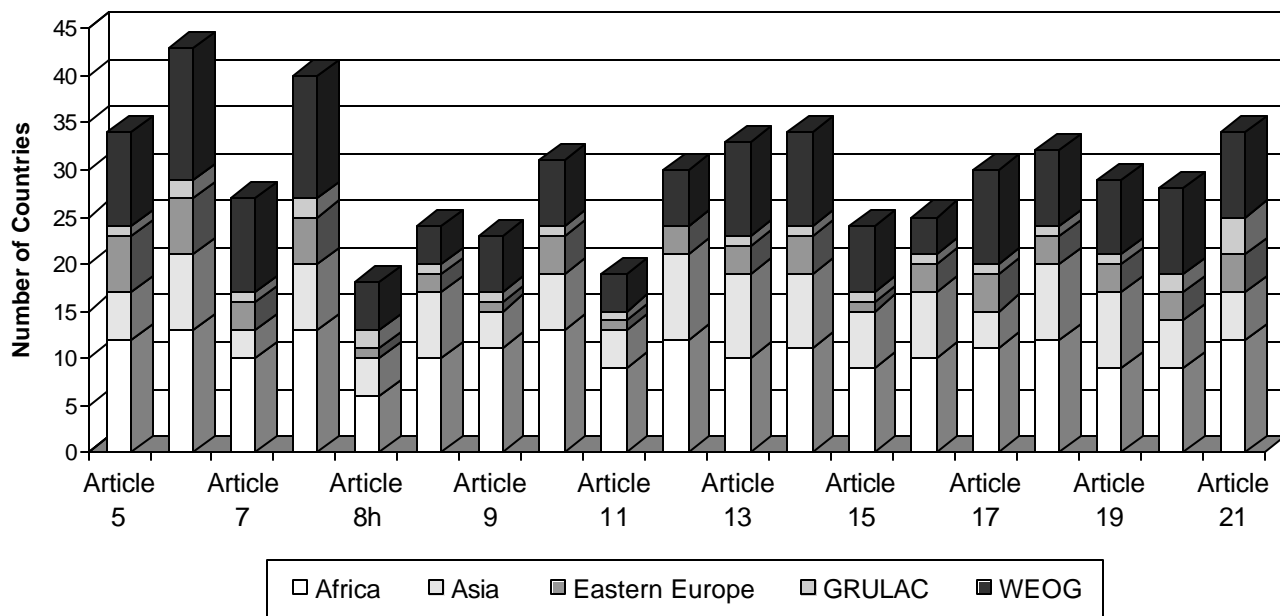
8. The following analyses look at information across the full breadth of the Convention, allowing comparison of the ways in which Contracting Parties approach implementation, and the limiting factors on implementation. This is based on standard questions that are asked for each Article and thematic work programme.

9. The level of interpretation and commentary is necessarily preliminary in this paper, given that well under half of the reports are as yet available, and the geographical spread of reporting countries is biased. This and subsequent sections give an indication of the types of analyses that could be carried out with the available information.

B. Identification of priority areas

10. Figures 1-3 illustrate patterns among the national reports on a regional and global basis based on the information provided in response to the questions on priorities. The aim of this is to help identify what Contracting Parties see as priorities currently by Article (questions 11, 18, 30, etc.) and thematic work programme (questions 1, 3, 5, etc.). Articles are listed in annex I below.

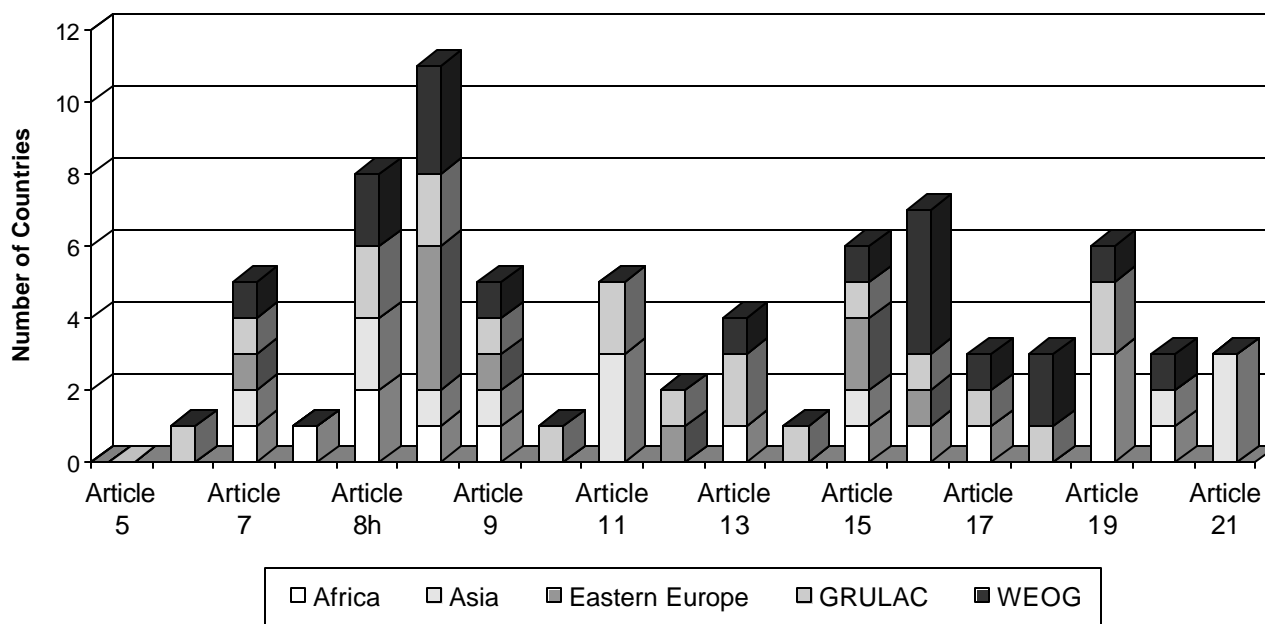
Figure 1: Number of Parties according high priority to the implementation of specific Articles of the Convention and associated decisions of the Conference of the Parties



11. The two Articles identified by the most Parties as high priority were clearly implementation of Articles 6 and 8 (noting that Articles 8(h) and 8(j) are dealt with separately). These Articles were identified as being high priority in 40 or more of the reports received so far. This reflects the importance of these two Articles to the operations of the Convention itself. Otherwise the relatively low level of consensus reflects the wide variations in the needs and aspirations of Parties and the breadth of issues covered by the Convention.

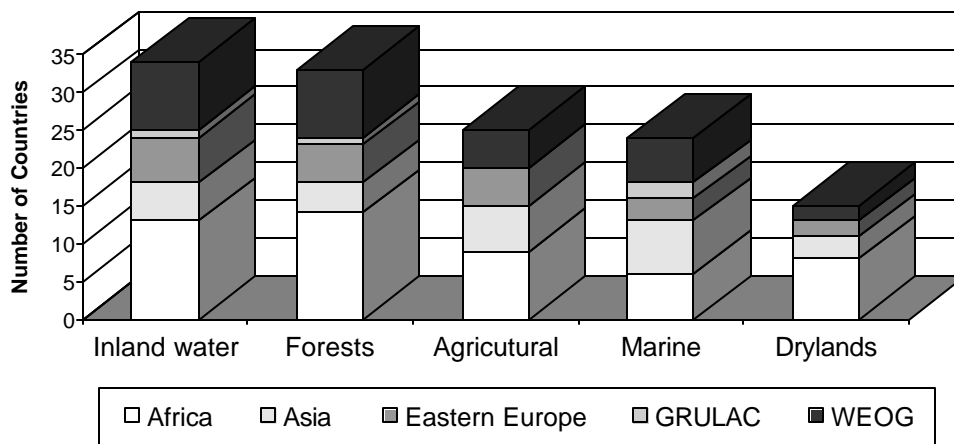
12. Also of particular interest are those Articles that are currently considered as low priorities by Parties in their implementation of the Convention. It should be noted that level of priority in implementing Articles may depend strongly on national circumstances, and that a Party regarding this as low priority may actually be carrying out more work in this area than a Party that regards it as a high priority. Also, while regional differences are more apparent in figure 2, this may be a result of the relatively low numbers of Parties that have submitted reports in some regions.

Figure 2: Number of Parties according low priority to the implementation of specific Articles of the Convention and associated decisions of the Conference of the Parties



13. The graph illustrating national priorities in implementation of thematic work programmes (Figure 3) shows relatively high priority accorded to implementation of the work programmes on inland waters and forests, but a lower level of priority accorded to the work programme on dry and sub-humid lands. This may reflect the fact that this work programme was only recently established at COP5.

Figure 3: Number of Parties according high priority to the implementation of specific thematic work programmes



C. Identification of resource constraint issues

14. Figures 4 and 5 illustrate patterns among the national reports on a regional and global basis based on the information provided in response to the questions on resource availability. This aims to help identify issues where resource availability may be a constraint to implementation, and may require further review. Again this can be organized by Article (questions 12, 19, 31, etc.) and thematic work programme (questions 2, 4, 6, etc.). Only responses for Articles are illustrated here.

Figure 4: Number of countries describing resource availability for the implementation of specific Articles as "limiting" or "severely limiting"

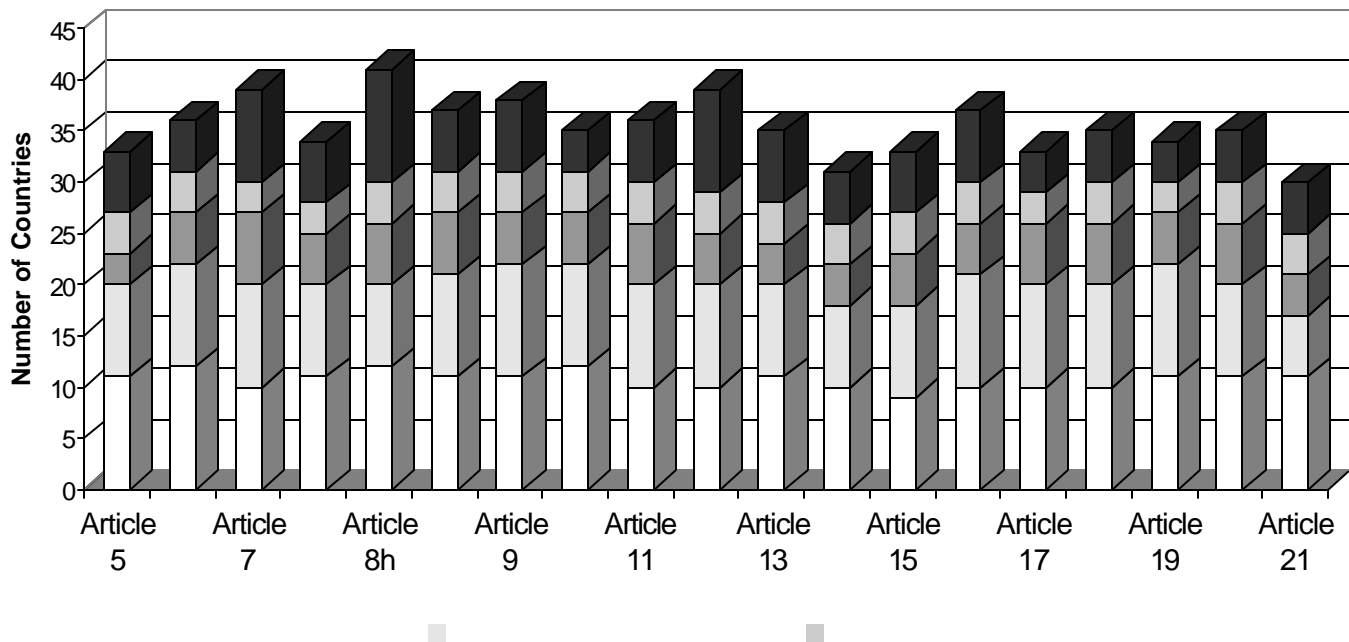
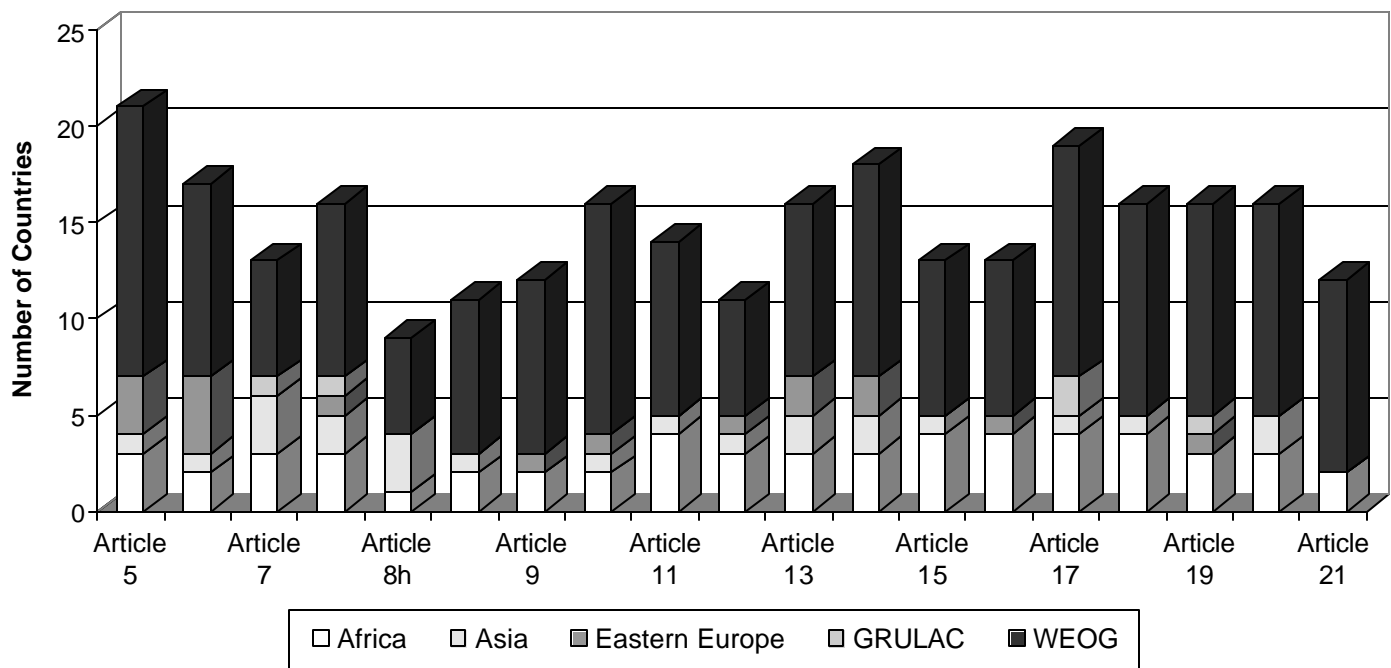


Figure 5: Number of countries describing resource availability for the implementation of specific Articles as "good" or "adequate"



15. The next step in assessing resource availability is to look at those Articles identified by Parties as high priorities but where those same Parties identify resources for implementation of those Articles or thematic work programmes as limiting or severely limiting. This is illustrated in figures 6 and 7. These figures demonstrate a real concern that available resources are insufficient for implementation even of what Parties identify as high priorities for their implementation at the national level. This is even so in a number of Western European countries.

Figure 6: Number of countries according a high priority and describing resource availability as "limiting" or "severely limiting" for implementation of specific Articles and associated decisions of the Conference of the Parties

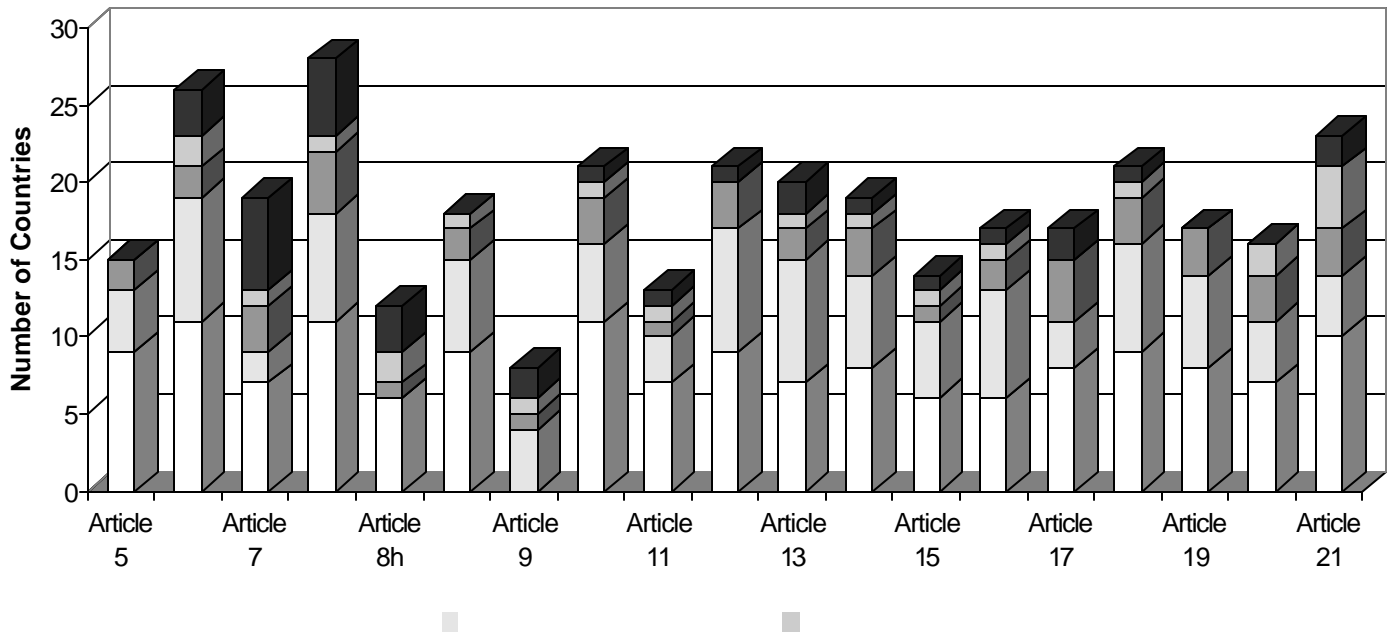
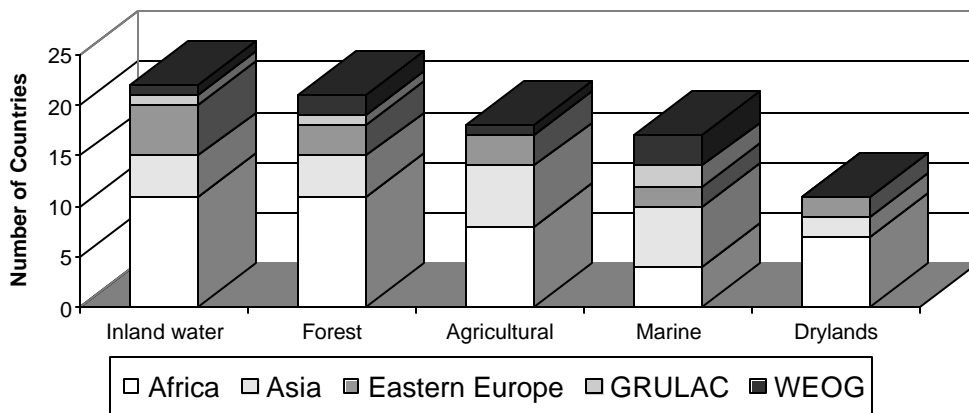
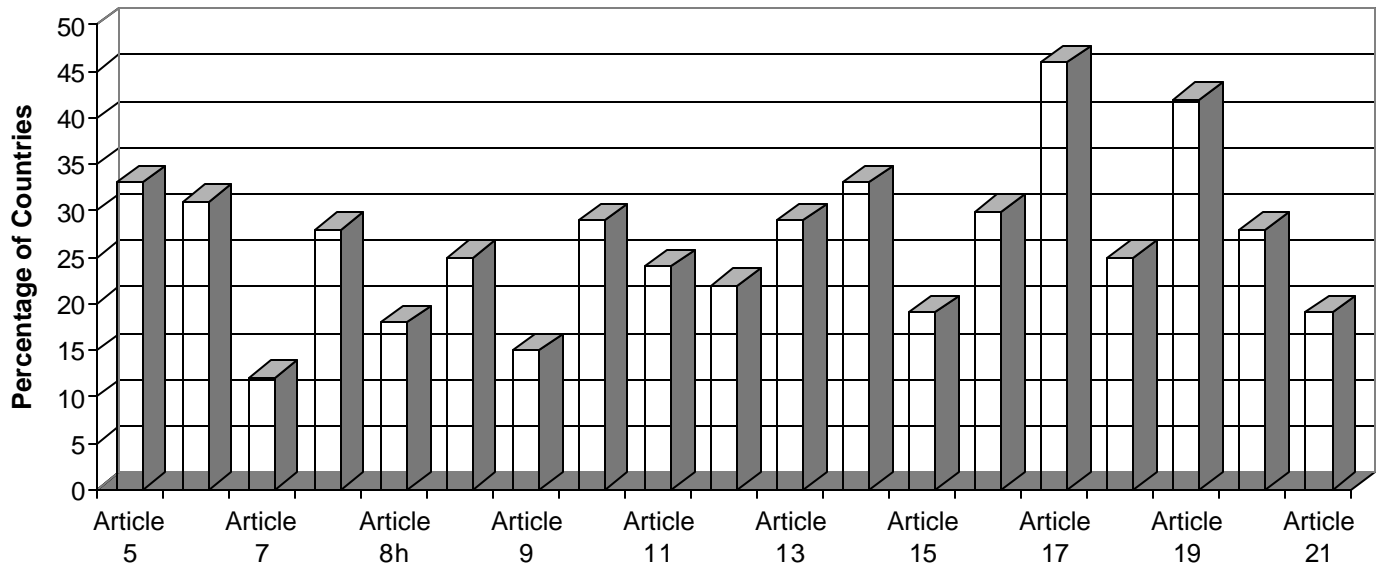


Figure 7: Number of countries according a high priority and describing resource availability as "limiting" or "severely limiting" for implementation of specific thematic work programmes



16. Finally, and more positively are those issues where Parties have identified particular Articles as high priority, and where resources available are recorded as good or adequate. This is illustrated in figure 8.

Figure 8: Percentage of Parties according a high priority and describing resource availability as "good" or "adequate" for the implementation of specific Articles of the Convention and associated decisions of the Conference of the Parties.



IV. ISSUE-BASED ANALYSIS

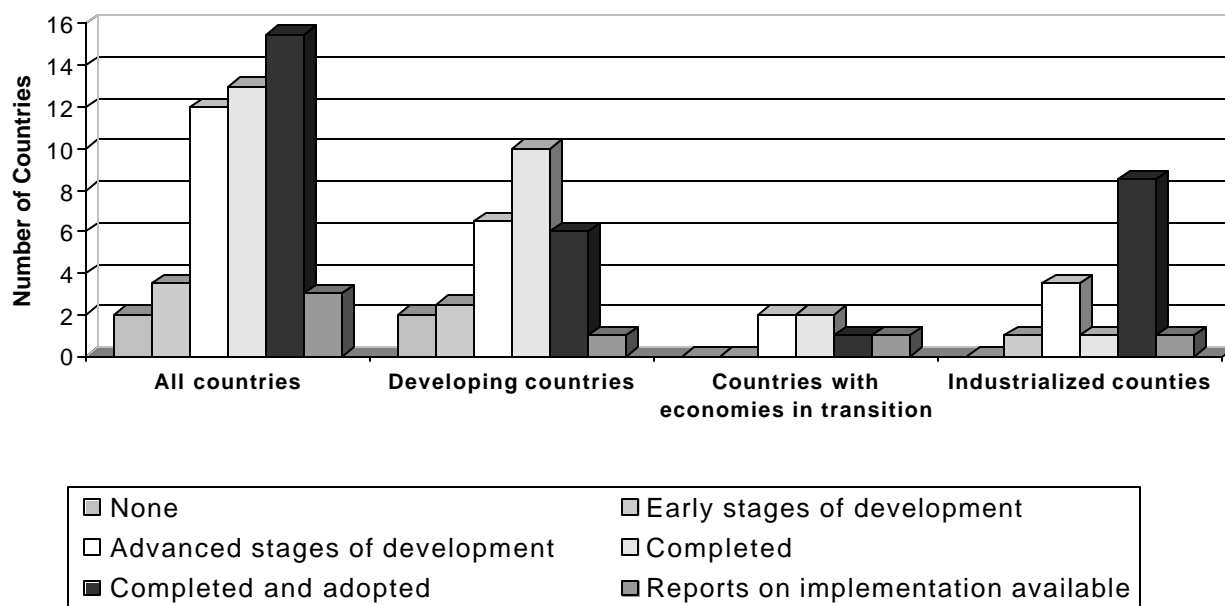
A. Introduction

17. The following analyses look at information relating to specific Articles or thematic work programmes, therefore largely responding to single blocks of questions in the Guidelines for National Reports. A few areas have been selected for review here on the basis of potential to feed into other ongoing processes, and therefore also on the potential to see the value and relevance of available information. We have not tried to address all questions at this stage, but to provide sufficient information to assess what could be delivered in a complete synthesis report or one addressed to a specific Article or thematic work programme.

B. Article 6 – General measures for conservation and sustainable use

18. The majority of Parties reporting so far have completed a national biodiversity strategy (Figure 9), and most of the rest are in advanced stages of development of their strategy. While there is still a majority of Parties who have also completed their national biodiversity action plans, this is a rather smaller proportion of the Parties who have reported (figure 10). For both strategies and action plans, half of those that have been completed have also been adopted. Of those strategies and action plans that are not yet been completed, almost all the strategies and half of the action plans are at an advanced stage of development. Only a few implementation reports are available from Parties.

Figure 9: Status of national biodiversity strategies



19. This is clearly linked to the adequacy of resources available for implementation of this Article of the Convention, information on which is presented again in figure 11, with the information previously presented in figure 2 modified to follow the same grouping of countries.

Figure 10: Status of national biodiversity action plans

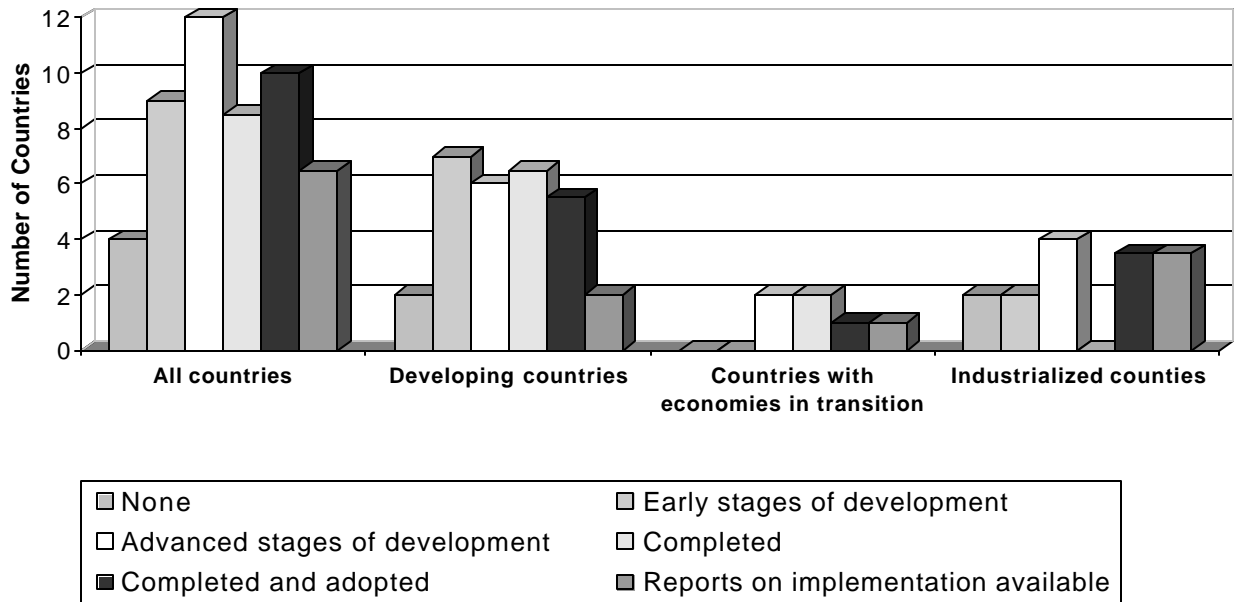
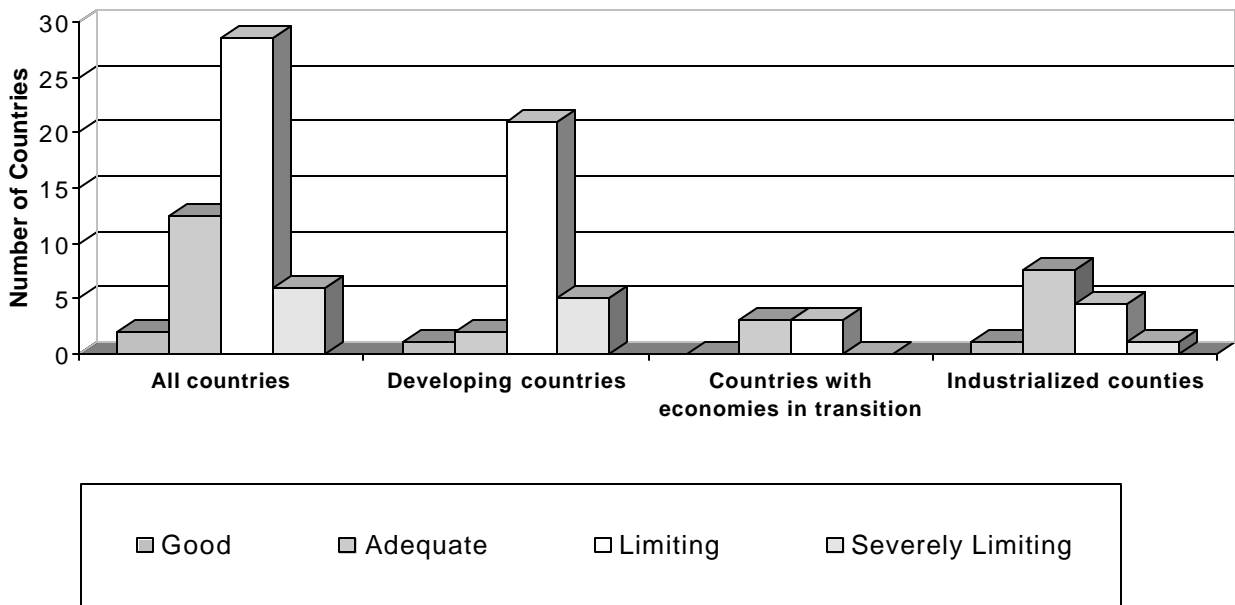
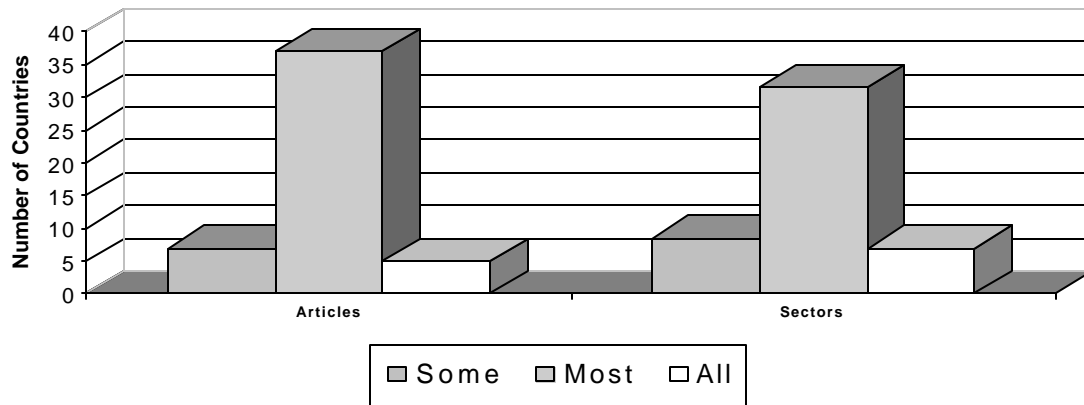


Figure 11: Resource availability for implementing Article 6



20. A final example in this section is an assessment of the extent to which the strategies and action plans either cover or expect to cover all Articles of the Convention, and integration with other sectoral activities. The answers to both questions in the reports are included in a single graphic (figure 12), and seem to indicate that the strategies and plans cover most Articles of the Convention, and integration with all major sectors. The extent of this integration would require further review beyond the detail of the guidelines, but the initial picture is encouraging.

Figure 12: Extent to which national strategies and action plans cover all articles and integration into other sectors



C. Article 7 – Identification and monitoring

21. Effective implementation of the Convention requires identification of the components of biodiversity (Articles 7(a)), the establishment of monitoring programmes for these components (Article 7(b)), the identification and monitoring of activities that impact on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (Article 7(c)), and the effective management of this information (Article 7(d)).

22. Figure 13 illustrates the status of identification and monitoring programmes for all Parties based on the responses in the reports received so far. Predictably, there is a higher level of activity on inventory programmes than monitoring programmes, and genetic level inventory and monitoring is less well advanced than at the species and ecosystem levels. Only 10% of countries reporting claim to have comprehensive species inventory programmes. However, many Parties report that they are inventorying and monitoring key groups at all levels, and it may be valuable to follow up to identify to what extent these key groups are selected strategically as opposed to being selected in an ad hoc manner.

23. Figures 14 and 15 illustrate differences between the Western European and African countries that have reported so far. Differences are very clear, with far less inventory and monitoring of biodiversity in Africa. Numbers of countries reporting mean that it is difficult to make more substantive conclusions at this stage.

Figure 13: Status of identification and monitoring programmes

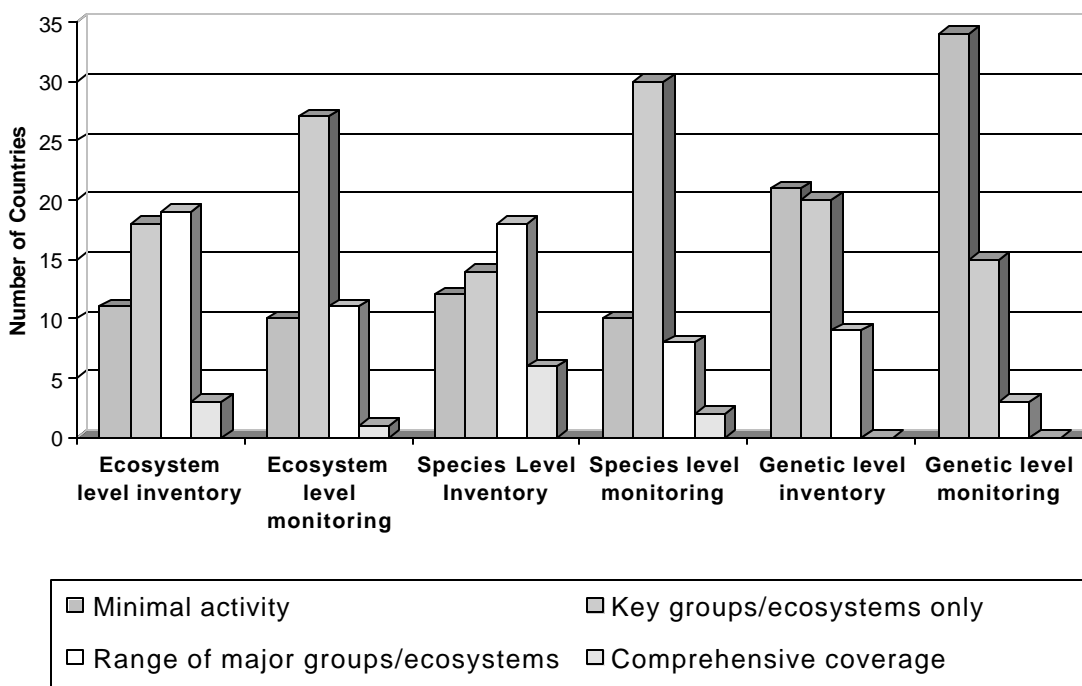


Figure 14: Status of identification and monitoring programmes in African countries

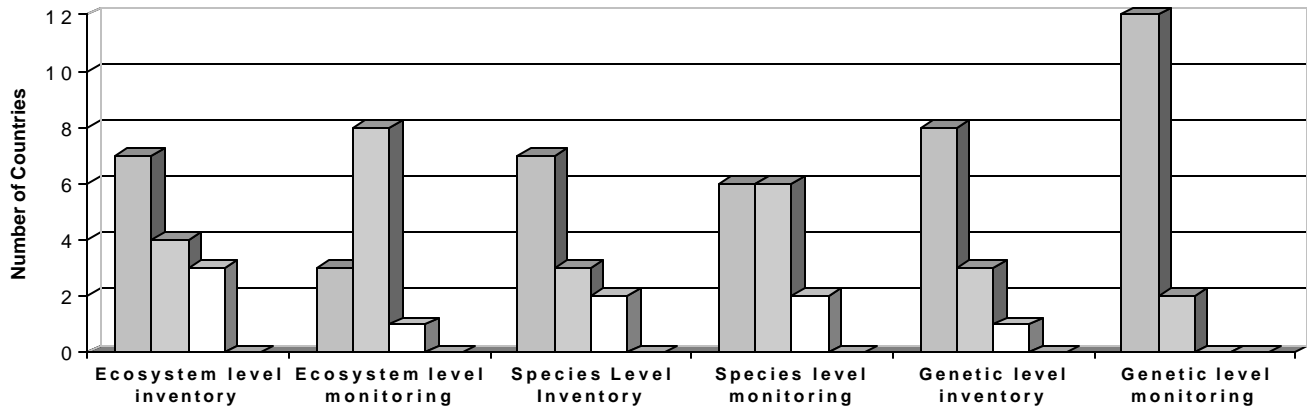
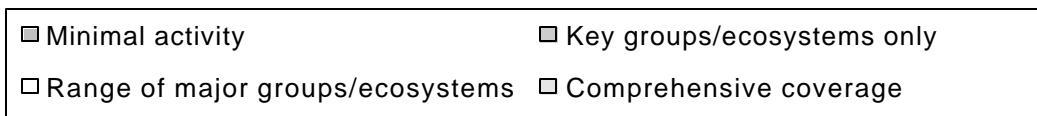
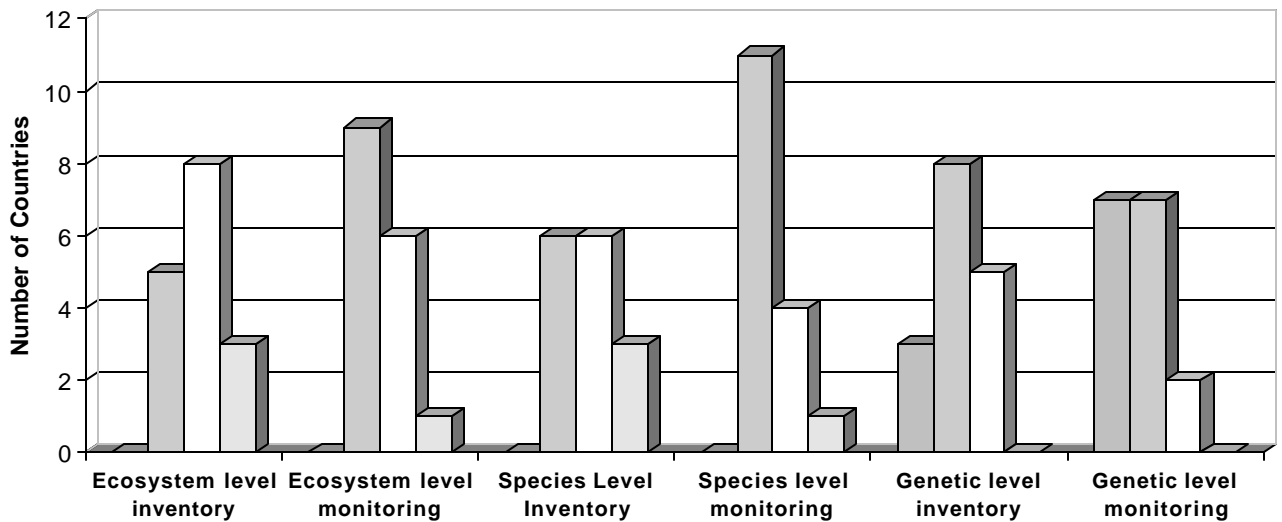


Figure 15: Status of identification and monitoring programmes in European countries



24. Figure 16 and 17 show the extent to which Parties have identified activities with adverse effects on biodiversity and the degree to which they are monitoring these activities and their effects. It would appear that while an understanding of where the threats to biodiversity are coming from is developing, there are few programmes in place to monitor these activities and their effects. This should be of particular concern to the Conference of Parties as it implies that known drivers and direct causes of biodiversity loss are not being effectively monitored, or their impacts systematically assessed.

Figure 16: Identification of activities adversely affecting biodiversity

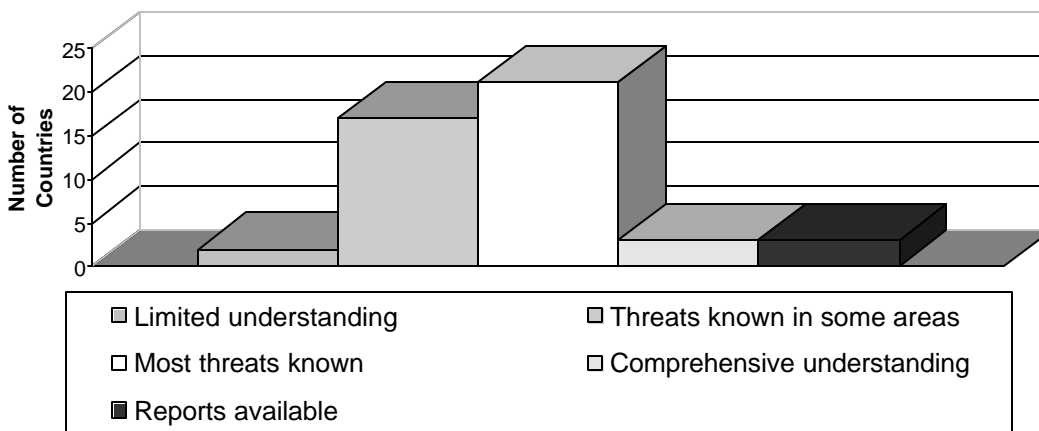
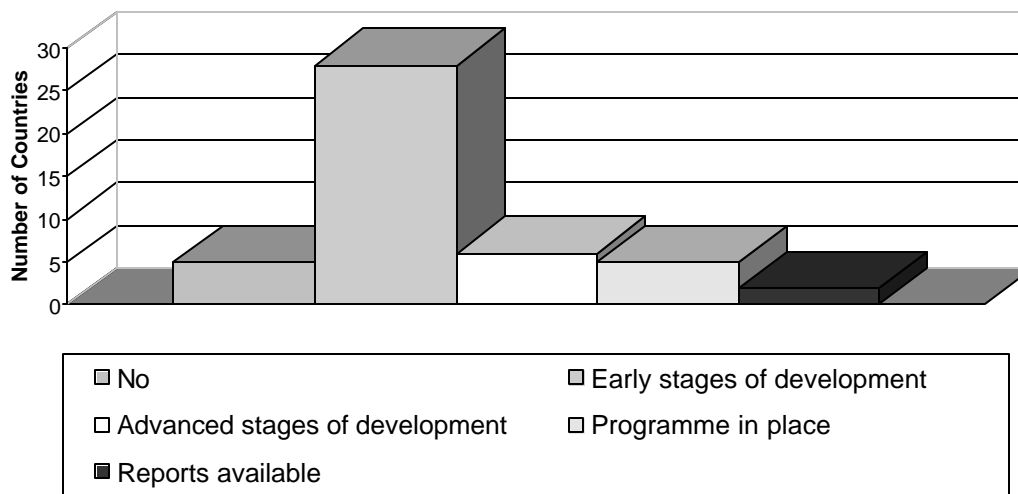


Figure 17: Monitoring of activities adversely affecting biodiversity



25. Other questions in this section of the guidelines for the second national reports cover issues such as coordination of information, whether national indicators of biodiversity are in place, and whether rapid assessment techniques are being used. These are not addressed in this paper.

D. Article 8(h) – Alien species

26. Alien invasive species is a matter of significant concern to many Parties, and was the subject of substantial discussion at the sixth meeting of SBSTTA. Given the attention that has been given to this issue, there was a separate section of questions in the national report guidelines. The replies to some of those questions are provided here in order to demonstrate how some of this information may have supported work at the sixth meeting of SBSTTA.

27. The first two graphs (figures 18 and 19) illustrate the extent to which Parties regard alien species as a matter of priority in their countries, and the extent to which resources are available to meet the obligations and recommendations made in the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

Figure 18: Relative priority afforded by Parties to implementation of Article 8h and associated decisions of the Conference of the Parties

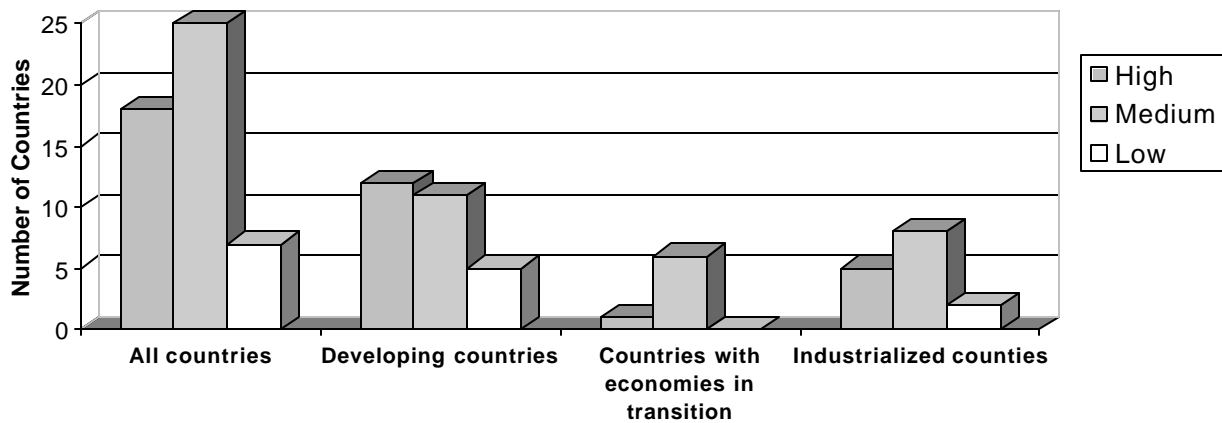
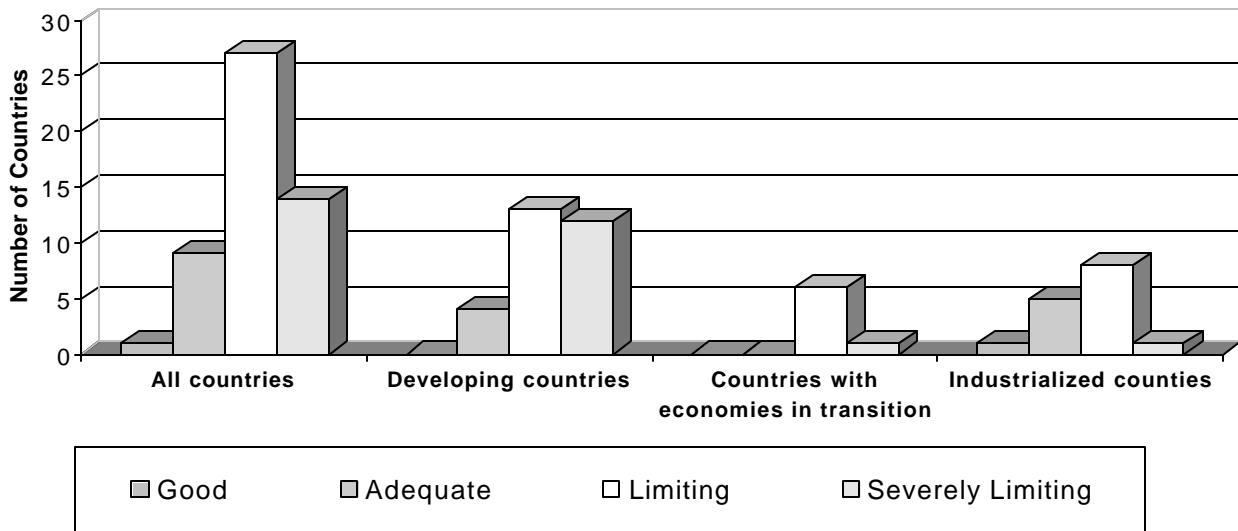


Figure 19: Adequacy of resources available for meeting the obligations of implementing Article 8h and associated decisions of the Conference of the Parties



28. Figure 20 addresses the question of the extent to which Parties have identified the alien species that have been introduced, and figure 21 the extent to which the risks posed by these species have been addressed. In both cases it would seem that in the majority of Parties only alien species of major concern have been either identified or their potential impacts assessed.

Figure 20: Assessment of the extent to which Parties have identified alien species introduced

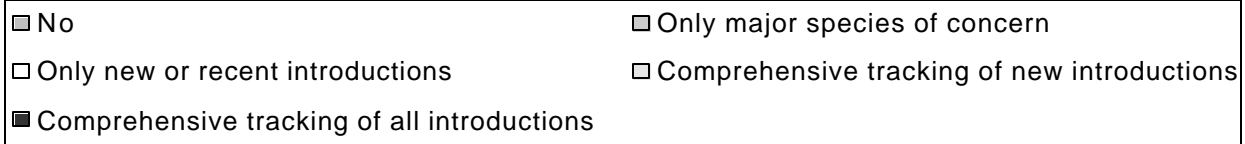
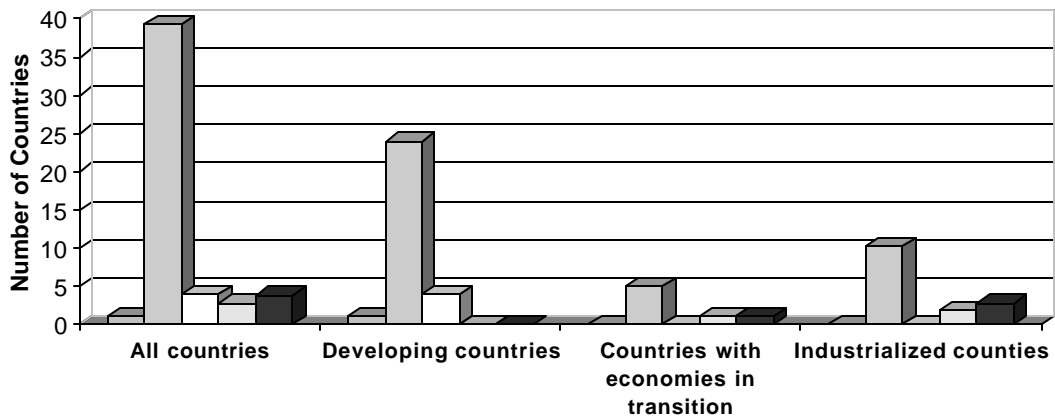
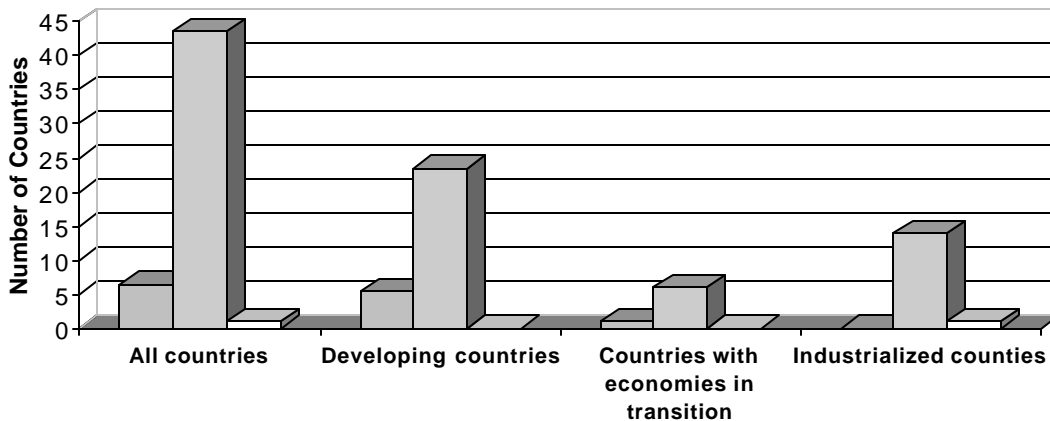
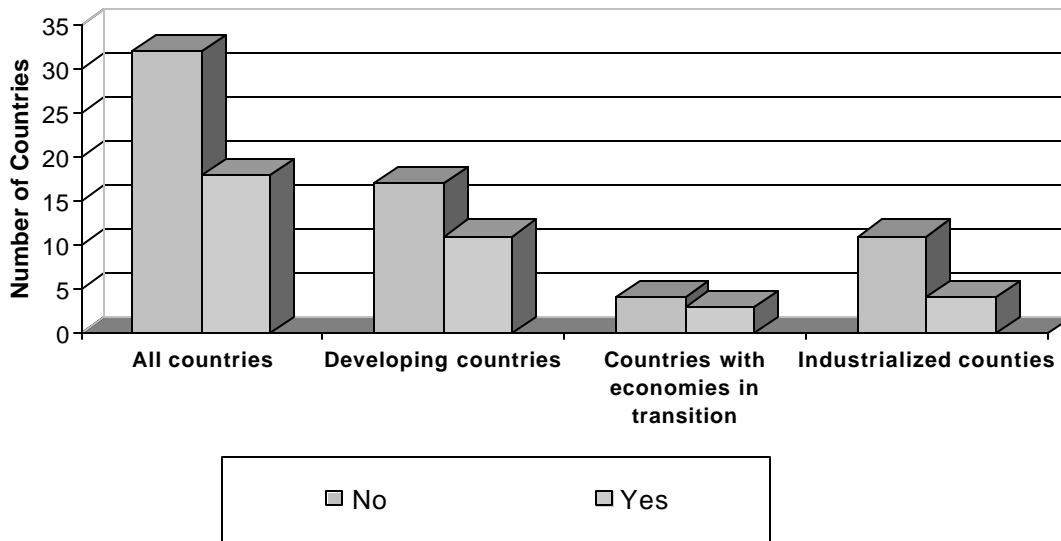


Figure 21: Assessment of the extent to which Parties have assessed risks to ecosystems habitats or species posed by alien species introduced



28. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties asked Parties to review the extent to which they were giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in their work on alien invasive species. The extent to which this is being done is illustrated in figure 22. The replies would suggest that there may be a number of such isolated and potentially vulnerable ecosystems at risk, and that this warrants further consideration.

Figure 22: Is your country giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in its work on alien invasive species?



E. Article 13 – Public education and awareness

29. Public education and awareness is a cross-cutting issue of interest to many Parties, and is an area where UNESCO is working closely with the Conference of the Parties and the Convention Secretariat. Although most Parties reporting to date see this as an area of high relative priority (35 Parties out of 52 reporting), it is also an area where resources are limiting effective implementation of the necessary actions and programmes (39 Parties out of 52 reporting).

30. In this paper the responses to two of the questions in the national report are used to illustrate the potential value of the information in the reports in assessing the extent to which obligations and expectations being placed on Parties are being met. Figure 23 identifies the extent to which public education and awareness needs are covered in the national strategy and action plan, and figure 24 identifies the extent to which Parties have integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies.

31. Responses suggest that in many countries public education and awareness has not been as integrated into the strategy and action planning process as it might have been, and regional differences are apparent in this, although at this stage this may be the result of too few reports for some regions. More intriguing is the result illustrated in figure 24, which demonstrates that in most cases either biodiversity concerns are already integrated into education strategies, or they are in *early* stages of development. This suggests that this may have been an action that a range of “convinced” countries took early on in the process, with many other Parties yet to catch up.

Figure 23: Are public education and awareness needs covered in the national strategy and action plan?

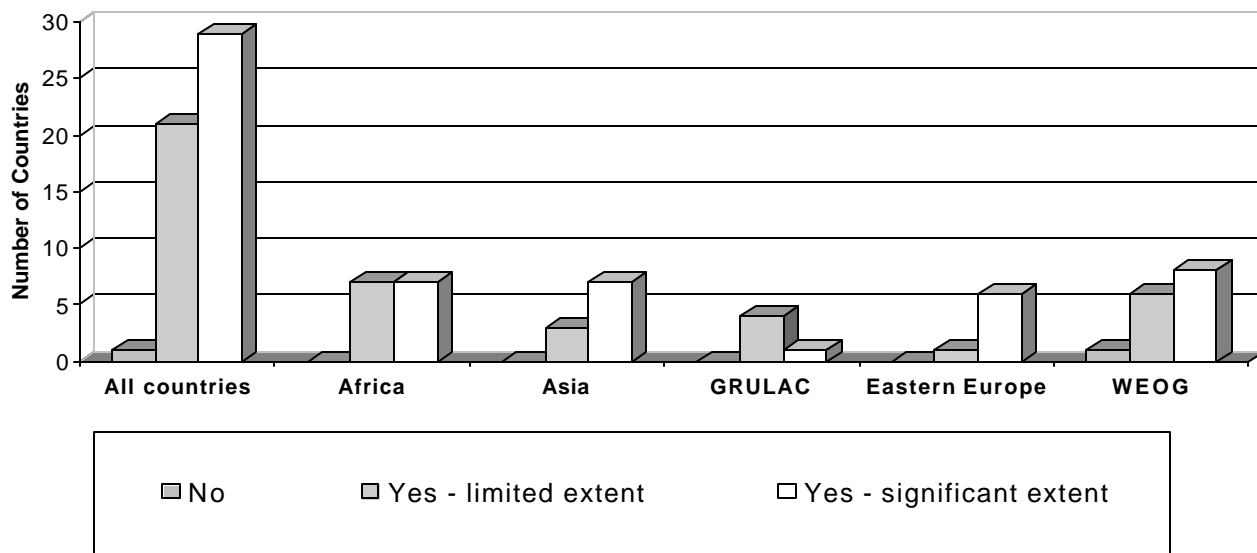
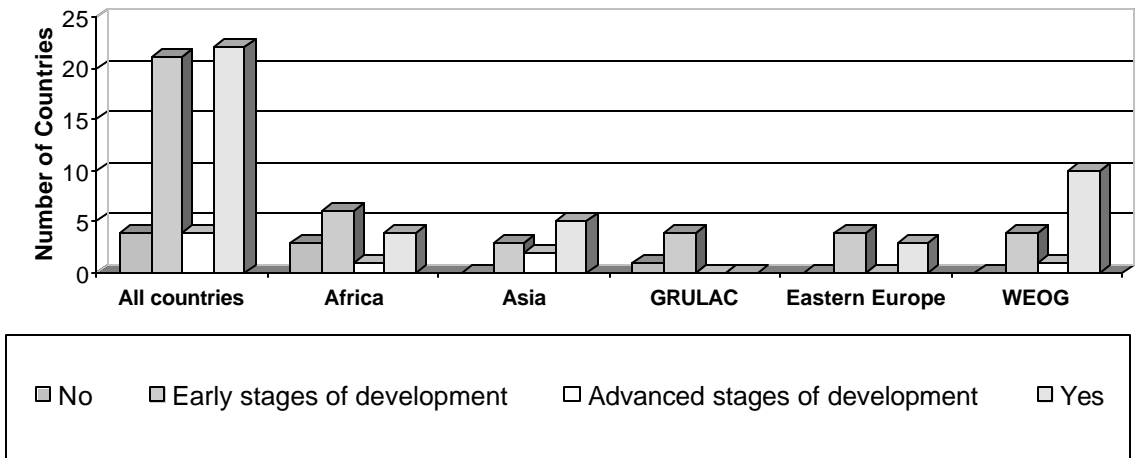


Figure 24: Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies?



V. RESPONSE AND PARTICIPATION ANALYSIS

32. A significant number of decisions of the Conference of the Parties have called upon Parties to provide case-studies and other information in order to assist other Parties in implementing the Convention. A review of selected questions was made to assess the extent to which the Parties reporting have responded to these requests for case studies to date.

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Number of Parties who responded (out of 52)</i>
Public education and awareness	25 (48%)
Development of assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes	22 (42%)
Preservation and sharing of indigenous knowledge	20 (38%)
Assessments of alien species	17 (33%)
Tourism and its impacts	16 (31%)
Measures relating to indigenous and local communities	13 (25%)
Tourism as an example of sustainable use	9 (17%)
Impacts of intellectual property rights	6 (12%)

33. Parties were asked to identify the number of people from their country who participated in each meeting of SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties. For illustrative purposes these figures are presented as average delegation size for each of three groupings of countries. The outcome is perhaps self-explanatory and confirms what a number of Parties have already highlighted.

	<i>SBSTTA1 Paris</i>	<i>SBSTTA2 Montreal</i>	<i>SBSTTA3 Montreal</i>	<i>SBSTTA4 Montreal</i>	<i>SBSTTA5 Montreal</i>
Developing countries	1	1	1	1	1
Countries with economies in transition	1	1	1	1	1
Industrialized countries	3	3	4	4	4

	<i>COP1 Nassau</i>	<i>COP2 Jakarta</i>	<i>COP3 Buenos Aires</i>	<i>COP4 Bratislava</i>	<i>COP5 Nairobi</i>
Developing countries	2	2	5	2	3
Countries with economies in transition	1	1	1	4	3
Industrialized countries	5	8	8	11	8

*Annex I***LIST OF CONVENTION ARTICLES**

Article 5	Cooperation
Article 6	General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use
Article 7	Identification and Monitoring
Article 8	In-situ Conservation
Article 8h	In-situ Conservation – Alien Species
Article 8j	In-situ Conservation – Traditional Knowledge and Related Provisions
Article 9	Ex-situ Conservation
Article 10	Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity
Article 11	Incentive Measures
Article 12	Research and Training
Article 13	Public Education and Awareness
Article 14	Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts
Article 15	Access to Genetic Resources
Article 16	Access to and Transfer of technology
Article 17	Exchange of Information
Article 18	Technical and Scientific Cooperation
Article 19	Handling of Biotechnology and Distribution of its Benefits
Article 20	Financial Resources
Article 21	Financial Mechanism

Annex II

SECOND NATIONAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BEFORE 31 OCTOBER 2001

Parties listed alphabetically with the regions to which they belong in brackets.

1. Argentina (GRULAC)
2. Armenia (Central and Eastern Europe)
3. Australia (WEOG)
4. Austria (WEOG)
5. Belarus (Central and Eastern Europe)
6. Belgium (WEOG)
7. Benin (Africa)
8. Botswana (Africa)
9. Bulgaria (Central and Eastern Europe)
10. Burkina Faso (Africa)
11. Burundi (Africa)
12. Central African Republic (Africa)
13. Comoros (Africa)
14. Congo (Africa)
15. Democratic Republic of the Congo (Africa)
16. Denmark (WEOG)
17. Djibouti (Africa)
18. Fiji (Asia)
19. Finland (WEOG)
20. France (WEOG)
21. Germany (WEOG)
22. Guinea Bissau (Africa)
23. India (Asia)
24. Iran (Asia)
25. Ireland (WEOG)
26. Italy (WEOG)
27. Madagascar (Africa)
28. Malawi (Africa)
29. Mali (Africa)
30. Marshall Islands (Asia)
31. Mexico (GRULAC)
32. Monaco (WEOG)
33. New Zealand (WEOG)
34. Niger (Africa)
35. Norway (WEOG)
36. Pakistan (Asia)
37. Peru (GRULAC)
38. Poland (Central and Eastern Europe)
39. Republic of Korea (Asia)
40. Romania (Central and Eastern Europe)
41. Saint Lucia (GRULAC)
42. Samoa (Asia)
43. Senegal (Africa)
44. Slovak Republic (Central and Eastern Europe)
45. Slovenia (Central and Eastern Europe)
46. Solomon Islands (Asia)
47. Spain (WEOG)
48. Sri Lanka (Asia)
49. Sweden (WEOG)
50. Thailand (Asia)
51. The Netherlands (WEOG)
52. Uganda (Africa)
53. UK (WEOG)
54. Uruguay (GRULAC)
55. Viet Nam (Asia)
