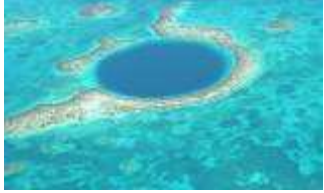


Belize



Third National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Belize
2006

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A. REPORTING PARTY

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Information on the preparation of the report

Box I.

Please provide information on the preparation of this report, including information on stakeholders involved and material used as a basis for the report.

The preparation of Belize's *Third National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)* is part of Belize's fulfillment of its reporting requirements under the UNCBD.

The preparation of this report began in 2005, when funds from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were made available for the preparation of Belize's Third National Report to the UNCBD.

The Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Local Government and the Environment (MNRLGE), who is the Focal Point for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) commenced the process of preparation of the report by the selection of a consulting team through a competitive bidding process to assist in data gathering for report preparation. In November, 2005 a contract was signed between the MNRLGE and Wilderness Group Consulting for the preparation of the 3rd National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Team members included Mr. Evaristo Avella, Mr. Earl Green, Mr. Mario Fernandez, and were supported by Mr. Anselmo Castañeda Project Manager of the recently completed National Capacity Self Assessment Project (NCSA). The staff of the Forest Department (FD) lead by Mr. Marcelo Windsor, who was recently designated as the National Biodiversity Programme Officer, was assigned to supervise all activities with respect to the preparation of Belize's Third National Report to the UNCB to ensure that the report preparation was successful. Mr. Windsor also had the support of the Chief Forest Officer, Mr. Wilber Sabido, as well as Ms. Tanya Santos, among other staff members of the Forest Department.

A work plan was produced by the consulting team, and on the 30th November, 2005 Mr. Evaristo Avella met with Mr. Marcelo Windsor to discuss several issues including the methodology to be employed to prepare the report, and to finalize the work plan for implementation of the activities leading to the preparation of the report, as per the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the contract. A list of potential stakeholders was developed as sources of information, and tentative dates for meetings were set. The list of stakeholders was divided into primary and secondary; primary stakeholders being those stakeholders directly involved in implementation of activities of the Convention, and included Government Agencies, and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) having direct responsibility in the biodiversity sector (e.g. NGOs that were responsible for co-management of protected areas, or that assisted in biodiversity management). The secondary stakeholders included all stakeholders implementing activities directly relevant to the UNCBD Programme of Work, its articles, or one or more of the goals of the Convention. These organizations included mostly the NGO community, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), educational institutions and cultural groups.

During the early stages of the report preparation, the Consulting Team familiarized themselves with the text of the convention, the goals of the convention, and decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the reporting format, and other supporting documentation on the Convention. A literature search was also conducted, which included accessing relevant websites on biodiversity issues, at the international and national levels, and available data, including the recently completed reports by the National Capacity Self Assessment Project (NCSA).

Preparation for the Third National Report continued by carrying out consultation meetings in different parts of the country to obtain input for the report. The schedule of meetings was as follows:

Town Council Conference Room, Dangriga, 25th January, 2006

Father Ring Centre, Punta Gorda, 26th January, 2006

Coastal Zone Conference Room, Belize City, 27th January, 2006

Two consultations were also held with the Focal Point on the 31st January and 2nd February 2006. In addition, various interviews and consultations with representatives of the primary stakeholders as it pertains to the UNCDB implementation was held during this period. More than 98% of all primary stakeholders were available for interviews, and subsequently the team had one on one interviews with them.

In addition, interviews were also held with many secondary stakeholders throughout the country. This included NGOs, Government and Quasi-government agencies, CBOs, Cultural Groups, and others. During the process, a National Validation Workshop was held on February 17, 2006, and a final consultation Meeting was held with the MNRLGE, and other interested stakeholders. A final draft report was submitted to the MNRLGE on March 24, 2006.

A set of acronyms listed below was found useful and the reader will find it helpful:

ACC	Aquaculture Certification Council
AIJ	Activities Implemented Jointly
ALIDES	Alliance for Sustainable Development
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
BAHA	Belize Agricultural Health Authority
BACONGO	Belize Association of Conservation Non Government Organizations
BAPPA	Belize Association of Private Protected Areas
BAS	Belize Audubon Society
BFD	Belize Fisheries Department
BBIS	Belize Biodiversity Information System
BGA	Banana Growers Association
BEMAMCCOR	Belize Mexico Alliance for the Management of Common Coastal Resources
BERDS	Biodiversity and Environmental Resources and Data System of Belize
BITI	Belize Indigenous Training Institute
BTB	Belize Tourism Board
BTIA	Belize Tourism Industry Association
BTFS	Belize Tropical Forest Studies
BWB	Birds without Borders
CAPAS	Central America Protected Area System
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOMP	Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity Programme
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCAB/AP	Central American Commission of Forestry and Protected Areas
CCAD	Central American Commission on Environment and Development
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Center
CGA	Citrus Growers Association
CFA	Cane Farmers Association
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CITES	Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora
COMPACT	Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation Programme
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programme
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CTV	Citrus Tristeza Virus
CZMAI	Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute
DOE	Department of the Environment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FAD	Fish Aggregating Devices
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCD	Friends for Conservation and Development
FD	Forest Department
FoN	Friends of Nature
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GEF/SGP	Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practices
GOB	Government of Belize
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points

IABIN	Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
ICRAN	International Coral Reef Action Network
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Authority
IICA	Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IMS	Institute of Marine Studies
INBio	National Institute of Biodiversity of Costa Rica
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IUCN	World Conservation Union
LMO	Living Modified Organism
LMP	Land Management Programme
MARPOL	Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MBC	Mesoamerican Biological Corridor
MBRS	Meso-American Barrier Reef System Project
MNREI	Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Industry
MNRLGE	Ministry of Natural Resources, Local Government and the Environment
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self Assessment
NFC	National Focal Point
NGC	National Garifuna Council
NHM	Natural History Museum
NICH	National Institute of Culture and History
NPASP	National Protected Areas System Plan
NPAPSP	National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan Project
NRMP	Natural Resources Management Programme
NYBG	New York Botanical Gardens
NZC	National Zoonosis Committee
OIE	International Epizootic Organization
OSPESCA	Organization for the Fishing and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus
OIRSA	Regional International Organization for Plant Health
OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
PEGS	Payment for Environmental Goods and Services (also PES)
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PfB	Programme for Belize
POPS	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PREPAC	Regional Plan for the Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Project
PROARCA	Central American Environmental Programme (funded by USAID)
PROFUR-PNUD	Regional Forest Programme of the United Nations Development Programme
RAMSAR	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat
RBCMA	Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area
REMERFI	Regional Programme for Plant Genetic Resource Conservation
REIS	Regional Environmental Monitoring and Information System
RFP	Regional Forest Programme
SATIIM	Sarstoon Temash Indigenous Institute Management
SEP	Small Enterprise Programme
SICA	Central American Integration System
SPAW	Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region
SSOP	Standard Sanitary Operating Procedures
SWA	Sibun Watershed Association
TCGA	Toledo Citrus Growers Association
TEC	Tropical Education Center
TIDE	Toledo Institute for Development and the Environment
TNC	The Nature Conservancy

TRIGOH	Tri National Alliance for the Gulf of Honduras
UB	University of Belize
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WCS	World Conservation Society
WSSV	White Spot Syndrome Virus
YCT	Ya'axche Conservation Trust

B. PRIORITY SETTING, TARGETS AND OBSTACLES

Box II.

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

Belize signed the Convention on Biological Diversity on June 13 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and ratified it in December 1993. Belize is also party to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 1981; the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) in 1989; The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1982); the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Bonn (The Migratory Species Convention); and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (The World Heritage Convention) (ratified Nov. 6, 1990).

Other important conventions that Belize has signed or ratified related to biodiversity protection and conservation are: the Convention on the Inter-Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA); the International Plant Protection Convention (acceded May 14, 1987); the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances (acceded Sept. 7, 1997); the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and the 1978 Protocol MARPOL (ratified Aug. 26, 1995); the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (BASEL) (acceded Apr. 21, 1997); the UN Convention of the Laws of the Sea (ratified Aug. 13, 1983); the 1992 Protocol to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (1972) and 1992 Protocol to the Convention Establishing the Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution (acceded July 1, 1991); and the Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (signed 2002).

Belize has also signed several important agreements on Biodiversity at the regional level. Belize is signatory to the Convention for the conservation of Biodiversity and the Protection of Priority Areas of Central America (1992), and joined the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES) in 1994. Belize has also signed the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC). Other regional conventions signed include the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (The Cartagena Convention) and the Protocol Concerning the Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region (ratified Dec. 11, 1997), the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in Western Hemisphere (The Western Hemisphere Convention), and signed the Belize/ Mexico Bilateral Agreement (signed September 1991).

Belize is a member of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and of the Central American Commission of Forestry and Protected Areas (CCAB/AP). The CCAD's Division of Forest Conservation and Protected Areas commissioned the development of a "Central American Forest Strategy on Forest Restoration based on the Ecosystems Approach".

Through SICA, Belize is also a member of the *Organization for the Fishing and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus* (OSPESCA) and is part of the project "Regional Plan for the Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Project" (PREPAC).

Belize also holds the headquarters of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Systems Project (MBRS). This is a regional effort between Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

Belize has signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (UNCCD). This has led to the establishment of a National Climate Change Adaptation Programme. The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) was officially opened in August, 2005 at its office at the University of Belize, Belmopan, Belize. The Centre will implement projects designed to prepare for and to reduce the harmful effects of climate change and sea level rise and seek ways in which the Community can benefit from any opportunities that may result from climate change. Additionally, the CCCCC is intended to position the Region to prepare itself for work arising from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Centre will serve the entire Caribbean region as a key node for information and initiatives regarding climate change by coordinating the region's response to managing and adapting to climate change.

The Government of Belize (GOB) is committed to the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources (Boles, NCSA, 2005). The Belize Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 1998-2003 (Jacobs and Castañeda 1998, eds.) was prepared in 1998. The Forest Department currently manages 600,386 hectares (1,482,954 acres) of protected areas, representing seventeen forest reserves (248,490 hectares or 613,700 acres), sixteen national parks (165,000 hectares or 407,550 acres), seven wildlife sanctuaries (136,951 hectares or 338,268 acres), four nature reserves (43,091 hectares or 106,435 acres) and four natural monuments (6,855 hectares or 16,931 acres) (Forest Department, 2005). Co-management agreements with either NGOs or CBOs exist for twenty-two of these protected areas. The Belize Fisheries Department (BFD) manages eight marine reserves, four of which have co-management agreements with local NGOs or CBOs. The Institute of Archaeology is in charge of eleven archaeological reserves throughout the country. In December 2005 Belize completed and adopted its National Protected Areas Policy. Belize completed and adopted its National Protected Areas Systems Plan and formally adopted it in January 2006.

The National Protected Areas Policy and Systems Plan (NPAPSP) project, which commenced in April 2004, sought to develop a comprehensive policy and plan for Belize's ninety-four (94) protected areas. The NPAPSP Project was the result of the collective efforts of the Protected Areas Conservation Trust, United Nations Development Programme, The Nature Conservancy, Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project, Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project, Belize Audubon Society, World Wildlife Fund, PROARCA-CAPAS, Wildlife Conservation Society, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, Programme for Belize, Forest Department (FD), the Belize Fisheries Department and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Local Government and the Environment. The next step will be to secure resources to support the implementation of the main strategic actions of the plan. These strategic actions, which will be implemented over a six-year period, will: 1) establish an enabling administrative structure for policy implementation, 2) make the national protected areas system functional, 3) make the national protected areas system comprehensive, and 4) consolidate and simplify the national protected area system.

Belize is considered as having a healthy biological resource base, with many healthy and functional ecosystems. Belize's healthy ecosystems are attributed in part to the low demographic pressures. It has recently been established that Belize has 26.6% of its total national territory (including marine territory) under some form of protection. Forests cover about 67.4% of our terrestrial ecosystems. The Central American Ecosystems Mapping Project (Meerman and Sabido, 2001), identified 87 distinct types of terrestrial and marine ecosystems in Belize.

Thirty perennial river basins range in size from small coastal creeks to large trans-national watersheds such as Rio Hondo and Belize River, most of these originating in the Maya Mountains. Belize's marine ecosystems, including mangroves, sea grass beds and coral reefs, are some of the most productive in the Caribbean. Almost 80% of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS), a World Heritage Site, occurs within Belizean waters.

There is a documented 3,600 species of plants (including 613 medicinal plants) in Belize. Species confirmed in the country include 46 amphibians, 141 reptiles, 577 birds and 163 mammals. An estimate of 634 genera, representing 1,302 species of algae, invertebrates and fishes are documented from the marine ecosystems of Belize. Presently, 58 plants, two species of fishes, two species of amphibians and one species of reptile have been determined to be endemic to Belize and 137 species of plants and animals occur on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, ranging from "extinct" to "least concern." Forty-three mammal species occurring in Belize are endangered, rare and/or hunted range-wide. Thirteen mammal species are listed in the CITES as being of international concern, under the US Endangered Species Act or occur in IUCN Red Data Books (Programme for Belize, 1995).

Populations of Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*), and West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) have recovered from years of hunting and are now considered to be healthy. The American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) continues to be threatened as a direct result of habitat loss. Belize's coastal area is also considered to be one of the largest hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) nesting beaches in the Caribbean. Belize is also home to one of the largest breeding populations of Scarlet Macaws (*Ara macao cyanoptera*).

The Belizean economy is strongly linked to its natural resource base, particularly in agriculture, fisheries and tourism industries that contribute to the bulk of our earning potential. Rapid expansion in all of these sectors has occurred since the mid 1980s. A period of citrus expansion was followed by shrimp

farm development in the coastal areas. Eco-tourism was a growing industry during the past twenty-five years (Boles, NCSA, 2005). However, there has been a significant growth in cruise ship tourism and adventure tourism, both of which, if not adequately managed or controlled to fit into the limits of acceptable change, may lead to the degradation of our threatened ecosystems and the accompanying loss of biodiversity.

Presently forty-one pieces of legislation address biodiversity and ecosystem issues and empower fourteen different GOB ministries, departments and institutions to deal with these issues as necessary. At least thirty-eight local NGOs and CBOs and sixteen international organizations are partners in working toward common goals and responsibilities, a growing number being involved in co-management of protected areas. Belize has signed at least twenty-five regional and international conventions and agreements relevant to biodiversity and ecosystem issues, including the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD).

During 2005, Belize began the preparation of the Biosafety Framework to address the importation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) or Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).

Also in 2005 Belize conducted its National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) to identify its capacities to effectively address the requirements of the UNCBD. The NCSA process included a Biodiversity Stock-Take Report, a Thematic Assessment and a Legal and Cross-cutting Issues Assessment that were compiled in order to describe previous activities that addressed those UNCBD requirements, current conditions within the country, stakeholders involved and systemic, institutional and individual capacities that exist. These reports also identified what requirements have not been addressed and established those priority Articles of the Convention that need to be addressed since it is very difficult for Belize to address all of them. Table 1 lists those priority requirements under the Convention.

Table 1: Belize Priority Requirements under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Source: Boles, NCSA, 2005.

Article 6	General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use
Article 7	Identifying and Monitoring Biodiversity and its Conservation
Article 8	In-situ Conservation, Including Protected Systems Management
Article 10	Sustainable use of Components of Biological Diversity
Article 13	Public Education and Awareness
Article 17	Exchange of Information
Article 19	Handling Biotechnology and Bio-safety Issues
Article 20	Financial Resources

Priority needs identified through the Biodiversity Thematic Assessment include:

- Development of a functional communications network that helps to coordinate activities among professionals.
- Establishment of a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) through which information can be accumulated, organized and disseminated throughout the stakeholder community, including the general public.
- Work to make co-management agreements successful through capacity building and technical support.
- Standardization and application of an assessment and monitoring process that can be conducted through trained and experienced community members working in conjunction with appropriate organizations and educational institutions.
- Focus on watersheds as basic conservation units, protecting the soil and water that is so vital to the biodiversity and ecosystems of Belize.
- Design and implement multilateral policies that include the necessity of biodiversity preservation and ecosystem conservation when development decisions are made.
- Biodiversity and ecosystem awareness and education programme that reaches into all sectors of society through many different media.
- Involve youth in the assessment, monitoring, conservation and application of solutions to identified problems that threaten biodiversity and ecosystems.

Priority Setting

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

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

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

Challenges and Obstacles to Implementation

2. Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the provisions of the Articles of the Convention (5, 6,7, 8, 8h, 8j, 9, 10, 11,12, 13, 14, 15,16, 17, 18, 19 and 20)	
3 = High Challenge	1 = Low Challenge
2 = Medium Challenge	0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome
N/A = Not applicable	

Challenges	Articles																	
	5	6	7	8	8h	8j	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
a) Lack of political will and support	1	1	1	2	3	2	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	3	1	1	1	3
b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	3	1	2	1	3	3	1	2	2	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	3	2
c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	NA	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	NA	3	1	2	2	2	2
d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	NA	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	NA	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	NA
e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	3	3
f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	2	2	3	2	1	2	3	2	NA	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	NA

g) Loss of traditional knowledge	NA	3	3	3	NA	2	3	3	NA	3	3	NA	2	1	2	NA	3	NA
h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	1	NA	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	NA
i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	NA
j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	NA	3	NA
k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	NA	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	NA	2	1	1	2	3	NA
l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	3	2	2	3	NA	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	2
m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	3	2	3	2	1	3	3
n) Lack of economic incentive measures	NA	3	3	3	NA	1	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	3	NA	NA	3	3
o) Lack of benefit-sharing	NA	3	1	2	1	1	2	3	2	1	1	3	2	0	1	1	3	2
p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	NA	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
r) Lack of effective partnerships	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	2
s) Lack of engagement of	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	NA	0	1	2	2	1	NA	1	2	NA

scientific community																		
t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	3	3	NA	1	3	1
u) Poverty	NA	2	NA	3	NA	3	1	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	2	NA	NA	NA	2
v) Population pressure	NA	2	NA	3	NA	2	1	2	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	0	NA	NA	NA	1
w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	NA	2	NA	3	NA	1	1	2	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	NA	NA	NA	NA	1
x) Lack of capacities for local communities	NA	2	1	3	NA	3	1	2	2	3	2	3	2	1	2	2	NA	1
y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	NA	2	3	2	1	2	2	3	NA	1	1	1	1	1	NA	1	NA	1
z) Weak law enforcement capacity	3	2	3	3	3	1	3	3	NA	NA	NA	3	1	NA	NA	NA	3	1
aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	NA	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	NA	1	1	NA	1	1	NA	NA	3	1
bb) Others (please specify)														NA			NA	

2010 Target

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

Box III.

Goal 1	Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes.		
Target 1.1	At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target		x	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>Belize has 26.6% of its national territory under some form of protection (NPAPSP, 2006). When divided into terrestrial and marine components, the figures represent 36.46% of Belize's total terrestrial area (non-marine), and 13.64% of its total marine area. Presently, there exist a total of 94 protected areas in Belize, as per January 1, 2005 (NPAPSP, 2006). This figure includes archaeological reserves and private reserves considered part of the National Protected Areas System of Belize.</p> <p>"Private protected areas" are so classified because of an existing standing agreement with the GOB. This classification results in 8 Private Protected Areas, covering 131,663 hectares, or 3.2% of Belize's National Territory (NPAPSP, 2006). However, extractive reserves form the majority of Belize's protected areas, and the large under-representation of the marine component is due primarily because the portion of deep water away from the coastal shelf that has not been targeted for conservation.</p> <p>The total area used as conservation management, with biodiversity conservation as the focus, fall in various categories consists of 53 areas into 6 classes. The total national coverage of the conservation management areas is 9.3% of Belize's total national territory.</p> <p>Furthermore, a protected areas gap analysis was prepared as part of the NPAPSP report, indicating that certain ecosystems are not presently covered at all within the protected areas system, and do not meet the 10% minimum IUCN requirement for protection of each habitat (NPAPSP Gap Analysis, 2006). In addition, there are 27 under-represented habitats with a discrepancy of 20% or more of under-representation (NPAPSP Gap Analysis, 2006).</p>			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	There is no strategy in place to address agro biodiversity.
b) Inland water	x		Recently, there has been an increase in the number of protected areas designated as Ramsar sites. Previously, only the CTWS was a declared Site. The Sarstoon

			Temash National Park (STNP) has been designated a RAMSAR site, and the Aguacaliente Wildlife Sanctuary (AWS) has also been proposed as a Ramsar Site.
c) Marine and coastal	x		A MPA System in place with seven World Heritage Sites. Closed system for harvest of Conch, Lobster and Nassau Grouper. Ban on the harvesting of all sea turtles. Cayes development policy in place.
d) Dry and subhumid land			NA
e) Forest	x		Health Forest Initiative in the Toledo District. Introduction of Long Term License under SFM.
f) Mountain			NA
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			x
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
<p>The National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan (NPAPSP) was developed and adopted in January 2006. Belize's policy on protected areas documented the main components of Belize's present legal, political and institutional framework as it relates to protected areas, as well as the studying of management strategies and field practices with the objective of choosing relevant elements that would constitute Belize's Protected Areas Policy.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>The National Protected Areas Policy and Strategy was adopted in January 2006. A total of 26.6% of Belize's national territory (including marine component) has been declared protected areas. Forests cover about 67.4% of our terrestrial ecosystems (Programme for Belize, 1995).</p> <p>The Forest Department and the NGO community (via co-management agreements) currently manages 600,386 hectares (1,482,954 acres) of protected areas, representing seventeen forest reserves (248,490 hectares or 613,700 acres), sixteen national parks (165,000 hectares or 407,550 acres), seven wildlife sanctuaries (136,951 hectares or 338,268 acres), four nature reserves (43,091 hectares or 106,435 acres) and four natural monuments (6,855 hectares or 16,931 acres) (Forest Department Strategy, 2005). Co-management agreements with either NGOs or CBOs exist for twenty-two of these protected areas. The BFD manages eight marine reserves, four of which have co-management agreements with local NGOs or CBOs. The Institute of Archaeology is in charge of eleven archaeological reserves throughout the Country.</p> <p>Belize forms part of the Regional Forest Programme (RFP) of the United Nations Development Programme (PROFOR-PNUD). As part of this Programme, Belize has recently revised its Forest Policy. The goal of the RFP is that the basic framework required to promote the social and economic functioning of forests of the region have been established by 2010, and that by 2025 the Central American Isthmus will have 45 to 60% forest cover. The RFP is being implemented by the Central American Council of Forests and Protected Areas, of the CCAD, via the UNDP Regional Forest Programme, and by FAO, with technical support from IUCN-Mesoamerica.</p>			

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

The recently adopted NPAPSP included a gap analysis with indicators to be used to determine those ecosystems that require representation in the national protected areas system.

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

Challenges include:

- The lack of harmonization of legislation and policies that pertain to protected areas management.
- Establishing effective co-management partners.
- Creating synergies between Government, NGOs, and CBOs towards common objectives in protected areas management and biodiversity management.
- Creation of financial sustainability mechanisms for protected areas.
- The lack of legislation dealing with private protected areas, in order to ensure that these contribute to the ecosystem functions and overall biodiversity conservation of ecosystems.
- The lack of complete representation of Belize's ecosystems in the national protected areas system as well as anthropogenic threats such as the advance of the agriculture frontier, and subsequent land use degradation.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

The UNCBD Focal Point has not coordinated with the various GOB Agencies and NGOs/CBOs to fully address the implementation of these Programmes of Work. While some Programmes of Work has established some targets, the other relevant Programmes of Work are yet to be implemented in a fully coordinated basis.

Box IV.

Target 1.2	Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			x
Please provide details below.			
<p>It is acknowledged that there are gaps in Belize's system of protected areas; user needs assessments have recently been conducted. Some ecotypes are not fully represented and some over-represented. A protected areas gap analysis was prepared as part of the NPAPSP report, indicating that certain ecosystems are not presently covered within the protected areas system, and do not meet the 10% minimum IUCN requirement for protection of each habitat (NPAPSP Gap Analysis, 2006). In addition, there are 27 under-represented habitats with a discrepancy of 20% or more of under-representation (NPAPSP Gap Analysis, 2006).</p>			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			Strategic Plan of Ministry of Agriculture is not linked to establishing targets.
b) Inland water	x		Monitoring of stream ecosystem and watersheds; monitoring of species to begin, albeit not coordinated.
c) Marine and coastal	x		Gulf of Honduras Marine Reserve expanded.
d) Dry and sub humid land			NA
e) Forest	x		Strategic Plan of Forestry Department addresses targets on PAs, sustainable forest management etc.
f) Mountain			NA
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			x
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
<p>The Forest Department Policy, the National Environmental Action Plan, the National Biosafety Protocol and the National Biodiversity Policy are in advanced stages of completion, while the National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan has been completed and adopted.</p> <p>During the last few years, there has been an expansion of marine protected areas, and work through the MBRS continues to support the development of management plans for protected areas, the development of training manuals for use in activities within protected areas, marine protocols for the synoptic monitoring of biodiversity of the MBRS region, and training of personnel in monitoring and protected areas management.</p>			

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

Belize's NGOs and Government sector are undergoing institutional strengthening for the improvement of co-management.

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

Although a total of 26% of Belize's national territory is currently under some form of protection, the recent Protected Area Analysis (Meerman, 2005) identified that there are still several Belizean ecosystems that are not or insufficiently covered within existing the Protected Areas System and do not even meet the 10% minimum IUCN requirement.

Belize has an ecosystems map produced as part of the Central American Ecosystems Map (World Bank/CCAD, 2001), and originally recognized 86 different ecosystems for Belize. The report described each of the ecosystems including a list of plant species identified in these. Maps give information on altitude, broad ecosystems, detailed ecosystems and fire risk. This 2001 ecosystems map was essentially an update of the 1995 Vegetation map of Belize by Iremonger and Brokaw. This Iremonger and Brokaw map borrowed heavily from the 1959 Natural Vegetation Map of Belize by Wright et al.

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

Although a total of 26% of Belize's national territory is currently under some form of protection, the recent Protected Area Analysis (Meerman, 2005) identified that there are still several Belizean ecosystems that are not or insufficiently covered within existing the Protected Areas System and do not even meet the 10% minimum IUCN requirement.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

The implementation stage of the NPAPSP will now commence, and the issue of sustainability and financing for the management of those protected areas that comprise the National Protected Areas System will be given priority.

Box V.

Goal 2	Promote the conservation of species diversity	
Target 2.1	Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		x
Please provide details below.		
<p>A national target based on species diversity has not been established, although the global target for the delineation of protected areas has been accepted as the national target. However, several organizations are presently conducting on-going programmes targeting specific species under threat of over-exploitation. The following are activities either recently implemented, or on-going, that have as its broad goals the restoration of or the maintenance of populations of certain species experiencing a relatively high level of decline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harpy Eagle reintroduction Programme being conducted by the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Centre. 2. Private Programme for the re-introduction into the wild captured species (Forest Department and Wildlife Care Centre) 3. Cat Rehabilitation – (Lefeline 2000, and FD). 4. Nassau Grouper – aggregation site monitoring (Belize Fisheries Department, BAS, FON, TIDE, and Green Reef). 		

5. Conch Surveys (BFD) as well as a population status report prepared as per CITES requirements (Fisheries Department, 2006). The population status report indicates that the conch is being harvested below the MSY.
6. A lobster status survey will be conducted by the Fisheries Department as well as a Shrimp stock survey; the end result, which will be the creation of new legislation to address unprocessed, partially processed and fully processed conch meat (James Azueta, personal Communication).
6. Darwin initiative for Xate Survey.
7. Rescue Centre (Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary).

In 2003 Legislation was passed to protect the freshwater river turtle (*Dermatymys mawii*) locally known as the Hicatee.

Through the Darwin Initiative a *Chamaedorea species* (xate) survey is being carried out to obtain a national xate inventory to create a management plan. An inventory for the Palmetto Palm (*Acoeloraphe wrightii*) is also ongoing.

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

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives has not developed targets for agro-biodiversity.
b) Inland water	x		A National Protected area, STNP has recently been designated a Ramsar site. This is in addition to a previously existing Ramsar site, the CTWS.
c) Marine and coastal	x		The recent Protected Area Analysis (Meerman, 2005) identified that there are four (4) marine ecosystems in Belize that are not covered within existing the Protected Areas System. These four are within the Caribbean open seas, which has not been represented in Belize's protected areas system. The gap analysis also revealed that most protected areas, both terrestrial and marine are designated protected areas for extractive purposes, and not for conservation.
d) Dry and subhumid land			NA
e) Forest	x		The recent Protected Area Analysis (Meerman, 2005) identified that there are nine (9) ecosystems in Belize that are not or insufficiently covered within existing the Protected Areas System and do not even meet the 10% minimum IUCN requirement. These include five ecosystems within the terrestrial land mass of Belize.
f) Mountain		NA	

Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?

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

Please provide details below.

Sectoral plans and Programmes are in place at the species level by organizations as mentioned in

Box 1 above.

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

Conch is the only species that has been harvested on a sustainable manner over the years. This has been the result of yearly monitoring.

Coral bleaching since the mid 90s has been contributing to death of part of the reef.

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

No indicators have been developed.

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

Establish a formal/organized species monitoring programme.

Seek funding to implement the programme.

VI) Please provide any other relevant information.

The NBSAP of 1998 has documented the number of species documented in Belize's terrestrial and marine ecosystem. Few additions to the list have been documented since then.

Box VI.

Target 2.2	Status of threatened species improved		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Belize has its own threatened data list and the re-introduction into the wild and breeding programmes are being promoted, (e.g. the iguana).			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	No data available.
b) Inland water	x		Survey of fish species along Macal River Branch of the Belize River conducted as part of EIA studies.
c) Marine and coastal		x	Conch population status report has been carried out by the Fisheries Department, and lobster and shrimp status surveys to be conducted shortly.
d) Dry and sub humid land		x	N/A
e) Forest	x		Survey for Tapirs (<i>Tapirus bairdii</i>) and Howler Monkeys (<i>Alouatta pigra</i>) have been conducted. Belize has not developed a list of threatened species.
f) Mountain			N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and			

strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	x
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes	x
Please provide details below.	
Both The NBSAP of 1978 and the Agriculture Strategy of 2002-2020 address the need to assess threatened species situation in Belize.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
<p>Belize's crocodile population was once reduced significantly. However, Belize now has a healthy population of Morelet's Crocodile (<i>Crocodylus moreletii</i>). However it still remains in the endangered list, primarily as a precautionary measure.</p> <p>The Yellow Head Parrot (<i>Amazona ochrocephala belizensis</i>) is a critically endangered sub-species.</p> <p>Legislation on fishing restrictions (Spawning Sites) has improved the population of the Nassau Grouper (<i>Epinehelus striatus</i>). Conch and lobster surveys will be conducted shortly.</p> <p>Resting and foraging areas for marine turtles have also increased, and this has been attributed to legislation put in place. Belize currently has a total ban on the harvesting of all sea turtles.</p> <p>A Gibnut - (<i>Agouti paca</i>) rearing project is being funded by GEF-SGP. However, the results of this project have not been assessed.</p> <p>Three Organizations (1 private resort and 2 NGOs) have bred green iguanas to be released into the wild.</p>	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
<p>There are ongoing Manatee (<i>Trichechus manatus</i>) surveys on the population status and stability of this specie.</p> <p>Nassau Grouper surveys have shown an increase in populations and fishermen are aware of this.</p>	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
There is presently no research priorities set on endangered species, and no critical habitats have been identified. The experience with Nassau Grouper should be repeated with terrestrial harvested species – iguana, yellow-head parrot, hicatee, deer, gibnut, etc.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	
Need for a coordinated approach to address issues on threatened species.	

Box VII.

Goal 3	Promote the conservation of genetic diversity		
Target 3.1	Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
The precautionary principle has been implemented to avoid contamination of the gene pool.			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	x		The Coconut Hybridization Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture seeks to restore and maintain the coconut population in Belize. Belizean Cacao species are being conserved in Costa Rica and Trinidad.
b) Inland water	x		Fresh water fishes have been identified in the NBSAP of 1998.
c) Marine and coastal	x		Management plans and national surveys for economic and endangered marine species have been established.
d) Dry and subhumid land			NA
e) Forest	x		The Forest Department now requires forest management plans from the private sector as part of the national forest inventory. The Forest Department also continues the national herbariums initiatives and cataloging Belize's forest biodiversity. An excellent database is being created and continuously updated.
f) Mountain			NA
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			x
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
A National Study for Tilapia species with recommendations is being carried out for this exotic species.			

Research priority is focusing on the conservation of biological diversity and In-Situ and Ex-Situ conservation measures have been implemented where this is found necessary.

There are approximately three Botanical Gardens.

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

The Forest Department is moving towards a national forest inventory. Foreign Universities and private researcher continue to document Belize genetic diversity, e.g. are Los Cuevas, WCS, Meerman, etc.

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

The uses of permanent sample plots that are representative of Belize's forest types are continuously measured to monitor ecosystem biodiversity dynamics. In 2005 an assessment of these permanent plots was carried out.

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

Belize does not have a comprehensive set of indicator species that can be adopted nationally.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

The Country has database such as BBIS, BERDS, the National Herbarium, and Medicinal Plants at Ixchel Farm.

Goal 4	Promote sustainable use and consumption.	
Target 4.1	Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		x
Please provide details below.		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement for management plans is required for privately held areas in addition to areas of national protection status. Cacao production, marine species such as grouper, conch and lobster are also biodiversity – derived products. Reduction of harvesting, rate of mahogany to be more balanced by eliminating illegal harvesting. 		
<p>GOB institutions have been very active in taking measures to promote sustainability of natural resources use over the past few years. The Fisheries Department has closed thirteen (13) fish spawning aggregation sites for Nassau Grouper to commercial fishing pending recovery of the resource. The Forest Department is involved in issuing long-term licenses for logging operations, with 40 year and longer rotation plans for forestry plots. The National Protected Areas System, through the NPAPSP project is also working toward long-term sustainability for park management.</p>		

The Fisheries Department has developed Action Plans for the management of sharks, and has conducted an assessment of the fishing capacity for the entire country. The assessment includes a look at stocks and harvesting cannot exceed the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). The department has also adopted the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries (IUU) Action plans with the objective of reducing the pressures on fishing stocks. This action plan is part of FAO Code for Responsible Fishery requirements.

The mission of the Ya'axche' Conservation Trust (YCT) is to promote biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and management of natural resources in the Golden Stream watershed (approx. 15,000 acres), while enhancing the socio-economic development of the local Mayan communities who depend upon them. Activities include education and outreach targeted at the surrounding communities, shade-tree organic cacao production, organic vegetable production and a furniture workshop using sustainably-harvested timber. YCT is soon to embark on a structured biodiversity monitoring programme within the Reserve to help assess management effectiveness. YCT has and continues to germinate and distribute thousands of Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) and Cedar (*Cedrella odorata*) per year. YCT is also promoting the planting of local fruit trees and other heavily utilized species in order to ensure future sustainable production.

Programme for Belize through its sustainable Forest Management Programme, has been certified by Smartwood for the extraction of timber.

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

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	NA
b) Inland water		x	NA
c) Marine and coastal	x		13 spawning aggregation sites closed for a period of time for the population to recover.
d) Dry and subhumid land			NA
e) Forest	x		The reduction of the harvesting rate for mahogany to be more balanced by eliminating illegal harvesting and the introduction of 40 plus years license and sustainable forest management.
f) Mountain			NA

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

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

Please provide details below.

The Strategy and Policy for the Forest Department incorporates these targets (adopted in 2005).

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

Mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) is being harvested at an unsustainable rate, while xate (*Chamaedorea sp.*) is being harvested without knowledge of the health of the population.

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

Xate (*Chamaedorea sp.*) is being harvested without prior knowledge on health of its population; and

without the full understanding about its ecology.

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

The illegal exploitation of forest products e.g. *Chamaedorea* (Xate) sp. at rates without knowledge of the ecology of the species.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

With the experience gained in the sustainable harvest of Marine products, Belize is now introducing sustainable forest licenses with 40 plus years rotation for timber production.

Box VIII.

Target 4.2	Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Belize has accepted the global target as the national target. With the recent completion of the NPAPSP, and accompanying documentations such as the protected areas gap analysis, it is expected that a more coordinated approach to biodiversity protection and management can be launched with the sustainable forest management; mahogany over exploitation will be reduced.			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	NA
b) Inland water		x	NA
c) Marine and coastal	x		By closing 13 spawning sites of the Nassau Grouper, the population of this resource is coming back.
d) Dry and subhumid land			NA
e) Forest	x		Mahogany and yellow-head parrot are two over exploited species.
f) Mountain		x	NA
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			x

c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes	x
Please provide details below.	
The NBSAP has been used as a reference although it was never officially adopted. Nonetheless, the accomplishment of many activities outlined in the NBSAP is being carried out by several organizations (NGOs, CBOs & GOB).	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
There is a very high hunting pressure on certain game species. As a result some, some ranching of game species has been established in an attempt to reduce hunting pressures.	
Sea turtles (<i>Caretta caretta</i> , <i>Chelonia mydas</i> , <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> and <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>) are all harvested species in Belize, and are considered threatened species. The Central American River Turtle, known locally as Hicatee (<i>Dermatymys mawii</i>), and the Nassau Grouper (<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>) are also hunted species and considered threatened. Laws for the protection of these species have been enacted over the years, with some laws enacted as recently as 2003. Laws affecting terrestrial and inland species are enforced less compared to the species in the coastal marine ecosystem. There presently exists a ban on the harvesting of all marine turtles.	
The Fisheries Department has developed Action Plans for the management of sharks, and has conducted an assessment of the fishing capacity for the entire country. The assessment includes a look at stocks and harvesting cannot exceed the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). The department has also adopted the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries (IUU) Action plans with the objective of reducing the pressures on fishing stocks. This action plan is part of FAO Code for Responsible Fishery requirements.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
Little or no indicators – only historical indication based on verbal traditional knowledge, which is not fully reliable.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
Lack of baseline data on species and population counts.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	
Belize has enacted a total ban on the harvesting of Sea Turtles. As described above, legislation has been put in place to control the hunting of various species including all sea turtles, Hicatee, Nassau Grouper, white tailed deer, red brocket deer, conch, and lobster; but enforcement of these laws has been more effective in the coastal/marine ecosystem.	

Box IX.

Target 4.3	No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	
Please provide details below.	
The <i>chamaedorea</i> species may be threatened due to uncontrolled cross-border poaching. Assessments of the population of the chamaedorea species are required to substantiate any threats to this species.	
The 2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2004, www.iucnredlist.org) includes birds	

which are endangered due to foreign trade (e.g. *Amazona oratrix*). =

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

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	NA
b) Inland water		x	NA
c) Marine and coastal	x		Applies only to green turtle shell.
d) Dry and subhumid land			NA
e) Forest	x		Xate is over-harvested due to poor harvesting practices.
f) Mountain			NA

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

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

Please provide details below.

The global target is accepted as the national target.

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

The 2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2004) contains a list of 137 threatened species that are found in Belize. Most of these species are also protected by national legislation. Protection policies at the nation level include seasonal closure, seasonal harvesting or hunting, a ban on extraction from certain spawning aggregation sites for marine species, capture with permits only, restrictions based on size of individual species hunted, the protection against unsustainable harvesting practices, among others.

There are several Programmes targeting specific species threatened, including a comprehensive programme supported by legislation protecting the Nassau Grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*), the Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) re-introduction Programme, an on-going jaguar (*Panthera onca*) relocation policy for individuals posing threat to farm animals, monitoring and rehabilitation of manatees (*Trichechus manatus*), and the monitoring of several species of birds that are threatened.

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

There is existing data collected on the estimated health of population of a few threatened species (Crocodiles, Manatees, Harpy Eagle, Jaguars and Nassau Grouper, Conch, Lobster). This data can be used to determine the rate of recovery or non-recovery of the species.

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

One of the primary challenges of implementation is the lack of population health data on all species that are threatened, and the lack of comprehensive data on critical habitats.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box X.

Goal 5	Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.		
Target 5.1	Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>The Land Management Programme (LMP) of the MNRLGE has developed a new land classification system to reduce the pressure on lands unsuitable for agriculture.</p> <p>A Land Degradation Survey has been conducted (Meerman and Cherrington) to assess the state of land degradation.</p> <p>YCT and TCGA are reducing the quantity of highly destructive milpa 'slash & burn' farming by increasing biodiversity friendly organic farming in Southern Belize. Furthermore, YCT has had a reasonable degree of success in reducing human - induced fires with its awareness programme in the hurricane damaged areas of Toledo.</p>			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	<p>Agricultural Health (including Quarantine) Protection of Citrus and other exportable agricultural commodities from Mediterranean Fruit Fly and other exotic diseases.</p> <p>Through its Plant Health Department, BAHA also ensures the agricultural health protection for plants from invasive pests and diseases. Additionally, its role has become increasingly important in areas such as certification of wholesomeness of raw plant products for export; negotiation of phyto-sanitary measures, both bilaterally and multilaterally; crop loss assessment due to pests, diseases and natural disasters and in the regulation of all important plant and plant products through Pest Risk Analyses (www.baha.bz 2003-2004). BAHA enacted legislation in 2003 requiring the authority to require site visits as part of its verification procedures for import risk analysis.</p>
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	<p>Aquaculture Health Protection of Shrimp Aquaculture Industry against White Spot Syndrome Virus (White Spot Disease of Shrimp) (as well as the Yellow Head Disease Virus).</p>

d) Dry and subhumid land			NA
e) Forest		x	First Land Degradation Survey is first baseline in Belize.
f) Mountain			NA
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XI.

Goal 6	Control threats from invasive alien species.
Target 6.1	Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	

b) Yes, the same as the global target	X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	

Please provide details below.

The Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) has a National Quarantine Programme which screens for the import of agricultural products at the ports of entry. Quarantine Inspectors are at all official points of entry and are responsible for the inspection of luggage, vehicles, commodities and any receptacle that may be considered a vehicle for the introduction of pests or diseases.

Farm visits and one-site inspections to investigate crop pests and diseases at the field level are also carried out by the Plant Health Department. It also maintains a support programme for plants material imported under a Post-entry Quarantine scheme. The field visits also serve as a support activity for commodities registered under a BAHA Export Certification Programme.

The Authority also employs the process of Risk Analysis in its evaluation of imports or requests for imports of live agricultural goods. The potential for invasiveness is considered where this is applicable.

The Regional International Organization for Plant Health (OIRSA) is responsible for ensuring that foreign vehicles entering the country are sprayed with an insecticide which helps to prevent the entry of alien species.

The import of live agricultural products is controlled by limiting permits issued and agencies who can import such products. Presently a National Avian Influenza Prevention Plan is being prepared with inputs from Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Health, PAHO and OIRSA. The primary objective of this plan is to prevent the introduction of the Avian Influenza virus in Belize and for control measures in the event that the virus is detected in the country.

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

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	x		Agricultural Health Programme which includes the protection of citrus and other exportable agricultural commodities from the Mediterranean Fruit Fly and other exotic diseases.
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal	x		A certification programme, based on the implementation of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) food safety system was established for the fish and fishery products processing industry in Belize which enabled Belize to export these products freely to both the USA and the European Union (EU) (BAHA 2003-2004). The farm to table approach of BAHA`s food safety programme, provides for food safety assurances along the entire chain, from the production site on the farm with the application of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), to the processing plants' implementation of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Standard Sanitary Operating Procedures (SSOP) and HACCP systems that is verified and certified by BAHA`s inspectors and sanitary auditors. Other certification programmes, such as one for meat processing plants and one for fruit and vegetable packing plants are currently being developed in collaboration with industry and other regulatory agencies (BAHA 2003-2004).

			<p>In terms of Aquaculture Health, policies are established for the protection of aquaculture Industry (shrimp farming, tilapia and red fish) against White Spot Syndrome Virus (White Spot Disease of Shrimp) and Yellow Head Disease Virus.</p> <p>Protection of Aquaculture Industry (shrimp farming) against Taura Virus.</p> <p>Protection of Citrus products from citrus canker.</p>
d) Dry and subhumid land			NA
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			NA
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			x
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
<p>Agricultural Health Programmes are administered by BAHA (e.g. Medfly Surveillance Programme). Exotic pest and disease introduction continues to be the foremost deterrent to free trade and this organization remains vigilant for the early detection of injurious pests and diseases. It is also integrated with the regulation of importation of plants and plant products with that of Pest and Disease Surveillance and the Quarantine Department of BAHA. The Mediterranean Fruit Fly and Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug Programmes are two areas where early detection results in minimal economic loss to the agricultural sector (BAHA 2003-2004).</p> <p>In addition, a <i>National Zoonosis Committee</i> (NZC) has been established with multi-sectoral representation.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>BAHA has an active monitoring and surveillance system in place for identified alien species. Regional Agreements have been signed to monitor and eradicate alien species. BAHA's activities are oriented towards agricultural health monitoring at the national, transboundary and regional level, capacity building activities (e.g. international training and short-term external training), technical partnerships (e.g. PAHO, IICA, OIRSA). International initiatives include CBD-Biosafety and FAO projects. The Plant Health Department ensures the agricultural health protection for plants from invasive pests and diseases. BAHA's role has become increasingly important in areas such as certification of wholesomeness of raw plant products for export; negotiation of phyto-sanitary measures, both bilaterally and multilaterally; crop loss assessment due to pests, diseases and natural disasters and in the regulation of all important plant and plant products through Pest Risk Analyses.</p> <p>Exotic pest and disease introduction continues to be the foremost deterrent to free trade and thus the Department remains vigilant for the early detection of injurious pests and diseases. It is also integrated with the regulation of importation of plants and plant products with that of Pest and Disease Surveillance and the Quarantine Department of BAHA. The Mediterranean Fruitfly and Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug Programmes are two areas where early detection results in minimal economic loss to the agricultural sector.</p>			

The import of live agricultural products is controlled by limiting permits issued and agencies who can import such products. Presently a National Avian Influenza Prevention Plan is being prepared with inputs from Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Ministry of Health, PAHO and OIRSA. The primary objective of this plan is to prevent the introduction of the Avian Influenza virus in Belize and for control measures in the event that the virus is detected in the country.

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

Absence of harmful species such as WSSV, Medfly, CTV etc.

Internationally recognized favorable agricultural health status of the country.

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

Financing of surveillance programmes and effective public agricultural health programmes are not sufficient. Similarly, the number of personnel involved in surveillance is very limited.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

BAHA is a Statutory Body that operates largely on a cost recovery basis. BAHA's activities are oriented towards agricultural health monitoring at the national, transboundary and regional level, capacity building activities (e.g. international training and short-term external training), technical partnerships (e.g. PAHO, IICA) and slightly less so towards replicable cases studies (e.g. BAHA itself (structure and operations), (Mealy Bug Project) and international initiatives (e.g. CBD-Biosafety and FAO projects).

BAHA has formal MOUs with various international agencies that require weekly reporting including PAHO, OIE and USDA AFIS.

Box XII.

Target 6.2	Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>In conjunction with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the USDA there is an active monitoring countrywide for the presence of Medfly and Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug. The Plant Health Department ensures the agricultural health protection for plants from invasive pests and diseases.</p> <p>Exotic pest and disease introduction continues to be the foremost deterrent to free trade and thus the Department remains vigilant for the early detection of injurious pests and diseases. It is also integrated with the regulation of importation of plants and plant products with that of Pest and Disease Surveillance and the Quarantine Department of BAHA (BAHA 2003-2004).</p> <p>The Citrus Industry has an ongoing surveillance system in place for the control of Citrus Canker.</p>			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details

a) Agricultural	x		Surveillance system for Medfly in place. BAHA continues to be vigilant for the early detection of exotic pests and diseases.
b) Inland water			The monitoring of alien species of fish (Tilapia) is conducted regularly in order to establish trends for this species.
c) Marine and coastal	x		
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest	x		
f) Mountain		x	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			x
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
Programmes are cost-limiting.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XIII.

Goal 7	Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.
Target 7.1	Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	

b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>Belize has signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This has led to the establishment of a National Climate Change Adaptation Programme.</p> <p>The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) officially opened its doors in August, 2005 at its office at the University of Belize, Belmopan, Belize. The Centre implements projects designed to prepare for and to reduce the harmful effects of climate change and sea level rise and seek ways in which the Community can benefit from any opportunities that may result from climate change. Additionally, the CCCCC is intended to position the Region to maximize benefits from new and additional resources arising from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Centre will serve the entire Caribbean region as a key node for information and initiatives regarding climate change by coordinating the region's response to managing and adapting to climate change in the Caribbean.</p> <p>Protected areas have been established to allow conservation areas.</p>			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	x		In 1997, an agricultural vulnerability assessment was done for corn, beans and rice.
b) Inland water		x	No
c) Marine and coastal	x		Restricted fish catch season for species such as Nassau Grouper, conch and lobster. The implementation of a total ban on the harvesting of all sea turtles.
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest	x		Mangroves regulations on the coastal areas.
f) Mountain		x	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			x
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes			
Please provide details below.			
<p>Real time monitoring of bio-physical parameters by TIDE and the MBRS Project.</p> <p>The CCCCC will serve the entire Caribbean region as a key node for information and initiatives regarding climate change by coordinating the region's response to managing and adapting to climate change in the Caribbean.</p>			

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.
More studies on the relationship between climate change and biodiversity are required.
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
The Centre will serve the entire Caribbean region as a key node for information and initiatives regarding climate change by coordinating the region's response to managing and adapting to climate change in the Caribbean. No specific indicators for Belize have been developed.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
There is a need for country – specific studies, and the supporting financial resources for these studies.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XIV.

Target 7.2	Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>With respect to solid waste management, a comprehensive solid waste management plan has been finalized, and implementation has recently commenced. This plan includes, among other things, the construction and management of a central sanitary landfill to serve the Central Corridor (Belize's most populated corridor) as the site for final treatment and disposal of solid waste. This landfill is currently being constructed.</p> <p>In terms of liquid waste production, there is considerable progress in this area, but substantial work is yet to be done. However, there is a window of sustainability to be derived for the programme as a result of fees from industrial and commercial sector. The Department of the Environment (DOE) through its impact assessment process has recently adopted policies that will promote the use of advanced effluent treatment systems for commercial projects.</p> <p>Another policy issue has been recently adopted for the increase of standards for effluent prevention in coastal regions, targeting especially the tourism sector, through more environmentally friendly technologies.</p> <p>Amendments to the EIA regulations will require more stringent assessment for projects located on or near protected areas, with considerations for adequate mitigation against pollution, which will include the use of advanced treatment systems for effluent.</p>			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details

a) Agricultural	x		The agriculture strategy, 2002-2020 includes the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to reduce the use of agro-chemicals and the introduction of organic farming.
b) Inland water	x		There is an on-going water pollution programme adopted via legislation such as the Effluent Regulations and the Pollution Regulations. The Pro-tem Water Commission has also been formed to establish integrated watershed management.
c) Marine and coastal	x		The Cayes Development Policy has been prepared and adopted, but its implementation is lacking due to funding.
d) Dry and subhumid land			NA
e) Forest	x		Management Plans for logging industry now take into consideration watershed management as part of the integrated management programme. Clear Cutting is not allowed.
f) Mountain			NA
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
Adoption of National Solid Waste Management Plan. In addition, the NCSA is also looking at Belize's capacity for implementation of its commitments under the three Rio Conventions. Similarly, the Potential Organic Pollutants (POPs) project has been launched. The Pesticide Control Board controls the importation of regulated pesticides.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>In terms of liquid waste production, there is considerable progress in this area, but substantial work is yet to be done. The Department of the Environment (DOE) through its impact assessment process has recently adopted policies that will promote the use of advanced effluent treatment systems for commercial projects. Another policy issue has been recently adopted for the increase of standards for effluent prevention in coastal regions, targeting especially the tourism sector, through more environmentally friendly technologies.</p> <p>Amendments to the EIA regulations will require more stringent assessment for projects located on or near protected areas, with considerations for adequate mitigation against pollution, which will include the use of advanced treatment systems for effluent.</p> <p>Initiatives that would also have indirect benefits to the pollution abatement target include the National Ozone Programme, and the POPs Project. Also the Pesticide Control Board continues its effective work on controlling importation of toxic pesticides.</p> <p>In addition, via the MARPOL convention, Belize is also agreeing to adopt measures to prevent against marine pollution.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
Belize's Pollution Regulations and Effluent Limitation Regulations have established standards for			

pollution control. Through these legislations, as well as the EIA Regulations, baseline data is gathered to detect against pollution.

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

Financial Sustainability to carry out the Programme.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Integrated pest management is being encouraged to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizer.
Organic farming is being promoted all over the Country.

Box XV.

Goal 8	Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods.		
Target 8.1	Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
The management of Belize's protected areas includes sustainable use and harvesting of forest and marine products. This includes "no-take" areas for marine species as well closed season for identified species. The Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) is funded by a visitation tax to foreigners. This is the only form of Payment for Environmental Goods and Services (PEGS) in Belize.			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	x		
b) Inland water	x		Prohibit the use of seine nets to catch fish
c) Marine and coastal	x		
d) Dry and subhumid land			NA
e) Forest	x		
f) Mountain			NA
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?			
a) No			

b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	x
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes	x
Please provide details below.	
<p>The Fisheries Department has developed Action Plans for the management of sharks, and has conducted an assessment of the fishing capacity for the entire country. The assessment includes a look at stocks and harvesting cannot exceed the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). The department has also adopted the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries (IUU) Action plans with the objective of reducing the pressures on fishing stocks. This action plan is part of FAO Code for Responsible Fishery requirements.</p>	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
<p> </p>	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
<p> </p>	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
<p>Many threatened species can still be hunted legally in Belize, but are also protected by recent legislation and policy. The 2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2004) contains a list of 137 threatened species that are found in Belize. Most of these species are also protected by national legislation. Protection policies at the nation level include seasonal closure zones, seasonal harvesting or hunting, a ban on extraction from certain spawning aggregation sites for marine species, capture with permits only, and size restrictions of individual organisms hunted, the protection against unsustainable harvesting practices, among others.</p> <p>In general, only PACT receives funds from PEGS in Belize. Water use is not currently considered for PEGS.</p>	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	
<p> </p>	

Box XVI.

Target 8.2	Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		
Please provide details below.		
<p>Legislation has been enacted to restrict fishing in important spawning areas. There is a closed fishing season for certain marine species such as conch, lobster, and Nassau Grouper. Belize has also enacted a ban on the harvesting of all marine sea turtles. The Fisheries Department will enact new</p>		

legislation to address issues with the lobster and conch, based on proposed population status surveys to be conducted.

The 2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2004) contains a list of 137 threatened species that are found in Belize. Most of these species are also protected by national legislation. Protection policies at the nation level include seasonal closure zones, seasonal harvesting or hunting, a ban on extraction from certain spawning aggregation sites for marine species, capture with permits only, and size restrictions of individual organisms hunted, the protection against unsustainable harvesting practices, among others.

Use of wild palm leaf (Bay leaf) for home construction only allowed in indigenous communities.

NGOs such as SATIIM and Ya'axche are promoting the planting of Bayleaf as a renewable resource.

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

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal	x		<p>Fishing restriction for Nassau Grouper in selected marine sites. There are several programmes targeting specific species threatened, including a comprehensive programme supported by legislation protecting the Nassau Grouper (<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>), monitoring and rehabilitation of manatees (<i>Trichechus manatus</i>), and the on-going monitoring of conch populations through surveys etc.</p> <p>In addition, many programmes such as the COMPACT, as well as individual initiatives by NGOs are executing activities seeking sustainable use of marine resources, and targeting alternative livelihoods for community and resource users with coastal and marine areas of Belize. These programmes also include a focus on alternate technology and best practices for harvesting of commercial species. TIDE is also working in this area.</p>
d) Dry and subhumid land		NA	
e) Forest	x		The culture of using medicinal plants in Belize is widespread. However, no targets set for far.
f) Mountain		NA	

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

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

Please provide details below.

The global target has been accepted as the national target.

Management Plans for several marine reserves developed and adopted. The gap analysis will form the basis for the possible designation of future reserves to incorporate those habitats that are either

poorly represented or not represented in the national protected areas system.

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

While more NGOs and CBOs are increasingly promoting sustainable livelihoods, the GOB agencies are also looking for ways to facilitate this movement.

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

Data on the quantity and size of fish captured is available for some species, and will be used to monitor future trends relating to marine species.

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

Reliable data not available due to sale of product in the informal market.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

The Fisheries Department has developed Action Plans for the management of sharks, and has conducted an assessment of the fishing capacity for the entire country. The assessment includes a look at stocks and harvesting cannot exceed the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). The department has also adopted the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries (IUU) Action plans with the objective of reducing the pressures on fishing stocks. This action plan is part of FAO Code for Responsible Fishery requirements.

Box XVII.

Goal 9	Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities.	
Target 9.1	Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		
Please provide details below.		
<p>There are many activities on an ad-hoc basis that are carried out that foster the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices. In addition, programmes such as COMPACT, are seeking to demonstrate how community based initiatives can significantly increase the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation in the Barrier Reef Systems. This is being done by complementing and adding value to existing conservation programmes. Activities include seeking sustainable use of marine resources, and targeting alternative livelihoods for community and resource users with coastal and marine areas of Belize.</p> <p>As an example of the promotion of best practices in the capture industry, the COMPACT Project selected fishing communities (Placencia, Monkey River), where fishers have constructed shades to catch lobster instead of fishing them with traps.</p> <p>The implementation of a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) pilot programme was developed to provide a possible alternative for fishers to increase production and reduce fishing pressure on the main</p>		

commercial species. The exploration of coastal pelagic stocks is intended to provide such an alternative while benefiting the fishing industry and contributing to the country's economy. The BFD in collaboration with Coastal Zone Management Authority/Institute and CARICOM Fisheries Unit embarked on the project by providing financial and technical support as well as manpower for the construction and deployment of the first two Devices. The Fisheries Department was charged with the coordination and execution of the project (Fisheries Department, 2002).

Activities being carried out by YCT include education and outreach targeted at the surrounding communities; shade-tree organic cacao production, organic vegetable production and a furniture workshop using timber harvested using sustainable methods.

Ix-Chel, BITI and the Belize Association of Traditional Healers employ medicine derived from forest products to cure many common ailments

An on-going project is carried out jointly by SATIIM, and NGC on traditional sustainable harvesting practices of forest products.

The Belize Indigenous Training Institute (BITI) is a joint-venture between Inuit (Eskimo) of Canada, Greenland, Alaska and Russia, and the Maya and Garifuna peoples of Belize. Its purpose is to provide practical training in areas that will lead to income generation and employment at the community level as well as to provide capacity building training and work in the area of traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

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

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	The Agriculture Strategy 2002-2020 includes this target in its programme of work.
b) Inland water		x	The Inland Section of the Fisheries Department includes this target in its work programme.
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		NA	
e) Forest		x	
f) Mountain		NA	

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

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

Please provide details below.

Belize has established its National Institute of Culture and History under the Ministry of National Development, Investment and Culture.

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

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XVIII.

Target 9.2	Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Belize Intellectual Property Rights Act has been enacted. It does not address rights on biological resources.			
An MOU has been signed between GOB and the Mayan and Garifuna Councils. Under this Ten point Agreement these communities are to be involved in the development of their traditional homeland.			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal	x		
d) Dry and subhumid land		NA	
e) Forest	x		

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

Box XIX.

Goal 10	Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.		
Target 10.1	All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Any research done within a terrestrial protected area requires an agreement with the Forest Department which involves access to information obtained as well as sharing of any benefits derived.			

Research permits are also required to conduct work in the marine and fisheries sector.

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

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	x		Various trials by CARDI for agricultural crops. Sugar cane and citrus varieties are also imported under the requirements above.
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		NA	
e) Forest		NA	
f) Mountain		NA	

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

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

Please provide details below.

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

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

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

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XX.

Target 10.2	Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target	x		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	x		
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	x		
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes	x		
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XXI.

Goal 11	Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention.		
Target 11.1	New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
BAHA risk analysis, sanitary Programmes.			
IICA – sponsoring of training of fishermen on alternative livelihood.			
Belize has benefited through the National Refrigeration Management Plan.			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal	x		
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest	x		
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?			
a) No			

b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	x
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and Programmes	
Please provide details below.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XXII.

Target 11.2	Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
IICA has an ongoing project to train fishermen on alternative livelihood.			
II) National targets for specific Programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			

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

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)

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

Box XXIII.

Target 1. A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	

The Forest Department and other private botanic gardens have documentation on a wide range of local plant species.

Presently Belize (Belize Botanic Garden) is the Secretariat for the Caribbean Botanic Gardens for Conservation, an international organization. The Belize Botanic Garden is a private botanic garden.

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?

a) Yes

X

b) No

Please specify

Work on improving orchid flora knowledge is carried out jointly through collaborative efforts between Belize Botanic Gardens and the National Botanic Garden of Ireland.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

There are annual expeditions by the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland along with a local Botanic Garden to conduct surveys for orchids and other species.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

Work is ongoing on collection of data on local flora. This includes an initial attempt to create a Belize List of Flora and Fauna. An initial list was developed in 2005 (Meerman).

All (plant) research projects are required to deposit samples of the specimens collected for the Forest Departments Herbarium. The Ministry of Agriculture's Herbarium at Central Farm and that of the Forest Department continue to be utilized by local and international individuals and groups, contributing to increased knowledge about the national plant species.

Control measures (quotas and permit requirements) have been placed on the harvest of wild species of orchids and other plant species, including *Chamaedorea sp.*, Black Orchid, Bay leaf. Presently a permit is required to remove orchids from National Lands.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

The work of Belize Botanic Gardens and the National Botanic Garden of Ireland has increased Belize's recorded Orchid Flora by about 10%. The New York Botanical Garden has also assisted with the identification of medicinal species of Belize.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of financial support for initiatives promoting botanic gardens.

The re-directing of the priority for the use of national lands allocated for the National Botanic Garden has resulted in the severe reduction of the land previously allocated for this purpose.

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXIV.

Target 2. A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
The IUCN Red List of threatened species is presently used as a reference. The NPAPSP Report has highlighted the need to have a national list of threatened species.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
The IUCN Red Lists of threatened species is presently used as the framework.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
There are 31 plant species listed in the IUCN Red Lists of globally threatened species that are found in Belize (IUCN 2004).	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
There is an ongoing annual joint expedition by the National Botanic Garden of Ireland and the Belize Botanic garden to conduct plant survey especially for orchid species.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
<p>According to Meerman (Meerman, 2006) based on the database in the Biodiversity and Environmental Resource Data System for Belize (BERDS), which is based on the recent publication of Balick et al (2000) with addition of some recent information, the number of recorded plant species for Belize now stands at 3,750 species. This number includes several introduced species (established or not) but most certainly lacks a number of species as yet un-recorded and not described. The actual number of native vascular plant species in Belize is expected to be in excess of 4,000.00. There are also forty two (42) vascular plants that are endemic to Belize (Meerman, 2006).</p> <p>At the moment the principal constraint to the knowledge of the Belizean plants include the absence of trained plant taxonomists in Belize, and the poor state of the Herbarium held at the Forest Department. Importantly, there exists no concise flora listing of Belize. The most complete treaty of Belize's flora is the Flora of Guatemala (Standley and Steyermark 1946-1978) but this publication is much outdated. An update is underway as part of the Flora Mesoamericana Project (Davidse et al. 1995) but this project is much behind schedule and only two of the 10 planned volumes have been published thus far.</p> <p>In addition, a List of taxa by botanical gardens is under development. Research is ongoing by the Forest Department and the Natural History Museum of London on <i>Chamaedorea Species</i> under the Darwin Initiative.</p>	

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

More collaboration with national stakeholders

VII) Any other relevant information

There is an ongoing collaboration for ex-situ conservation between Belize Botanic Gardens and National Botanic Gardens of Ireland. Private botanical gardens such as Belize Botanic Gardens, Ya'axche Conservation trust, and the National Garden of Belize are all members of the Caribbean Botanic Gardens for Conservation.

Box XXV.

Target 3. Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p>Before a logging concession is issued the developer must present a management plan which includes a replanting plan.</p> <p>The adopted policy in sustainable forest management requires the formulation of a management (including provisions for conservation of species) before any harvesting activities can commence. Provisions can be made for artificial regeneration if necessary, as well as enrichment planting.</p>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
Local Communities are involved in the monitoring of the "developer" enabling better control over extractive activities.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Lack of adequate financial support for this sector.	
VII) Any other relevant information	
<p>There is an ongoing collaboration for ex-situ conservation between Belize Botanic Gardens and National Botanic Gardens of Ireland.</p> <p>Belize has developed a model for plant conservation through sustainable use of xate palms, under the Darwin Initiative project, including the following activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Plantations at Belize Botanic Gardens, YCT and Itzamna society. 2) The production of a cultivation manual. 3) Wild population studies. 	

Box XXVI.

Target 4. At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
Some protected areas representing important ecological units are over-represented and some are poorly represented or not represented at all.	
Although a total of 26% of Belize's national territory is currently under some form of protection, the recent Protected Area Analysis (Meerman, 2005) identified that there are still several Belizean ecosystems that are not or insufficiently covered within existing the Protected Areas System and do not even meet the 10% minimum IUCN requirement.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
National Protected Areas System Act in effect. National Protected Areas Policy and Systems Plan developed and adopted.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
According to Meerman, (Meerman, 2006), Belize has an ecosystems map produced as part of the Central American Ecosystems Map (World Bank/CCAD, 2001) and originally recognized 87 different ecosystems for Belize. The report described each of the ecosystems including a list of plant species identified in these. Maps give information on altitude, broad ecosystems, detailed ecosystems and fire risk. The report is published in (low resolution) PDF format as Volume I (464 kb) and Volume II (1,422 kb). This 2001 ecosystems map was essentially an update of the 1995 Vegetation map of Belize by Iremonger and Brokaw. This Iremonger and Brokaw map borrowed heavily from the 1959 Natural Vegetation Map of Belize by Wright et al.	
The final product being an all encompassing Belize Ecosystems Map on a scale of incorporating the main terrestrial and marine habitats (including deep sea habitats, 96 habitats were thus mapped (table 8, figure 2) :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 65 Terrestrial classes - 14 Marine classes - 7 Agriculture/silviculture/mariculture classes - 6 Mangrove classes - 3 Inland water classes 	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Recent adoption of the NPAPSP.	
Development and implementation of management plans for protected areas comprising the National Protected Areas System.	

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

Establishment of new protected areas using the ecosystem approach. The gap analysis will be the guide for this target, and those under-represented ecosystems will be prioritized. The NPAPSP also calls for the streamlining of ecological units to avoid overlaps, where these exist.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of financial support for the implementation of the NPAPSP, legislation overlaps, increasing demand for agriculture lands, and lack of incentives.

VII) Any other relevant information

Since 2001 at least three additional areas were designated as protected areas.

Box XXVII.

Target 5. Protection of fifty percent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
Most critical areas for plant diversity already under protection including the Chiquibul National Park, Columbia River Forest Reserve, Aguacaliente Wildlife Sanctuary, and Bladen Nature Reserve.	

Box XXVIII.

Target 6. At least thirty percent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
The sustainable forest management plans being adopted by the Forest Department for national lands and forest reserves make provision for conservation of species.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Three large blocks of private and national lands now have approved management plans, while two more are being drafted. These represent a percentage of the available production lands. The Chiquibul Forest Reserve also has a management plan in place.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Forest management plans (with measures for conservation) are required for large tracts of privately owned land where forest products will be harvested.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
As part of their organic agro-forestry complex building programmes, YCT and TCGA have significantly increased the percentage of production lands that are managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity in Southern Belize.	

Box XXIX.

Target 7. Sixty percent of the world's threatened species conserved <i>In-situ</i>.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
Belize's network of terrestrial protected areas is one step in securing the support for the conservation of species. In addition an internal management policy aimed at controlling or managing the harvesting of threatened species such as mahogany and orchids have been adopted by the Forest Department.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
The global target plans have been accepted as the national targets.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
New protected areas are now being declared based on gap analysis and the ecosystem approach.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
Three protected areas have been declared based on these criteria since 2003.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Lack of national inventory identifying threatened or at risk species.	
VII) Any other relevant information	
Network of protected areas instrumental in the in-situ conservation of threatened plant species; but conservation on other national and privately owned lands also contributes to in-site conservation.	

Box XXX.

Target 8. Sixty percent of threatened plant species in accessible *Ex-situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 percent of them included in recovery and restoration Programmes.

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes

b) No

x

Please specify

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?

a) Yes

b) No

x

Please specify

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

A number of private botanical gardens have been established; but these have not yet reached significant proportions.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

List of Taxa of inventory for these botanical gardens available.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of coordination among botanical gardens. A change in the level priority accorded for the implementation of Belize's National Botanic Garden. Other Botanic Gardens need to be established in other parts of the Country in order to achieve wider representation.

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXI.

Target 9. Seventy percent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Few local crops such as black beans, local corn, jicama and annato are maintained by local farmers to sustain their livelihood activities. No national programmes exist.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
No national measures undertaken as yet.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
Development of seed banks/herbarium by Forestry Department, CARDI and other organizations may assist in completing this target.	

Box XXXII.

Target 10. Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
Individual Organizations have Management Plans for pests that affect their industry, e.g. the Citrus Growers Association (CGA) are implementing management plans for the management of the tristeza virus and citrus canker on citrus crops.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
Restriction on import of plant material.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
Belize has regional agreements to monitor and manage threats from known invasive species. For example, Belize supplies wasps to combat Pink Mealybug to other Central American countries.	

Box XXXIII.

Target 11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
Belize is a contracting party to CITES.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
Restriction on removal of plant species from protected areas.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Participation in CITES-activities and implementation of CITES-agreements.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Prohibition on removal of plant species in the wild without proper permits.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
Surveys conducted on certain species such as <i>Chamaedorea sp.</i> to determine their status due to illegal harvest and trade.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Ineffective monitoring. Cross-border poaching of wild species.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIV.

Target 12. Thirty percent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Majority of plant based products extracted from the wild.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
The adoption of a policy to allow extraction of forest and non-timber forest products from properly managed lands.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
There is no incentive to develop tree plantation ex-situ.	
VII) Any other relevant information	
YCT has accomplished widespread planting of local timber and fruit trees throughout its area of operation, thus supporting greater sustainability. Furthermore, it is developing seed stock plantations within its own private protected area for many plant species, including mahogany, cedar, peach palms and many native species of trees.	

Box XXXV.

Target 13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVI.

Target 14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness Programmes.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
There are many organizations in Belize whose mission and work include educational and public awareness Programmes on plant diversity and conservation.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
There are radio shows on general biodiversity themes.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
A number of NGOs engaged in natural resources management continually promote educational programmes on conservation.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
Children in schools (at all levels) are able to demonstrate their knowledge about conservation needs through art and essays and quizzes.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	
The University of Belize has degree programmes in natural resource management. The Protected Areas Conservation Trust funds scholarships for study in the field of natural resource management.	
Although YCT hasn't conducted much activity in this area, it will be doing this in the very near future. Belize Botanic Gardens have however, been highly active in accomplishing this.	

Box XXXVII.

Target 15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes

x

b) No

Please specify

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?

a) Yes

b) No

x

Please specify

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

More educational curricula are incorporated into the programmes of the local universities focusing on natural resources management.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

Many more students have graduated from these Institutions with tertiary level qualifications in the field.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of financial support and limited opportunities to place these graduates.

VII) Any other relevant information

Presently, the principal constraint to the knowledge of Belizean plants is the absence of trained plant taxonomists in Belize and the poor state of the herbarium (Meerman, 2006).

The National Institute of Biodiversity (INBio) based in Costa Rica, is executing the project "Developing capacities and sharing technology for the management of the biodiversity in Central America", a programme funded by the Government of Norway. One of the focuses of the project is to develop the capacity to generate and administer botanical information which can be integrated in partner-productive processes by interchange of technologies and fortifying the capacities of herbaria of the Central American region in order for them to be turned into true centres of botanical resources.

The YCT staff has received much training in organic horticulture and permaculture in order to establish its Botanic Gardens.

Box XXXVIII.

Target 16. Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
<p>Belize does not have a National Botanic Garden. Approximately 50 acres have been set aside to establish a National Botanic Garden in the Capital City.</p> <p>Private botanical gardens in Belize are members of the Caribbean Botanic Gardens for Conservation.</p> <p>The botanic gardens in Belize are networking with other Botanic Gardens of the region.</p>	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, Programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
The herbarium of the Forestry Department is being expanded and upgraded.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Belize is the current secretariat for the Caribbean Botanic Gardens for Conservation.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

The National Institute of Biodiversity (INBio) based in Costa Rica, is executing the project "Developing capacities and sharing technology for the management of the biodiversity in Central America", a Programme funded by the Government of Norway. One of the focuses of the project is to develop the capacity to generate and administer botanical information which can be integrated in partner-productive processes by interchange of technologies and fortifying the capacities of herbaria of the Central American region in order for them to be turned into true centres of botanical resources. Belize also has an ongoing collaboration with the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland to conduct annual expeditions to Belize.

Work in this area is also being done by YCT, NHM, UB and other Institutions and Organizations. YCT actively collaborates with Belize Botanic Gardens and international botanic gardens in order to gain advice and support for its activities.

Box XXXIX.


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

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


Belize does not have a National Botanic Garden. However, there are several private Botanic Gardens including the Belize Botanic Gardens. There is cooperation at the regional and international level (with the National Botanic Garden of Ireland and Caribbean Botanic Gardens for Conservation Network) with their activities resulting in annual surveys for known and new plant species. Ex-situ conservation in other Caribbean countries is ongoing for major plant species of economic importance. Several papers have been written on the orchid and cycad families of plants of Belize. InBio of Costa Rica is also transferring technology in herbarium improvement and management.

Ecosystem Approach


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

3.  ¹ Is your country applying the ecosystem approach, taking into account the principles and guidance contained in the annex to decision V/6? (decision V/6)


a) No	
b) No, but application is under consideration	
c) Yes, some aspects are being applied	
d) Yes, substantially implemented	x

4.  Is your country developing practical expressions of the ecosystem approach for national policies and legislation and for implementation activities, with adaptation to local, national, and regional conditions? (decision V/6)

a) No	
b) No, but development is under consideration	
c) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying some principles of the ecosystem approach	x
d) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying most	

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

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

6.  Has your country promoted regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) Yes, informal cooperation (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, formal cooperation (please provide details below)	x
Further comments on regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders.	
<p>Belize, Guatemala and Mexico have signed an MOU on protected areas management as part of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project (MBCP).</p> <p>Belize has signed several important agreements on Biodiversity at the regional level. Belize signed and ratified the UNCBD, and is a member of the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES). Belize is also party to the CITES Convention (1981), RAMSAR (1989) and The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1982), as well as signatory to the Convention for the Conservation of Biodiversity and the Protection of Priority Areas of Central America (1992). Belize has also ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (UNCCD).</p> <p>Belize is a member of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and of the Central American Commission of Forestry and Protected Areas (CCAB/AP). The IUCN-Mesoamerica, its division of Forest Conservation and Protected Areas, was commissioned by the CCAD and CCAB/AP to develop a "Central American Forest Strategy on Forest Restoration based on the Ecosystems Approach".</p> <p>The Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Initiative (MBC) serves as a platform for the integration of Protected Areas Management in the region. An output of the MBC has been the establishment of the regional Strategic Work Programme for Protected Areas (PERTAP).</p> <p>The MBRS Project, a regional project comprised of Belize, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras, has recognized the need for coordination with other projects in the region. Better networking between the MBRS and other projects, such as the UNDP/GEF Belize Barrier Reef Project, ICRAN, PROARCA, WWF, WCS, PACT, is being promoted through the establishment of a Consultative Group of key partners in the region. The group met in Belize in October 2003, with a second meeting planned in Mexico in mid-April, 2006. This networking will consolidate efforts on the ground to deliver benefits to target groups and fill in gaps in areas identified in the MBRS Action Plan adopted in 2000 by the Council of Ministers of CCAD (MBRS, 2006).</p> <p>Policy coordination and harmonization among the 4 countries is also a priority aspect of the MBRS Project. Progress continues on the formulation and harmonization of a regulatory framework for the use of shared resources and coastal governance within the MBRS region; however supervision and follow up by the National Coordinators and the CCAD Executive Secretariat will be required to take this agenda to the next level. A Sustainable Development Policy Framework for Fisheries Resources,</p>	

Tourism, Water Quality and Transboundary Marine Protected Areas has been drafted with the objective of trying to harmonize policies and environmental management systems in the region, promoting common positions which reflect principles already agreed to under international conventions and instruments, such as the Convention on Biodiversity, the Cartagena Convention, the FAO Code of Conduct for Straddling and Migratory Fish Stocks, etc. This common framework was adopted by CCAD member states in the Gulf of Honduras (Belize, Guatemala and Honduras), and is currently being considered for adoption by Mexico (MBRS, 2006).

The MBRS has developed substantial education and training protocols, including practical training; and the development of training manuals for the application of the ecosystem approach within communities of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Region.

Some NGOs are conducting bi-lateral training programmes for communities in the border zones.

7. Is your country facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach? (decisions VI/12 and VII/11)

a) No	
b) No, some Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some Programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive Programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach.

Through the MBRS project, harmonization of policies governing shared resources use among the four countries (Belize, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico) is proceeding incrementally through adoption of a common policy framework which lays out a set of principles for management of shared fish stocks, biodiversity, water quality, tourism, MPAs and other resources requiring an ecosystem-based approach (MBRS, 2006).

Similarly, the MBC Project facilitated harmonization of policies on Protected Areas between Belize and its neighbours – Mexico and Guatemala.

8. Is your country creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach, including through development of appropriate institutional frameworks? (decision VII/11)


a) No	
b) No, but relevant policies and Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some policies and Programmes are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and Programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

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

Gap analysis based on the ecosystem representation has been conducted and a policy creating additional protected areas on these criteria has been adopted.

C. ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

Article 5 – Cooperation

9.  Is your country actively cooperating with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	
c) Yes, multilateral cooperation (please give details below)	
d) Yes, regional and/or sub regional cooperation (please give details below)	x
e) Yes, other forms of cooperation (please give details below)	

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

In order to meet the fulfillment of the sustainable development agenda Belize has signed several important regional and international agreements.

Belize signed the UNCBD on June 13th 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and ratified it in December 1993. Belize is also party to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 1981; the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR) in 1989; The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1982); the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Bonn (The Migratory Species Convention); and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (The World Heritage Convention) (ratified Nov. 6, 1990). Belize has also ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Belize has also signed several important agreements on Biodiversity at the regional level. Belize is signatory to the Convention for the conservation of Biodiversity and the Protection of Priority Areas of Central America (1992), and joined the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES) in 1994. Belize has also signed the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC). Other regional conventions signed include the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (The Cartagena Convention) and the Protocol Concerning the Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region (ratified Dec. 11, 1997), the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in Western Hemisphere (The Western Hemisphere Convention), and signed the Belize/ Mexico Bilateral Agreement (signed September 1991).

The Cartagena Convention is a legally binding environmental treaty for the Wider Caribbean Region. The Convention and its Protocols constitute a legal commitment by the participating governments to protect, develop and manage their common waters individually or jointly.

Belize is also in the process of ratifying the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (the SPAW Protocol). Adopted in Kingston, Jamaica by the member governments of the Caribbean Environment Programme on 18 January 1990, the SPAW Protocol preceded other international environmental agreements in utilizing an ecosystem approach to conservation. The Protocol acts as a vehicle to assist with regional implementation of the broader and more demanding global Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The objective of the Protocol is to protect rare and fragile ecosystems and habitats, thereby protecting the endangered and threatened species residing therein. The Caribbean Regional Co-ordinating Unit pursues this objective by assisting with the establishment and proper management of protected areas, by promoting sustainable management (and use) of species to prevent their endangerment and by providing assistance to the governments of the region in conserving their coastal ecosystems (From:www.cep.unep.org).

Belize is also working on national legislation to incorporate the requirements of CITES as part of Belize's laws.

The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project (MBRS), which includes Belize, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras, arose from the ALIDES. The goal of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project is to enhance protection of the unique and vulnerable marine ecosystems comprising the MBRS, and to assist the countries of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras to strengthen and coordinate regional policies, regulations, and institutional arrangements for the conservation and sustainable use of this global public good.

The information on the MBRS web site (www.mbrs.org.bz) describes the global objective of the project as "to enhance the protection of the ecologically unique and vulnerable marine ecosystems comprising the MBRS, by assisting the participating countries in strengthening and coordinating national policies, regulations and institutional arrangements for the conservation and sustainable use of this global public good." The regional objectives of the MBRS Programme, agreed to by the four participating countries, are to: (a) strengthen Marine Protected Areas; (b) develop and implement a standardized data management system of ecosystem monitoring and facilitate the dissemination of its outputs throughout the region; (c) promote measures which will serve to reduce non-sustainable patterns of economic exploitation of MBRS, focusing initially on the fisheries and tourism sectors; (d) increase local and national capacity for environmental management through education, information sharing and training; and (e) facilitate the strengthening and coordinating of national policies, regulations, and institutional arrangements for marine ecosystem conservation and sustainable use (MBRS, 2006).

The MBRS Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Governments of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. The project is implemented by the World Bank and is executed by the four countries through the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) of the System for Central American Integration (SICA). The MBRS project is being executed by the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) on behalf of CCAD, with headquarters in Belize City, Belize.

Through SICA, Belize is also a member of the *Organization for the Fishing and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus* (OSPESCA) and is part of the project "Regional Plan for the Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Project" (PREPAC). The general objectives of OSPESCA is to establish a common regional system to increase the integrated participation of the countries of the Central American Isthmus and in this manner to contribute to the appropriate and sustainable use of the fisheries resources and the aquaculture products (OSPESCA, 2006). The specific objectives of OSPESCA are: a) to promote the regional and national organization of the sectors related directly with the administration and sustainable use of fisheries and the aquaculture, b) the regional and national institutional strengthening with the participation of the several organized agents of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors; c) to integrate regional actions strengthening the regional cooperation and encouraging entailment, to ensure the biological, economic, social and environmental sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sector; and, d) to encourage joint research and strengthen the knowledge for a better development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector activities taking into consideration sanitation and traceability actions. OSPESCA applies the principles of: sustainability, precaution, Central American Integration, Regional Responsibility, Citizenship participation, Intraregional solidarity and; Good neighbors.

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

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

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

As a member of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and of the Central American Commission of Forestry and Protected Areas (CCAB/AP), Belize participates in regional initiatives to strengthen the sustainable use of the biodiversity of the region. The IUCN-Mesoamerica, its division of Forest Conservation and Protected Areas, was commissioned by the CCAD and CCAB/AP to develop a "Central American Forest Strategy on Forest Restoration based on the Ecosystems Approach".

FD's activities are oriented towards regional projects (e.g. MBC, SIAM, CREP, IABIN) and to a lesser extent, capacity building activities (e.g. international training) and international initiatives related to UN Conventions (e.g. CBD, RAMSAR, CITIES, Cartagena Protocol, CCAD).

The Fisheries Department is heavily involved in trans-boundary and regional projects (e.g. TRIGOH, BEMAMCCOR, MBRS, and PREPAC), capacity building internally and towards the Marine Protected Areas it manages (e.g. MBRS, PREPAC, CRFM and co-management partners) and in International initiatives related to UN conventions like MARPOL, SPAW, the IAC Convention on Sea Turtles and COMPACT.

Belize is also in the process of ratifying the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (the SPAW Protocol). Adopted in Kingston, Jamaica by the member governments of the Caribbean Environment Programme on 18 January 1990, the SPAW Protocol preceded other international environmental agreements in utilizing an ecosystem approach to conservation. The Protocol acts as a vehicle to assist with regional implementation of the broader and more demanding global Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The objective of the Protocol is to protect rare and fragile ecosystems and habitats, thereby protecting the endangered and threatened species residing therein. The Caribbean Regional Co-ordinating Unit pursues this objective by assisting with the establishment and proper management of protected areas, by promoting sustainable management (and use) of species to prevent their endangerment and by providing assistance to the governments of the region in conserving their coastal ecosystems (From:www.cep.unep.org).

Through SICA, Belize is also a member of the *Organization for the Fishing and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus* (OSPESCA) and is part of the project "Regional Plan for the Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Project" (PREPAC). The general objectives of OSPESCA is to establish a common regional system to increase the integrated participation of the countries of the Central American Isthmus and in this manner to contribute to the appropriate and sustainable use of the fisheries resources and the aquaculture products (OSPESCA, 2006).

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

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

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

Recently, the National Protected Areas Policy was completed and adopted. It is the objective that this will form the framework for the guidance on protected areas management.

In 2002 the Forest Department (FD) was restructured into a programmatic system. Programmatic areas include Sustainable Forest Management, Protected Areas Management, Forest Revenue, Wildlife, Biodiversity and Law Enforcement. The FD has developed its 5 – year Strategic Plan. This plan blends together the two management structures. The new structure, if approved, may include Forest Resource Management, Forest Health, Protected Areas, Biodiversity, Forest Revenue, Law Enforcement and National and International Partnerships.

In January 2005, with support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNDP), the Ministry of Natural Resources Local Government and the Environment (MNRLGE) commissioned the Belize National Capacity Self Assessment Project (NCSA). The Report was completed in December 2005, and its goal was to enable Belize to conduct a self-assessment of its capacity to meet its obligations under the three Rio Conventions: the UNCBD, the UNFCCC, and the UNCCD.

A separate project, the assessment of the Belize National Capacity on Biosafety was launched with the goal of moving towards a national biosafety framework, as part of its fulfillment of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which the country has ratified.

Box XL.

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

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

The recently completed NCSA thematic assessment in biodiversity established the following priority needs:

- Development of a functional communications network that helps to coordinate activities among professionals;
- Establishment of a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) through which information can be accumulated, organized and disseminated throughout the stakeholder community, including the general public;
- Work to make co-management agreements successful through capacity building and technical support;
- Standardization and application of an assessment and monitoring process that can be conducted through trained and experienced community members working in conjunction with appropriate organizations and educational institutions;
- Focus on watersheds as basic conservation units, protecting the soil and water that is so vital to the biodiversity and ecosystems of Belize;
- Design and implement multilateral policies that include the necessity of biodiversity preservation and ecosystem conservation when development decisions are made;
- Biodiversity and ecosystem awareness and education programme that reaches into all sectors of society through many different media; and,
- Involve youth in the assessment, monitoring, conservation and application of solutions to identified problems that threaten biodiversity and ecosystems.

Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use

12. Has your country put in place effective national strategies, plans and Programmes to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention? (Goal 3.1 of the Strategic Plan)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant strategies, plans and Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some strategies, plans and Programmes are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, plans and Programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

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

The Government of Belize (GOB) has committed to the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources (Boles, NCSA, 2005). The Belize Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 1998-2003 (Jacobs and Castañeda 1998, eds.) were prepared in 1998.

Currently a development and revision of policies, strategies and work plans is underway in several key agencies (Forest Department, Fisheries Department and PACT). The Ministry of Agriculture has completed its agriculture policy, and includes provisions for sustainable agriculture practices, the conservation of ecologically sensitive sites, etc. Proposed policies are more aligned with requirements of the convention and promote sustainable use of biological resources. The various policy review processes recently recognized lack of a focus on biodiversity management as one of the primary deficiencies in the Ministerial and departmental policies. The lack of biodiversity management as part of these policies were found to be as a result of several organizations such as the Forest Department and the Fisheries Department focusing on the management of extracted resources. However, institutional shifts have occurred where these agencies are becoming recognized for their roles in protected areas and biodiversity management.

The Forest Department currently manages 600,386 hectares (1,482,954 acres) of protected areas, representing seventeen forest reserves (248,490 hectares or 613,700 acres), sixteen national parks (165,000 hectares or 407,550 acres), seven wildlife sanctuaries (136,951 hectares or 338,268 acres), four nature reserves (43,091 hectares or 106,435 acres) and four natural monuments (6,855 hectares or 16,931 acres) (Forest Department, 2005). Co-management agreements with either NGOs or CBOs exist for twenty-two of these protected areas. The Fisheries Department manages eight marine reserves, four of which have co-management agreements with local NGOs or CBOs. The Institute of Archaeology is in charge of eleven archaeological reserves throughout the country. Recently in 2005, Belize completed its National Protected Areas Policy and Strategy (NPAPSP).

The National Protected Areas Policy and System Plan (NPAPSP) Project final report was presented at the National Stakeholders Forum in January 2006 in Belize City. The NPAPSP project, which commenced in April 2004, sought to develop a comprehensive policy and plan for Belize's ninety-four (94) protected areas. This Policy and System Plan was subsequently submitted to Government for review and approval. The NPAPSP Project was the result of the collective efforts of the Protected Areas Conservation Trust, United Nations Development Programme, The Nature Conservancy, Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project, Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project, Belize Audubon Society, World Wildlife Fund, USAID/PROARCA-CAPAS, Wildlife Conservation Society, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, Programme for Belize, Forest Department, the Fisheries Department and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Local Government and the Environment.

Policies recently revised or in an advanced stage of revision include those for the Fisheries sector, which includes a long term strategy, a National Biodiversity Policy in an advanced stage of completion, an updated Strategic Action Plan by PACT, a Tourism Policy recently completed, a National Biosafety Strategy in an advanced stage of completion, a National Protected Areas Policy

recently completed and adopted, a recently updated National Agriculture Policy, and an updated National Environmental Action Plan, also in its final stages of completion. These policy documents will now reflect a shift of focus primarily on extractive resources management towards the inclusion of the ecosystem approach for biodiversity management and conservation.

The Government of Belize has established laws, regulations, guidelines and standards that govern the use and enjoyment of its natural resources, and biodiversity and in particular when these issues pertain to the development projects. These laws and regulations are implemented by Government Departments under the technical support of NGOs and local communities through various Instruments of Cooperation. Belize has formal and informal agreements with the NGO Community for the assistance in the management of its natural resources. Some Government bodies with direct responsibility for the protection of biodiversity and Belize's natural and cultural resources include the Fisheries Department, Forest Department, the Department of Environment, The Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute, and the National Institute of Culture and History.

Legislation being enforced by these agencies include, the National Parks Systems Act, the Wildlife Protection Act and the Forest Fires Protection Act enforced by the Forest Department; the Fisheries Act enforced by the Fisheries Department, and the Environmental Protection Act enforced by the Department of the Environment. The National Institute of Culture and History Act empowers the National Institute of Culture and History who manages archaeological reserves.

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

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

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

The global targets are now accepted as Belize's national targets, with guidelines, monitoring manuals with some indicators being developed via documentation such as the NPAPSP, the MBRS project, and via Belize's ecosystem map (World Bank/CCAD 2001).

The recent protected areas gap analysis (Meerman, 2005) produced as part of the NPAPSP produced data on the percentage of represented, and under-represented ecosystems in Belize, and made recommendations for inclusion in Belize's protected areas system of those under-represented ecosystems, or those not represented any at all.

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

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

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

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, Jacobs and Castaneda) were prepared in 1998. The NBSAP provided a long term framework for Belize to conserve and to sustainably use its biological resources. The priority recommendations of the NBSAP were: Identification of threats to biodiversity and recommendations for the reduction or mitigation of these threats, the formal

adoption of the National Protected Areas System Plan, the removal of legislative overlaps as a pre-requisite for effective coordination among agencies responsible for biodiversity management, the formulation of legislation specific to biodiversity, the development of enforcement mechanisms to protect and conserve biodiversity, the development of a management framework for marine reserves and other protected areas, a major education and public awareness campaign, substantive investment in human and institutional capacity, and the enactment of legislation aimed at ensuring compliance with Belize's commitments of the UNCBD and other international agreements relevant to biodiversity.

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

a) No	
b) Yes, in some sectors (please provide details below)	x
c) Yes, in major sectors (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, in all sectors (please provide details below)	

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

The Co-management agreements for protected areas provide opportunities for buffer communities and other stakeholders to benefit from resource use, resource extraction in sustainable ways. As an example, the fisheries sector benefits from sustainable harvesting practices and policies, and the tourism sector is guided by sustainable development of its activities.

There is also legislation and policies that ensure biodiversity protection against poaching, unsustainable practices, unsustainable harvesting, hunting, etc.

16. Are migratory species and their habitats addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan (NBSAP)? (decision VI/20)

a) Yes	x
b) No	

I) If **YES**, please briefly describe the extent to which it addresses

(a) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species	
(b) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats, including protected areas	Protection and maintenance of habitats. There are seven bird reserves as part of the National Protected Areas System. The establishment of biological corridors is being looked at the policy levels in development planning.
(c) Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration	
(d) Research and monitoring for migratory species	The Belize Audubon Society (BAS) and Birds Without Borders (BWB) conduct monitoring on bird movement.
(e) Transboundary movement	Birdlife International and WCS/BAS research on habitats for birds

II) If NO , please briefly indicate below	
(a) The extent to which your country addresses migratory species at national level	
(b) Cooperation with other Range States since 2000	<p>Transboundary Commissions have been established by the MBRS project. Efforts are underway to conduct the economic development scenarios in the region, and the Transboundary Commissions are pursuing a subset of policies in areas of shared MBRS resource management.</p> <p>Work is conducted to monitor the migration route of the whale shark.</p>

Biodiversity and Climate Change

17. Has your country implemented projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use? (decision VII/15)

a) No	
b) No, but some projects or Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some projects have been implemented (please provide details below)	x

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

Belize signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and ratified the Convention in 1994.

A National Focal Point has been appointed and the National Meteorological Service (NMS) in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Local Government and the Environment (MNRLGE) has been designated as the public service agency with the responsibility to advise the government on climate change matters.

Since the signing of the Convention, Belize has made limited progress in implementing the Convention. Belize completed the first national inventory of Green House Gases Emissions and Sinks, and later submitted its First National Communication to the Conference of the Parties. Vulnerability Assessments were conducted for the agricultural sector and a Government of Belize Policy on Adaptation to Global Climate Change was drafted. Other key achievements include:

- Promotion of sustainable management, and cooperation in conservation and enhancement of GHG sinks through government's establishment of terrestrial and marine protected areas.
- Promotion and cooperation in the application and transfer of technology that control, reduce or prevent emissions through formulation of the renewable energy such as biomass, hydro, solar and wind energy.
- Formulate and implement national programmes containing measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change as in the National Hazard Mitigation Policy drafted by the National Environmental Management Organization.

Programme for Belize (Pfb), a non-government organization that manages the quarter million acre property known as the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area (RBCMA) has been successful in negotiating to participate in the Carbon Sequestration Programme under the United States Initiative for Joint Implementation, whose partnership has been active since 1995.

18. Has your country facilitated coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification? (decision VII/15)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	x
c) Yes, relevant mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

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

The recently completed NCSA highlighted the need for the establishment of a Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of the Conventions as a means of achieving synergy and maximizing the access to the potential benefits.

A National Focal Point has been appointed and the National Meteorological Service (NMS) in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Local Government and the Environment (MNRLGE) has been designated as the public service agency with the responsibility to advise the government on climate change matters. The NMS is also the focal point for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The new National Focal Point (NFP) has reconstituted the National Coordinating Body, in order to have technical support available in the further implementation UNCCD activities. The NFP advises that certain activities will be out-sourced; utilizing national consultants to provide services and technical assistance, and public consultations will be utilized to allow input from all sectors while planning land degradation mitigation programmes and projects. The financial resources available through the international funding agencies will be accessed through properly designed projects (Green, 2005).

Some capacity to implement the Convention has been developed at the individual and the institutional level. This has been achieved through the participation of staff of some of the participating institutions such as the National Meteorological Service, Forest Department, Fisheries Department, and Programme for Belize in regional and international meetings related to climate change.

At the systemic level, no national climate change programme incorporating resource mobilization exists to assist in establishing and maintaining the required National Systems. Building capacity at the systemic level also requires additional surveys and research activities which would have to be incorporated into national development plans. The relatively low level of awareness of the country's vulnerability to climate change and the potentially negative impacts of climate change are probably the most significant contributing factors to the absence of climate change issues in national planning documents.

Belize needs to create national strategies that would generate increased awareness and concern for impacts of climate change on every development sector. All stakeholders have to be involved in and given the opportunity to contribute to the process of national development.

No specific strategy to combat land degradation and drought has been formulated for Belize (NCSA, 2005). However, certain sectoral policies and strategies that would mitigate the impacts of land degradation and drought have been drafted. Examples are the Agricultural Sector Strategy policy document 1998-2020 and Sectoral Strategy 5-year plan which seek to improve agricultural practices; the Forest Strategy and the National Land Policy Framework that is one of the expected outputs of the Land Management Programme currently being implemented by the MNRLGE.

Box XLI.

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

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

According to Belize's recent NCSA thematic assessment report (Green, 2005) on the UNCCD, no specific strategy to combat land degradation and drought has been formulated for Belize. However, certain sectoral policies and strategies that would mitigate the impacts of land degradation and drought have been drafted. Examples are the Agricultural Sectoral Strategy policy document 1998-2020 and Sectoral Strategy 5-year plan which seek to improve agricultural practices; the Forest Strategy and the National Land Policy Framework that is one of the expected outputs of the Land Management Programme currently being implemented by the Ministry of Natural Resources Local Government and the Environment (MNRLGE).

The thematic report (Green, 2005) indicates that as a signatory to the UNCCD, Belize has an opportunity to improve land resource management by addressing the following limitations:

- Lack of a comprehensive database including ecological, social, economic, and traditional knowledge.
- Lack of explicit land administration policies and institutional responsibilities.
- The need to improve public sensitivity to the high costs of unsustainable management policies.
- Absence of policies that promote appropriate human settlement pattern, particularly in ecologically fragile or vulnerable areas.

- Expertise to develop and implement integrated ecosystem management.

In addition, the NCSA report (Green, 2005) also states that one constraint to implementation of the UNCCD is the absence of national budgetary allocations for the implementation of its requirements. In November 2005, the NFP for the UNCCD received a "Preliminary Survey on Land Degradation in Belize" by Meerman 2005.

Belize has an opportunity to achieve synergy in the implementation of the United Nations Conventions of Climate Change, Biological Diversity, and Land Degradation and Drought since the Ministry of Natural Resources Local Government and the Environment houses all three National Focal Points.

The involvement of local community level stakeholders in natural resources management ensures wider access to and distribution of the social, economic and environmental benefits, thereby contributing to poverty reduction (one of the MDGs).

Article 7 - Identification and monitoring

19. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Article 7(a), does your country have an ongoing Programme to identify components of biological diversity at the genetic, species, ecosystem level?	
a) No	
b) Yes, selected/partial Programmes at the genetic, species and/or ecosystem level only (please specify and provide details below)	x
c) Yes, complete Programmes at ecosystem level and selected/partial inventories at the genetic and/or species level (please specify and provide details below)	
Further comments on ongoing Programmes to identify components of biodiversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.	
<p>There are ongoing initiatives managed by national (WCS, PFB, BERDs, Las Cuevas, etc) and international (Smithsonian, many foreign Universities and individuals) researchers. These have to be coordinated to reduce gaps, while improving coverage at a national level.</p> <p>YCT, assisted by external experts, is very active in research in many areas, including: terrestrial, aquatic ecosystems, vegetation, freshwater fish, mammals and birds.</p>	

20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Article 7(b), which components of biological diversity identified in accordance with Annex I of the Convention, have ongoing, systematic monitoring Programmes?	
a) at ecosystem level (please provide percentage based on area covered)	
b) at species level (please provide number of species per taxonomic group and percentage of total known number of species in each group)	x
c) at genetic level (please indicate number and focus of monitoring Programmes)	
Further comments on ongoing monitoring Programmes at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.	

Species List Being Monitored in Belize			
District	Toledo	Toledo	Cayo
Location	Golden Stream Biological Corridor	Aguacaliente Wildlife Sanctuary	Green Hills Butterfly Ranch
Organisation	(Y'aax Che Conservation Trust)	Aguacaliente Management Team	Belize Tropical Forest Studies
Protocol	Protocols developed by Jan Meerman	Protocols developed by Jan Meerman	Protocols developed by Jack Meyer.
Year start	2005	2006	1996
	Birds	Birds	Frogs
	Agami heron	Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Rhinophrynus dorsalis</i>
	Yellow headed Amazon	Boat-billed Heron	<i>Leptodactylus labialis</i>
	Great Blue Heron	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Leptodactylus melanonotus</i>
	Muscovy duck	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Bufo marinus</i>
	Great Curassow	Agami heron	<i>Bufo valliceps</i>
	Black Bellied Whistling Duck	Bare-throated Tiger Heron	<i>Agalychnis callidryas</i>
	Keel-billed Motmot	Great Blue Heron	<i>Hyla microcephala</i>
	Crested Guan	Jabiru	<i>Hyla picta</i>
	Brown hooded Parrot	Woodstork	<i>Hyla loquax</i>
	Bronzed Cowbird	Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Hyla ebraccata</i>
	Great Tinamou	Great Egret	<i>Phrynohyas venulosa</i>
	Slaty-breasted Tinamou	Snowy Egret	<i>Scinax staufferi</i>
	Little Tinamou	Cattle Egret	<i>Smilisca baudinii</i>
	Plain Bellied Chachalaca	Tricolored Heron	<i>Tripion petasatus</i>
	Keel-billed Toucan	White Ibis	
	Wood Trush	Muscovy duck	
	Golden Winged Warbler	Black Bellied Whistling Duck	
	Grace's Warbler	Blue-winged Teal	
	Prothonotary Warbler	Great Tinamou	
	Worm-eating Warbler	Great Curassow	
	Swainson's Warbler	Crested Guan	
	Louisiana Waterthrush		
	Kentucky Warbler	Mammals:	
	Painted Bunting	Black Howler Monkey	
	Dickcissel	Jaguar & Puma	
	Caerulean Warbler	Ocelot	
	Magnolia warbler	Neotropical River Otter	
	Hooded warbler	Tapir	
	Black and White Warbler	Paca	
	Common Yellowthroat	White Tailed Deer	
	Chestnut sided warbler	Collared Peccary	
	American Redstart		
	Northern Watertrush	Other:	
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Morelets Crocodile	
		Hickatee	
	Mammals:	Snapping Turtle	
	Black Howler Monkey	Common Slider = Bocatora	
	Spider Monkey		
	Naked-tailed Armadillo		
	White-lipped Peccary		
	Neotropical River Otter		
	Tapir		
	Nine-banded Armadillo		
	Paca		
	White Tailed Deer		
	Red Brocket Deer		
	Agouti		
	Coati		
	Collared Peccary		

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

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

Further comments on monitoring Programmes on key threats to biodiversity.

Mahogany – Monitoring through the permit system and compliance with CITES requirements.
 Conch, lobster and Nassau Grouper – active monitoring programmes underway.

Through the regional MBRS project, headquartered in Belize, the country will benefit from additional monitoring by the implementing of activities under one of its important objective, which is to develop and implement a standardized data management system of ecosystem monitoring and facilitate the dissemination of its outputs throughout the region. To fulfill this objective, the MBRS has a component to establish a Regional Environmental Monitoring and Information System (REIS), with two sub-components as follows:

Sub-component A - Creation and Implementation of a Distributed, Web-based EIS; and,
 Sub-component B - Establishment of an MBRS Synoptic Monitoring Programme.

Under sub – component B, the Synoptic Monitoring Manual has been completed, and many persons have been trained in its use, and monitoring equipment has been delivered to Belize, and other countries. The monitoring of reef fish aggregation sites has also been conducted as part of the sustainable fisheries management programme.

The REIS will manage information on monitoring programmes being conducted by other organizations monitoring the Barrier Reef ecosystem throughout Belize and the region.

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


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

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

Belize's Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) was established in 2005. It is expected that the CHM will form the basis for the sharing of biodiversity information, and has links to several important data bases including the Belize Environmental Resource Data System (BERDS), a data base managed by a local NGO (Belize Tropical Forest Studies), the Belize Biodiversity Information System (BBIS)

managed by WCS and the Belize Audubon Society. The Smithsonian Institute also conducts research in the coastal/marine environment.

Although the MBRS project is a regional initiative, Belize will benefit from additional monitoring by the implementing of activities under the objective to implement a standardized data management system of ecosystem monitoring and facilitate the dissemination of its outputs throughout the region. To fulfill this objective, the MBRS has a component to establish a Regional Environmental Monitoring and Information System (REIS), with its two sub components; (i) creation and Implementation of a Distributed, Web-based EIS, and (ii) the establishment of an MBRS Synoptic Monitoring Programme.

23.  Does your country use indicators for national-level monitoring of biodiversity? (decision III/10)	
a) No	x
b) No, but identification of potential indicators is under way (please describe)	
c) Yes, some indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
d) Yes, a relatively complete set of indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
Further comments on the indicators identified and in use.	
Macaw parrots and green parrots occupy a particular niche that is constantly under threat due to changing land use. This is not an organized indicator system, but is based on observations made by independent environmental groups.	

Box XLII.

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

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

Environment groups lobby for protection of remaining threatened habitats. As a mitigation measure, performance bonds have been placed on large infrastructure projects (e.g. hydrodams) in order to ensure compliance with biodiversity and other protection requirements. Performance bonds are required for mining activity as well as for development or investment projects whose activities lead to negative impacts on biodiversity and the environment as a whole.

Decisions on Taxonomy

24. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has your country developed a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	x
b) No, but a plan is under development	
c) Yes, a plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, reports on implementation available (please provide details below)	
Further information on a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1.	
25. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	x
Further information on investment on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections.	
<p>The Forest Department and Agriculture Department have collections (plants, insects, birds) dating back to the 1920's. The efforts to preserve these continue through upgrade and expansion of the facilities.</p> <p>Networking or collaboration is not yet identified as priority or an issue, but academic demand is increasing.</p>	
26. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Does your country provide training Programmes in taxonomy and work to increase its capacity of taxonomic research? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	x
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on training Programmes in taxonomy and efforts to increase the capacity of taxonomic research.	
<p>Several NGOs such as the BTFS, the BAS, Smithsonian Institute conduct work in taxonomy at different levels.</p>	
27. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	x
b) No, but steps are being considered	
c) Yes, for some institutions	
d) Yes, for all major institutions	

28.* ² Is your country collaborating with the existing regional, subregional and global initiatives, partnerships and institutions in carrying out the Programme of work, including assessing regional taxonomic needs and identifying regional-level priorities? (decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) No, but collaborative Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some collaborative Programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative Programmes, including results of regional needs assessments)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive collaborative Programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative Programmes, including results of regional needs assessment and priority identification)	
Further information on the collaboration your country is carrying out to implement the Programme of work for the GTI, including regional needs assessment and priority identification.	
29. * Has your country made an assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities at the national level for the implementation of the Convention? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	x
b) Yes, basic assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
c) Yes, thorough assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
Further comments on national assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities.	
30. * Is your country working on regional or global capacity building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) Yes, relevant Programmes are under development	x

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

c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
Further comments on regional or global capacity-building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties.	
Through the CHM, BERDS, Belize Biodiversity Information System (BBIS), Smithsonian Institute, NHM (UC), New York Botanical Gardens (NYBG) all have taxonomical information on Belizean specimens that can be accessed electronically. However, data from the Central Farm Agriculture Research Station and FD Herbarium are not accessible on the web.	
31. * Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the Programmes of work under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	x
b) Yes, for forest biodiversity (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for marine and coastal biodiversity (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for dry and sub-humid lands (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for inland waters biodiversity (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for mountain biodiversity (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for protected areas (please provide details below)	
h) Yes, for agricultural biodiversity (please provide details below)	
i) Yes, for island biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the Programmes of work under the Convention.	
The Fisheries Department has institutional arrangements related to data sharing with the Spawning Aggregations Working Group (SPAG), MBRS (tentative) and many MOU's with Marine Protected Areas Co-management partners.	
CF, BBIS, FD Herbarium, BERDS and the BTFS, NHM, CHM, Smithsonian Institute all support activities related to taxonomic work.	
32. * Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8?	
a) No	x
b) Yes, for access and benefit-sharing (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for Article 8(j) (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for the ecosystem approach (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for impact assessment, monitoring and indicators (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for others (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention.

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

33. On Article 8(i), has your country endeavored to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are being identified	
c) Yes, some measures undertaken (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details below)	

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

Through several initiatives and programmes at the institutional levels, including lead Government agencies such as the Fisheries Department, Forest Department, and supported via funding programmes (PACT, GEF), the present uses and conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components are being explored.

The Fisheries Department is seeking to create a balance between fishing and conservation. One mechanism being used is the implementation of a quota system for capture fisheries, which is supported by legislation. There are also closed seasons for the capture of marine and freshwater species including the conch, lobster, Nassau Grouper, and a licensing system for the hunting of certain species such as the turtles.

34. On Article 8(k), has your country developed or maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations?

a) No	
b) No, but legislation is being developed	
c) Yes, legislation or other measures are in place (please provide details below)	x

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

The recent NCSA UNCBD Stock Taking Assessment (Boles, 2005) reports 27 Parent Acts and regulations that have direct relevance to biodiversity issues. Laws directly governing sustainable use and protection of biodiversity include the Wildlife Protection Act, National Parks Systems Act, Fisheries Act, Ancient Monuments and Antiquities Act, Private Forest (Conservation) Act, Forest Fire Protection Act, the National Institute of Culture and History Act, and the Environmental Protection Act, among others. Numerous regulations or subsidiary laws under these Parent Acts have also been passed that allow for enforcement of the protection of biodiversity and threatened species.

Draft Biodiversity Policy and Draft Legislation are in process of preparation and the draft legislation will be available for public review shortly. The National Environmental Policy and Strategy and the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) of the Department of the Environment are also in a review process, and at an advanced stage of completion. The Forest Department now requires Forest Management Plans for the extraction of forest resources in privately held property. The National Biosafety Framework is also at an advanced stage of completion, and will form the basis for biosafety in Belize.

Presently, Belize is working on national legislation to incorporate the CITES requirements as part of Belize's laws.


The Forest Department is the most important Agency that deals with Belize's forest resources. The Forest Department is responsible for the implementation of *the Forest Act*, the *National Parks Systems Act*, the *Wildlife Protection Act*, and the *Forest Fires Protection Act*.

The *Fisheries Act* empowers the Fisheries Department to carry out a wide functions pertaining to the management of Belize's Marine Protected Areas as well as for the protection and sustainable use of marine species, including capture fisheries. The Fisheries Act also enforces provisions against the capture of marine species for research without a permit.

The *Environmental Protection Act*, relates to the preservation, protection and improvement of the environment, the rational use of our natural resources, and the control of pollution. The DOE is empowered by this Act. A number of regulations including the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 1995 have been passed under this act.

National Institute of Culture and History Act. The National Institute of Culture and History Act, Chapter 331 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, was first enacted in February 2000. This law established the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH), which is comprised of the following: (a) the Museum of Belize, (b) the Institute for the Research and Management of Material Culture, (c) the Institute of Social and Cultural Research, and (d) the Institute of Creative Arts.

The NICH has a wide functions including (among others) the coordination and supervision of the policies and programs of the divisions within the Institute, and to promote the strengthening, preservation and development of historic, cultural and artistic development in Belize.

35.  On Article 8(I), does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant processes and categories of activities being identified	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

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

Belize has enacted numerous legislations governing the protection of its biodiversity and the mitigation of impacts to biodiversity. Recently revised policies at the ministerial and departmental levels have resulted in a change in focus from extractive resources to integrated biodiversity management.

The National Biodiversity Framework is at an advanced stage of completion.

Box XLIII.

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on targets and indicators for protected areas.

The NPAPSP project, which commenced in April 2004, sought to develop a comprehensive policy and plan for Belize's ninety-four (94) protected areas. The NPAPSP Project was the result of the collective efforts of the Protected Areas Conservation Trust, United Nations Development Programme, The Nature Conservancy, Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project, Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project, Belize Audubon Society, World Wildlife Fund, USAID/PROARCA-CAPAS, Wildlife Conservation Society, Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, Programme for Belize, Forest Department, the Fisheries Department and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Local Government and the Environment. The next step will be to secure resources to support the implementation of the main strategic actions of the plan. These strategic actions, which will be implemented over a six-year period, will: 1) establish an enabling administrative structure for policy implementation, 2) make the national protected areas system functional, 3) make the national protected areas system comprehensive, and 4) consolidate and simplify the national protected area system.

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

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

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

Based on the recently completed National Protected Areas System Plan (Meerman & Wilson), Belize has 94 protected areas up to January 1 2005, including archaeological reserves and "accepted" private reserves). Several of these reserves, particularly in the Marine realm have official management zonation. When these zones are taking into account the number of "management units" increase to 115. There is also some overlap. Particularly the "Spawning Aggregations", which are technically "Marine Reserves", have often been created partly inside already existing marine reserves and should possibly best be considered a zonation category within these marine reserves (Meerman, 2006).

As part of Belize's protected areas system, there are 7 Birds Sanctuaries that are some of the oldest protected areas. Archaeological Reserves include a number of Maya Sites managed by the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH). The total of these sites is approximately 27,826 acres or 11,261 ha (0.7% of national territory). However, 12 archaeological reserve sites were included in the analysis. Additional sites were only available as point data and as such could not be used in the area calculation.

Extractive Reserves from a grouping of 16 Forest Reserves and 8 Marine Reserves. These management categories were created for the management of extractive resources. This is the largest section of Protected Areas Categories (50% of total protected area acreage):

- Forest Reserves 939,809 acres; 380,328 hectares = 9.3% of Total National Territory;
- Marine Reserves: 372,730 acres; 150,839 hectares = 3.7% of Total National Territory; and,
- The combined coverage = 13.0% of the Total National Territory.

Most of Belize's protected areas support the protection and conservation of threatened species.

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

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

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

Considerable activities have been carried out in Marine Protected Areas, and very little in Inland water ecosystems. However, there are gaps in the protected areas system, and there exists no protected area representing deep water ecosystems. Some new marine and protected areas have recently been declared. Presently, there are no immediate plans to declare marine protected areas representing open seas, but this may be considered in the future.

39. Has your country identified and implemented practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but some Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, many steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	

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

Based on the recently completed National Protected Areas System Plan (Meerman & Wilson), Belize has 94 protected areas up to January 1 2005, including archaeological reserves and "accepted" private reserves). Several of these reserves, particularly in the Marine realm have official management zonation.

As part of Belize's protected areas system, there are 7 Birds Sanctuaries that are some of the oldest protected areas. Archaeological Reserves include a number of Maya Sites managed by the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH). However, 12 archaeological reserve sites were included in the analysis.

Extractive Reserves form a grouping of 16 Forest Reserves and 8 Marine Reserves. These management categories were created for the management of extractive resources. This is the largest section of Protected Areas Categories (50% of total protected area acreage):

- Forest Reserves 939,809 acres; 380,328 hectares = 9.3% of Total National Territory;
- Marine Reserves: 372,730 acres; 150,839 hectares = 3.7% of Total National Territory; and,
- Combined coverage = 13.0% of Total National Territory.

The other conservation management categories are a grouping that represents management categories with conservation objectives. These include Nature Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries, no-take areas (marine reserves), National Parks, and Natural Monuments. This grouping includes a total of 53 areas falling in 6 different classes including conservation/wilderness/no-take zones of marine reserves. The total national coverage of this category of protected areas is 9.3% of the total national territory.

With respect to Private Protected Areas, there are 8 private protected areas that meet the classification of either having a standing agreement with the Government, and those that have a de-facto recognition and have management structure in place (Shipstern Nature Reserve, Community Baboon Sanctuary, Runaway Creek, Aguacate Lagoon, Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and Golden Stream Corridor Preserve) (Meerman, 2006). The total area that these 8 protected areas represent is 325,346 acres or 131, 663 hectares or 3.2% of Belize's National Territory.

40. Is your country applying environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant EIA guidelines are under development	
c) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to some projects or plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to all relevant projects or plans (please provide details below)	x

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

The EIA Regulations do require for projects within or adjacent to a protected area to prepare an EIA. The EIA process calls for the identification and implementation of mitigation measures for the impacts of projects within or adjacent to protected areas.

Other legislation such as the Mining Laws as well as the Environmental Protection Act, also address issues pertaining to EIA requirements, and include the requirements for performance bonds to ensure that mitigation actions are implemented by the private sector.

Any project in a protected area requires the development of an EIA.

41. Has your country identified legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes, some gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, many gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	

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

The recent protected areas gap analysis in the NPAPSP, identified legislative overlaps and legislative and policy gaps affecting protected areas establishment and management. One such legislative gap is the absence of legislation as it pertains to private protected areas, and the under-representation of certain ecosystems, or the absence of representation of some ecosystems.

42. Has your country undertaken national protected-area capacity needs assessments and established capacity building Programmes? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, a basic assessment undertaken and some Programmes established (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, a thorough assessment undertaken and comprehensive Programmes established (please provide details below)	

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

The NPAPSP project involved the preparation of several documents including and assessment of the management capacity of several protected areas (Launchpad 2005). This analysis indicated several deficiencies in the management of protected areas in Belize. The deficiencies identified included institutional and technical gaps, as well as deficiencies in management.

The NPAPSP also developed protocols for the evaluation of the effectiveness of management in terrestrial protected areas, while the MBRS project has developed protocols for the evaluation of the effectiveness of management in marine protected areas.

Several evaluations on the effectiveness of management of protected areas have been conducted in Belize, and gaps and weaknesses identified, with recommendations for improvement.

Several NGOs are presently undergoing capacity building programmes. This includes training of its staff. The BAS has trained its wardens through several training programmes throughout 2004. Capacity building programmes are also planned for the personnel from the Aguacate Management Team (AMT), FCD (presently benefiting from training in protected areas management), and several marine protected areas through the MBRS project. YCT is also conducting training and capacity building that involves outreach programmes for farmers and community personnel, while the Bladen Management Consortium is strengthening the management systems of the Bladen Nature Reserve. Capacity building is an on-going activity in the work plan of most NGOs. Similarly, SATIIM has strengthened its capacity to manage the Sarstoon Temash National Park by initiating a community co-management plan that emphasizes the communities' participation and by training and assisting its Board of Directors to develop and implement annual operating plans and a strategic development plan.

43. Is your country implementing country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant plan is under development	
c) Yes, relevant plan is in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, relevant plan is being implemented (please provide details below)	

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

The Forest Department recently prepared its long term strategic plan for the next five years with the overall strategic goal of having in place a regulated, efficiently facilitated, integrated and sustained management of the forest resources in such a manner that they are recognized for their ecological functions as well as their contributions to the local and national economy. The strategic plan also makes recommendations for institutional strengthening, which should have long-term benefits to protected areas management as this organization manages a considerable portion of Belize's protected areas. It is expected that a financial sustainability mechanism for the Forest Department is developed, and the analysis for the preparation of this report is currently underway.

The PACT Trust Fund is providing funding for activities supporting the protected areas. PACT has supported numerous NGOs and Government institutions in the financing of activities and programmes.

Individual protected areas also have received funding for the preparation of financial sustainability mechanisms, including business plans.

Belize also has a Dept for Nature Swap (DNS) signed in 2001. This agreement will enable the U.S. Government and The Nature Conservancy to forgive part of Belize's debt to the United States. In return, the Government of Belize will issue finance in local currency obligations payable to TIDE, PFB, BAS, as well as PACT. These organizations will establish endowment funds to manage the protected areas.

Archaeological sites managed by NICH have a high level sustainability. Several protected areas have a high degree of revenue collection but still depend on a partial subsidy from funding agencies. Examples of sites with high revenue collection are the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, managed by the Fisheries Department, and Half Moon Caye National Monument managed by BAS.

Most individual Protected Areas are in the stage of developing a business plan.

44. Is your country implementing appropriate methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant methods, standards, criteria and indicators are under development	
c) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use and some international methods, standards, criteria and indicators in use (please provide details below)	

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

As part of the NPAPSP, Belize prepared its Monitoring Management Effectiveness in Belize's Protected Areas System (Young and others, 2005). This document provides a protocol for the monitoring of the effectiveness of management and provides makes recommendations on ways to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness in the Belize's protected areas system.

Similarly, through the MBRS/PROARCA initiative, a methodology to be used for evaluating the effectiveness of marine protected areas throughout the MBRS region, including Belize, will be the manual entitled "Manual for the Rapid Evaluation of Management Effectiveness in Marine Protected Areas of Mesoamerica" for the marine protected areas. PROARCA is a regional capacity building project under the CCAD and funded by USAID.

Regional assessment protocols developed for both marine and terrestrial protected areas for Central American countries were previously used to evaluate the effectiveness of management of protected areas.

Box XLIV.

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

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

As a result of the NPAPSP Project, Belize now has a comprehensive system of protected areas, with clear goals for the improved management of protected areas, institutional strengthening for protected areas management, the identification of gaps and weaknesses in the management structures, and the recommendations for the seeking of sustainability mechanisms to supported protected areas management.

Belize has accepted the goals of the 2010 targets as its national targets. Presently, if one considers only those protected areas being managed for conservation of biodiversity alone, then Belize is very close to achieving its national share towards the global target of 10% since Belize's protected areas managed for the conservation of biodiversity amounts to 9.3% of its total national territory. If additional protected areas such as the private protected areas, which have a high degree of management with the goal of conservation of biodiversity, are considered, then Belize has exceeded the national goal of 10%. Nonetheless, it is recognized that gaps do exist in the protected areas system, and it is believed that these gaps may be considered for correction as Belize moves towards the 2010 target.

Article 8(h) - Alien species

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

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

46. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?

a) No	x
b) Yes, but only for some alien species of concern (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for most alien species (please provide details below)	

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

The Draft Seed Policy (Ministry of Agriculture) will require that all seeds imported into the country have received treatment before entry.

To decrease the threat of introduction of alien species the Ministry of Agriculture has placed restrictions on the importation of agricultural products. For example only the Citrus Growers Association (CGA) is permitted to import live citrus products into the country. Importation of agricultural goods necessitates that an import permit be issued by the competent authority *prior* to the importation of the material into the country. Potential risks to agricultural (and human) health are assessed to determine if or under what conditions the permit will be issued.

The Fisheries Department also screens marine products during entry in order to ensure that alien species are not introduced into the country.

47. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate, those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?

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

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


Only certified varieties of bananas and citrus are allowed for production.

A surveillance system is in place at border crossings for the introduction of agricultural products.

The Fisheries Department screens the import of any marine products in order to avoid the introduction of alien species.

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

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

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

a) No

x

b) Yes (please provide details below)

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

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

a) No

b) No, but needs and priorities are being identified

x

c) Yes, national needs and priorities have been identified (please provide below a list of needs and priorities identified)

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

51. Has your country created mechanisms to coordinate national Programmes for applying the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)

a) No

x

b) No, but mechanisms are under development

c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)

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

52. Has your country reviewed relevant policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles, and adjusted or developed policies, legislation and institutions? (decision VI/23)

a) No

b) No, but review under way

x

c) Yes, review completed and adjustment proposed (please provide details below)

d) Yes, adjustment and development ongoing

e) Yes, some adjustments and development completed (please provide details below)

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

The Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) has been established to address among other things the issue of plant protection. This involves issuing permits for the import of agricultural products, screening of imported agricultural products as well as quarantining potentially harmful agricultural products.

53. Is your country enhancing cooperation between various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but potential coordination mechanisms are under consideration	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	x

Further comments on cooperation between various sectors.

Strict regulations are in place for export commodities. The Ministry of Agriculture works along with other Agencies to monitor and regulate the export of fresh agricultural products.

54. Is your country collaborating with trading partners and neighboring countries to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity in ecosystems that cross international boundaries? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) Yes, relevant collaborative Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, relevant Programmes are in place (please specify below the measures taken for this purpose)	x

Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighboring countries.

Belize is presently supplying wasp for the control of the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug to Central America and Mexico.

55. Is your country developing capacity to use risk assessment to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity and incorporate such methodologies in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA)? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but Programmes for this purpose are under development	x
c) Yes, some activities for developing capacity in this field are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	

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

Pest Risk Analysis is being done by BAHA on select crops such as Irish potato and carrot.

56. Has your country developed financial measures and other policies and tools to promote activities to reduce the threats of invasive species? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures and policies are under development	
c) Yes, some measures, policies and tools are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures and tools are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of financial measures and other policies and tools for the promotion of activities to reduce the threats of invasive species.	
The Citrus Growers Association alone can import fresh citrus products into Belize.	

Box XLV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation. 	
The threat of introduction of alien species is very important to Belize. Our main export sector is agriculture based. It is thus necessary to ensure the survival and sustainability of this sector. The Belize Agriculture health Authority was established to deal specifically with plant and animal health and related factors. Belize is also a member of OIRSA (Regional International Organization on Plant Health).	
The threat of introduction of alien species is very important to Belize. Our main export sector is agriculture based. It is thus necessary to ensure the survival and sustainability of this sector. The Belize Agriculture health Authority was established to deal specifically with plant and animal health and related factors. Belize is also a member of OIRSA (Regional International Organization on Agricultural Health).	
Invasive alien species such as Tilapia and noxious weeds pose a threat to the biodiversity of Belize.	

Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions

GURTS

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

Further comments on capacity-building Programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to GURTs.

Status and Trends

58. Has your country supported indigenous and local communities in undertaking field studies to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)

a) No	x
b) No, but support to relevant studies is being considered	
c) Yes (please provide information on the studies undertaken)	

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

Akwé:Kon Guidelines

59. Has your country initiated a legal and institutional review of matters related to cultural, environmental and social impact assessment, with a view to incorporating the Akwé:Kon Guidelines into national legislation, policies, and procedures?

a) No	x
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, a review undertaken (please provide details on the review)	

Further information on the review.

60. Has your country used the Akwé:Kon Guidelines in any project proposed to take place on sacred sites and/or land and waters traditionally occupied by indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)

a) No	x
b) No, but a review of the Akwé: Kon guidelines is under way	
c) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further information on the projects where the Akwé:Kon Guidelines are applied.

Consideration of the environmental and social impact of development projects on lands occupied by indigenous people was being done before these guidelines came into effect. The DOE and NICH will need to collaborate to incorporate them more fully into the development plans and EIA process.

Capacity Building and Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities

61. Has your country undertaken any measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities to be effectively involved in decision-making related to the use of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/16)

a) No	
b) No, but some Programmes being developed	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities.

Natural resources management practices have involved these stakeholders in the planning and decision making process through consultation, formal partnerships and local projects providing training and other benefits.

In the Toledo District, there are several initiatives by NGOs targeting communities and indigenous groups on various innovations on sustainable farming practices. The Organic Cacao Growers Association and Ya'axche Conservation Trust (YCT) are working to expand organic cacao production in the district. The target group is primarily Mayan farmers who normally carry out subsistence farming. YCT is a community-oriented NGO in southern Belize, which implements and advances participatory conservation and sustainable use of natural resources for equitable regional development.

SATIIM was established by the indigenous communities around the Sarstoon Temash National Park, through collaboration with Garifuna and Q'eqchi' cultural organizations and Alcaldes Association. These communities are working towards strengthening their capacity to communicate effectively with government agencies and advocate for policy reform. The five indigenous villages located in and around the Park have taken several steps toward establishing a co-management arrangement with the national government. SATIIM supports the rights of indigenous people and promotes sustainable economic and social development by working with communities to manage local natural resources.

OXFAM is funding a honey production project among communities of the adjacency zone Belize-Guatemala. The activities target the local communities along the border area.

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

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

Further information on the mechanisms, guidelines and legislation developed.

The Local Government regulations may not be focused on biodiversity protection but they enable and facilitate indigenous and local community participation at local, national and international levels. Sustainable use of biodiversity is usually prioritized or emphasized in these processes.

Tumulkin, an NGO in the Toledo District, has developed a project to process and market honey produced by farmers in the Toledo District.

EcoLogic through support for SATIIM, is focusing on growing organic cacao, a profitable alternative to slash-and-burn agriculture, on lands adjacent to the Park.

The Government of Belize has also signed a Ten Point Agreement with the Mayan communities of southern Belize.

63. Has your country developed mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities with specific provisions for the full, active and effective participation of women in all elements of the Programme of work? (decision V/16, annex)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are being developed	x
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all elements of the Programme of work.

The Ministry of Human Development has been given the mandate to ensure that women (and youth) are fully integrated into all Programmes of Work. However Help for Progress, a local NGO, has a micro credit system for women.

The BAS also has a program whereby the Women's group from the nearby villages of Crooked Tree and Maya Centre receives 10% of each ticket collected from entrance fee to the CTWS and CBWS, respectively.

Support to implementation

64. Has your country established national, subregional and/or regional indigenous and local community biodiversity advisory committees?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	x
c) Yes	

65. Has your country assisted indigenous and local community organizations to hold regional meetings to discuss the outcomes of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and to prepare for meetings under the Convention?

a) No	x
b) Yes (please provide details about the outcome of meetings)	

Further information on the outcome of regional meetings.

66. Has your country supported, financially and otherwise, indigenous and local communities in formulating their own community development and biodiversity conservation plans that will enable such communities to adopt a culturally appropriate strategic, integrated and phased approach to their development needs in line with community goals and objectives?

a) No	x
b) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the support provided.	

Box XLVI.

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

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

There are initiatives in place to promote sustainable agricultural practices in the adjacency zone between Belize and Guatemala. This includes a honey production project that is funded by OXFAM. There is also an Agreement to be signed by the Organic Cacao Growers Association of Belize and the cacao farmers living along the border with Guatemala. Cacao produced organically will be purchased by the Association.

SATIIM, with support from EcoLogic, is focusing on growing organic cacao, a profitable alternative to slash-and-burn agriculture, on lands adjacent to the Sarstoon Temash National Park.

The Belize Botanic Gardens and other institutions are pursuing the cultivation of xate (*Chamaedorea sp.*) as an attempt to reduce the possible over exploitation of this species.

Article 9 - *Ex-situ* conservation

67. ◊ On Article 9(a) and (b), has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity native to your country and originating outside your country?	
a) No	x
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures adopted for the <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of components of biodiversity native to your country and originating outside your country.	

68. ◊ On Article 9(c), has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions.	
<p>The following are activities either recently implemented, or on-going, that have as broad goals, the restoration of or the maintenance of populations of certain species experiencing a relatively high level of decline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harpy Eagle reintroduction Programme being conducted by the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Centre. 2. Private Programme for the re-introduction into the wild captured species (Forest Department and Wildlife Care Centre) 3. Cat Rehabilitation – (Lefeline 2000, and FD). 4. Nassau Grouper – aggregation site monitoring (Fisheries Department and Green Reef). 5. Conch and lobster surveys (Fisheries Department). 6. Darwin initiative for Xate Survey. 7. Rescue Centre (Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary). 	

69. ◊ On Article 9(d), 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?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex-situ* conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and *in-situ* populations of species.

In 2003 Legislation was passed to protect the freshwater river turtle (*Dermatymys mawii*) locally known as the Hicatee.

Through the Darwin Initiative a *Chamaedorea species* (xate) survey is being carried out to obtain a national xate inventory to create management plan. An inventory for the Palmetto Palm (*Acoeloraphe wrightii*) is also on-going.

The collection of orchids, palms and other species of plants is controlled via a permitting system implemented by the Forest Department.

Box XLVII.

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


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

This article is considered an important part of biodiversity management, especially as it serves to launch and promote education and awareness Programmes (e.g. The Belize Zoo), and some ex-situ initiatives serve to re-introduce species into the wild (e.g. Iguana projects, & Cat rehabilitation Programmes).

Several facilities maintain ex-situ collections of plants and animals. The Belize Zoo maintains a collection of Belizean birds and mammals; Tea Kettle Enterprises maintains a collection of palm seeds; the Belize Botanical Garden maintains a living native plant collection; UB has a small plant propagation laboratory on the Belmopan Campus. BAHA has an insectarium for rearing parasitic wasps for the control of the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug and four or five butterfly rearing facilities are scattered around the country. A small, private aquarium is maintained on St. George's Caye and a Herpetarium (with aquariums and plants also) is being built in Belmopan.

The National Botanic Garden originally considered a priority, its implementation does not reflect the original priority assigned to this activity, since the land designated to it has been reduced from 1,000 acres to 50 acres.

Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

70.  On Article 10(a), has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making?

a) No	
b) No, but steps are being taken	
c) Yes, in some relevant sectors (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, in most relevant sectors (please provide details below)	

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

The medium and short term strategic development plans of the political parties usually include statements about natural resources management, and sustainable development utilizing such resources. The implementation action is supported by national financing depending on availability of surplus funds.

The recent adoption of the NPAPSP provides a framework for incorporating protected areas management into national decision making.

71. ✦ On Article 10(b), has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity?

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

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

Quarantines are placed on the imports of live plants and animals to prevent negative impacts on biological diversity.

The Fisheries Department also screens marine products during the importation in order to reduce the risk of importing alien species.

72. ✦ On Article 10(c), has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements?

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

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

Quotas for exports and moratoria on exports of non-processed material have been placed on mahogany, cedar, rosewood and ziricote.

Quotas are placed on conch, lobster and Nassau grouper (licenses and through cooperatives).

73. ✦ On Article 10(d), has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced?

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

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

Extremely limited fish catch is allowed for the Nassau grouper to enable population to recover. Since 2002 thirteen catch sites have been closed and a season has been established.

Under a GEF Project, Fishermen in Monkey River Village are constructing shades to harvest lobster.

74. Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)

a) No	x
b) No, but assessment of potential indicators and incentive measures is under way	
c) Yes, indicators and incentive measures identified (please describe below)	

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

75. Has your country implemented sustainable use practices, Programmes and policies for the sustainable use of biological diversity, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation? (decision V/24)

a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, Programmes and policies are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and Programmes are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and Programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on sustainable use Programmes and policies.

The Protected Areas Policy and existing regulations facilitate the utilization of biological diversity for alternative livelihoods and poverty alleviation. Opportunities are also provided under capacity building programmes such as UNDP/GEF and the PACT Grant Programme. Most UNDP/GEF projects which incorporate capacity building have been carried out by groups that are co-managers of protected areas or by buffer communities around these areas. The training activities have resulted in co-management organizations being able to better carry out their responsibilities of protection and enforcement, environmental education, data collection and reporting. SGP has taken the lead in funding several new co-management groups and has witnessed their growth, the increased visibility of the group and the work being done, and the respect and recognition the groups have attained.

The capacity building activities with communities have increased the number of stakeholders with special skills who are able to secure alternative livelihoods. For the most part, the capacity building training has focused on ecotourism and sustainable agriculture which coincides with national priorities. This has resulted in decreased reliance on fishing, hunting, unsustainable farming practices, and illegal extraction of forest products. The improved capacity, the realization of dwindling natural resources, and monetary gains from alternative livelihood activities, has resulted in grantee organizations and communities exhibiting a sense of ownership for the projects and true appreciation for the environment (UNDP SGP, 2006).

The harvesting all marine turtles have been banned in Belize. This is supported by legislation.

76. Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)

a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please describe below)	x

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

The MBC was such a Programme, but the opportunities and benefits were not fully realized because the need for government to generate revenue (through taxes) reduced the priority that could have been placed on the establishment of such mechanisms.

Present initiatives for domestic rearing of gibbon and iguana are being promoted.

77. Has your country initiated a process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)

a) No	x
b) No, but the principles and guidelines are under review	
c) Yes, a process is being planned	
d) Yes, a process has been initiated (please provide detailed information)	


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

78. Has your country taken any initiative or action to develop and transfer technologies and provide financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)

a) No	x
b) No, but relevant Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some technologies developed and transferred and limited financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many technologies developed and transferred and significant financial resources provided (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development and transfer of technologies and provision of financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.

Biodiversity and Tourism

79.  Has your country established mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	x
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please specify below)	
d) Yes, existing mechanisms are under review	

Further comments on the establishment of mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity.

An exercise on Tourism and associated vulnerabilities (ecological and environmental) impacts was completed late in 2005. The data is currently being analyzed.

The MBRS has published a manual for the Assessment of Environmental Impact of Tourism Project in the MBRS Area.

80. Has your country provided educational and training Programmes to the tourism operators so as to increase their awareness of the impacts of tourism on biodiversity and upgrade the technical capacity at the local level to minimize the impacts? (decision V/25)

a) No	
b) No, but Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, Programmes are in place (please describe below)	x

Further comments on educational and training Programmes provided to tourism operators.

The Government of Belize (GOB) places priority on proper training and ethics of Tourism Operators. Training is recurrent and licenses have to be renewed periodically.

The capacity building activities supported through the UNDP/SGP have increased the number of stakeholders with special skills who are able to secure alternative livelihoods. For the most part, the capacity building training has focused on ecotourism and sustainable agriculture which coincides with national priorities. This has resulted in decreased reliance on fishing, hunting, unsustainable farming practices, and illegal extraction of forest products.

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

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

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

National financial resources may not be available, but Government endorses programmes through the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) which provide the appropriate opportunities.

Through the UNDP/SGP 41 projects funded since the start of the programme have incorporated some kind of capacity building activity either targeting the grantee directly or the stakeholder communities in which the projects are being implemented. Most of the projects which incorporate capacity building have been carried out by groups that are co-managers of protected areas or by buffer communities around these areas.

An example of a successful capacity building programme supported by UNDP/SGP is the *Capacity Building for Southern Toledo Maya Communities to Conserve Local Biodiversity Project* implemented by Golden Stream Corridor Preserve NGO. GSCP aimed to establish conservation management of the land in collaboration with local Mayan communities, but lacked expertise in protected areas manage-

ment and community mobilization. Through the project, community members were hired and trained as park rangers. The NGO also provided training in biodiversity conservation and general environmental issues to key individuals from the Mayan communities to serve as extension educators for local schools and stakeholder communities (UNDP/SGP, 2006).

Apart from funding capacity building training through projects, the UNDP/SGP has partnered with Government Agencies (Forest Department and Fisheries Department), Peace Corps, Belize Audubon Society, the National Environmental Fund (PACT), and the Meso-American Biological Corridors Project to fund and facilitate training through workshops (UNDP/SGP, 2006).

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


a) No, but the guidelines are under review	
b) No, but a plan is under consideration to integrate some principles of the guidelines into relevant strategies	
c) Yes, a few principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	x
d) Yes, many principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	
Further information on the sectors where the principles of the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development are integrated.	
Analysis reveals that sections a, d, e, f and i, these guidelines have been utilized.	

Box XLVIII.

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

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

Article 11 - Incentive measures

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

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

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

Enabling local communities adjacent to protected areas to be managers of the natural (biological) resources provides them with alternative livelihood, therefore acting as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (co-management partnerships).

84. Has your country developed the mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into relevant plans, policies and Programmes and other relevant areas? (decisions III/18 and IV/10)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, review of impact of mechanisms available (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the mechanism or approaches to incorporate market and non-market values of biodiversity into relevant plans, policies and Programmes.

The discussion and consideration of "Payment for Goods and Services" and the concept of natural resources accounting is gaining support at all levels of governance.

85. Has your country developed training and capacity-building Programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives? (decision III/18)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some Programmes are in place	
d) Yes, many Programmes are in place	

86. Does your country take into consideration the proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures as contained in Annex I to decision VI/15 when designing and implementing incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision VI/15)

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

Further information on the proposals considered when designing and implementing the incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

87. Has your country made any progress in removing or mitigating policies or practices that generate perverse incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (decision VII/18)

a) No	
b) No, but identification of such policies and practices is under way	x
c) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified but not entirely removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified and removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	

Further information on perverse incentives identified and/or removed or mitigated.

These were identified among the cross-cutting issues affecting the implementation of the three Conventions (during the NCSA exercise). Recommendations have been made to review and revise the existing mechanisms in order to remove or mitigate the problems.


Box XLIX.

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

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

Incentive measures have not received much priority as a tool to facilitate biodiversity management, since capacity in the local stakeholders might not have been at the required level. Incentive Measures can be instituted after capacity has been enhanced and an enabling environment has been created.

Article 12 - Research and training

88.  On Article 12(a), has your country established Programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components?

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

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

Educational institutions have recently begun to take active roles in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use projects. The UB has recently added a B.Sc. Programme in Natural Resource Management and is beginning to take a more active role in addressing conservation issues within the country, assisting NGOs, CBOs and Government agencies in field activities. This includes the establishment of a marine research station (Calabash Cay). Galen University also offers degree Programmes with a major in sustainable development. Five other schools offer associate degrees in natural resources management or environmental studies.

In addition, there are presently more than 20 institutions offering research and training opportunities, and many offer educational opportunities for both teachers and students.

Most NGOs are also involved in informal and formal educational programmes. Research and training is of high priority to these institutions. Research and training is usually an important component of the work Programme of these institutions.

The MBRS as well as the COMPACT Programme have training programs on alternative livelihoods that target fishermen.

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

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

X

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

GOB through bilateral agreements with international partners fund training in several countries including the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand institutions.

The Forest Department and Fisheries Department issue permits for conservation research projects in the country especially by visiting researchers. PACT offers a yearly scholarship programme and is funding the four-year Natural Resources Management Programme (NRMP). The Smithsonian Institute is conducting research as well as providing scholarships for technical training for UB NRMP students.

90. On Article 12(c), does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources?

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

x

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

This is done through cooperation at the regional level with research institutions.

Box L.

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

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

There is presently a large amount of research being done in Belize. This involves research by international institutions such as the Smithsonian Institute, Local organizations such as Green Reef conducting research on spawning aggregation, and Universities such as UB conducting research at Calabash Caye Marine Research Station.

The documentation on the research being done has not always been made available either because the reports are published in different journals or the researchers do not forward a copy of the results. The Forestry Department has tried to resolve this issue by making any research group sign an agreement before any research is commenced.

Article 13 - Public education and awareness

91. Is your country implementing a communication, education and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation in support of the Convention? (Goal 4.1 of the Strategic Plan)	
a) No	
b) No, but a CEPA strategy is under development	x
c) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a limited extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the implementation of a CEPA strategy and the promotion of public participation in support of the Convention.	
<p>Public education and training opportunities at the primary and secondary school levels as well as for teachers and for the greater Belizean public have been facilitated through many different agencies. Institutions actively involved in education, training and awareness programmes include the Tropical Education Centre (TEC) of the Belize Zoo, the Belize Audubon Society (BAS), the Sibun Watershed Association (SWA) via an outreach programme targeting schools via the Watershed Mobile Classroom, PFB through educational opportunities at Hill Bank and La Milpa field stations, Las Cuevas Field Station in the Chiquibul Forest, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project, The Nature Conservancy (Freshwater Initiative and spawning aggregate studies) and other regional and international organizations working in Belize also provide educational materials, workshops and experiences. Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA) and the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) provide tour guide training programmes. The Fisheries Department, the Forest Department and the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) have also been active in outreach and education efforts.</p> <p>Ya' axche Conservation Trust has a highly prolific education and outreach programme.</p> <p>The UNDP GEF/SGP sponsored capacity building activities with communities have increased the number of stakeholders with special skills who are able to secure alternative livelihoods. For the most part, the capacity building training has focused on ecotourism and sustainable agriculture which coincides with national priorities. This has resulted in decreased reliance on fishing, hunting, unsustainable farming practices, and illegal extraction of forest products. All projects are required to include an environmental education component. (UNDP SGP, 2006).</p>	

92. Is your country undertaking any activities to facilitate the implementation of the Programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness as contained in the annex to decision VI/19? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) No, but some Programmes are under development	x
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	

d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the activities to facilitate the implementation of the Programme of work on CEPA.	
PACT has made available funding for public awareness projects which target the conservation and protection of protected areas. BAS has a public awareness and education section. The UNDP GEF/SGP supports many activities that include public awareness and education as one of their primary outputs.	

93. Is your country strongly and effectively promoting biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) No, but some Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the promotion of biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level.	
Organizations are increasingly using the media to promote biodiversity-related issues through the press.	


94. Does your country promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	x
Further information on the efforts to promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level.	
YCT works almost exclusively to increase conservation awareness at the local level throughout Northern Toledo. Other NGOs and CBOs also are doing a lot of work in public awareness at the local level including FCD in Succotz Village, and FoN at Placencia.	

95. Is your country supporting national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) No, but some Programmes are under development	x
c) Yes, some activities supported (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many activities supported (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the support of national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness.	

96. Has your country developed adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness?	
a) No	
b) No, but some Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some Programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive Programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness.	
Most of the primary and secondary schools have natural resource conservation as part of their curriculum. A number of radio and TV programs have been developed and broadcast.	

97. Does your country promote cooperation and exchange Programmes for biodiversity education and awareness at the national, regional and international levels? (decisions IV /10 and VI/19)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	x
Further comments on the promotion of cooperation and exchange Programmes for biodiversity education and awareness, at the national, regional and international levels.	
Recently, due to the on-going trans-boundary issues between Belize and Guatemala, local bi-national initiatives to promote exchange of cultural, social and environmental information through awareness and educational programmes in communities along the borders of both countries have been carried out. Biodiversity awareness activities have been lead by Friends for Conservation and Development, and fostered by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Local Government and the Environment, by Help for Progress through the El Pilar Management Programme, and by other local groups.	
YCT has regular exchanges with partners throughout the Americas, facilitated by Fauna & Flora International. Furthermore, YCT is the Belize representative of the Mesoamerican Water Alliance, which exchanges information on exemplary watershed management throughout the region.	

98. Is your country undertaking some CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic Programmes of work adopted under the Convention?	
a) No (please specify reasons below)	
b) Yes, some activities undertaken for some issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	x
c) Yes, many activities undertaken for most issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for all issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic Programmes of work adopted under the Convention.	

99.  Does your country support initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education Programmes as well as into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, Programmes and policies? (decision IV/10 and Goal 4.4 of the Strategic Plan)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	x
Further comments on the initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biodiversity conservation in their practice and education Programmes as well as their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, Programmes and policies.	
<p>According to the NCSA Biodiversity Thematic area report (Boles, 2005), three ministries, representing thirteen primary departments and the Institute of Archaeology are directly involved in the management of Belize's natural resources, including lands, forests, wildlife, fishes and water. Several NGOs are involved in co-management. At least eight other Ministries are involved in the use of select natural resources or indirectly involved in environmental issues through education, health and development responsibilities.</p> <p>Major stakeholders such as the large NGOs all conduct activities supporting the integration of biological diversity conservation in practice as well as in their education programmes.</p>	

100. Is your country communicating the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and establishing appropriate linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in the implementation of your national CEPA Programmes and activities? (decision VII/24)

a) No	x
b) No, but some Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some Programmes developed and activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive Programmes developed and many activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the communication of the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and the establishment of linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.	

Box LI.

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

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

Belize has made many advances in the implementation of this article, with significant work having been carried out by the NGO community, regional institutions with local representation, research and education institutions, and community groups. However, there is still lack of synergy and institutional inter-departmental cooperation.

Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

101. On Article 14.1(a), has your country developed legislation requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, legislation is still in early stages of development	
c) No, but legislation is in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, legislation is in place (please provide details below)	x
e) Yes, review of implementation available (please provide details below)	

Further information on the legislation requiring EIA of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biodiversity.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, was enacted in 1995. The implementation of this legislation has been carried out successfully. A process to review the effectiveness of the EIA Regulation with the objective of improving the legislation and the EIA process has recently been completed. The draft amendment to the legislation has recently been reviewed as part of this modernization process.

102. On Article 14.1(b), has your country developed mechanisms to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national Programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	x

Further comments on the mechanisms developed to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national Programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity.

All major development projects and programmes require an EIA to be prepared.

103. On Article 14.1(c), is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction?

a) No	
b) No, but assessment of options is in progress	x
c) Yes, some completed, others in progress (please provide details below)	
d) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on the bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biodiversity outside your country's jurisdiction.

Through regional initiatives such as the MBRS, Plan Puebla Panama, Gulf of Honduras, Belize is sharing information on the potential impacts of projects and Programmes on the biodiversity of the area.

104. On Article 14.1(d), has your country put mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your territory to biological diversity in the territory of other Parties or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction?

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	x
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place based on current scientific knowledge	

105. On Article 14.1(e), has your country established national mechanisms for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	x
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on national mechanisms for emergency response to the activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biodiversity.

With the support of BAHA, and the National Emergency Management Organizations (NEMO), sub-components of emergency response plans such as the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan have been prepared.

106. Is your country applying the Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environment-Impact-Assessment Legislation or Processes and in Strategic Impact Assessment as contained in the annex to decision VI/7 in the context of the implementation of paragraph 1 of Article 14? (decision VI/7)

a) No	
b) No, but application of the guidelines under consideration	
c) Yes, some aspects being applied (please specify below)	x
d) Yes, major aspects being applied (please specify below)	

Further comments on application of the guidelines.

Through the EIA regulations, various measures to protect biodiversity are implemented, and currently being broadened.

107. On Article 14 (2), has your country put in place national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity? (decision VI/11)

a) No	
b) Yes (please specify the measures)	x

Further comments on national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity.

The EIA regulations and the EPA, the Mines and Minerals Act all have provisions for fulfillment bonds to prevent ecological damages. Policy to prevent damage to the Barrier Reef has also recently been strengthened to cover charges against damages by marine vessels.

108. Has your country put in place any measures to prevent damage to biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being developed	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures in place to prevent damage to biological diversity.

109. Is your country cooperating with other Parties to strengthen capacities at the national level for the prevention of damage to biodiversity, establishment and implementation of national legislative regimes, policy and administrative measures on liability and redress? (decision VI/11)

a) No	
b) No, but cooperation is under consideration	x
c) No, but cooperative Programmes are under development	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on cooperation with other Parties to strengthen capacities for the prevention of damage to biodiversity.

The NCSA project, as well as at the CCAD level (via technical committees), in Belize are developing these capacities to prevent environmental damages as a whole.


Box LII.

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

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

The present EIA process is comprehensive, and the present assessment of the process will attempt to address any loopholes. In addition, through regional initiatives, Belize will set new goals for the protection of biodiversity.

Article 15 - Access to genetic resources

110.  Has your country endeavored to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Parties, on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms, in accordance with paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of Article 15?

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

Further information on the efforts taken by your country to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Parties, on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms.

A biosafety protocol is now being developed to encompass Living Modified Organisms (LMO's) in order to promote biosafety, as well as the shared benefits of LMO's. However, there is neither policy nor measures in place to protect our species such as the movement of orchids, seeds, birds etc. presently being exported.

Access to genetic material is becoming less accessible. This is partly due to the lack of legislation, which leads to a hesitation by companies to send genetic material to the country. Private companies are becoming the principal suppliers of genetic material and they require a "Material Transfer Agreement" to be signed before such transfers proceed.

111. Has your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Parties, in accordance with Article 15(6)?

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

Further information on the measures to 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.

CARDI is pursuing trials on soy bean, peanut, cow pea, mung pea, from imported germ plasma. The results of these trials are usually sent to the importing company.

112. Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and of the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources, in accordance with Article 15(7)?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the type of measures taken.

Material Transfer Agreements have been signed with several production companies. There are no restrictions on the availability of the germ plasma to the general public.

113. In developing national measures to address access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, has your country taken into account the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?

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

Further information on national measures taken which consider the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing as set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Access to genetic material is sourced from various organizations.

114. Is your country using the Bonn Guidelines when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and/or when negotiating contracts and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for access and benefit-sharing? (decision VII/19A)

a) No	x
b) No, but steps being taken to do so (please provide details below)	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

Please provide details and specify successes and constraints in the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines.

115. Has your country adopted national policies or measures, including legislation, which address the role of intellectual property rights in access and benefit-sharing arrangements (i.e. the issue of disclosure of origin/source/legal provenance of genetic resources in applications for intellectual property rights where the subject matter of the application concerns, or makes use of, genetic resources in its development)?

a) No	
b) No, but potential policies or measures have been identified (please specify below)	
c) No, but relevant policies or measures are under development (please specify below)	
d) Yes, some policies or measures are in place (please specify below)	x
e) Yes, comprehensive policies or measures adopted (please specify below)	

Further information on policies or measures that address the role of IPR in access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

The intellectual property rights act has been legislated.

116. Has your country been involved in capacity-building activities related to access and benefit-sharing?

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

Please provide further information on capacity-building activities (your involvement as donor or recipient, key actors involved, target audience, time period, goals and objectives of the capacity-building activities, main capacity-building areas covered nature of activities). Please also specify whether these activities took into account the Action Plan on capacity-building for access and benefit-sharing adopted at COP VII and available in annex to decision VII/19F.

Farmers involved in the final stages of the testing of the various products.

Box LIII.

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

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


Germplasm imported from other parties are maintained and made available to other parties as well as the general public. Access to genetic material, however, is becoming more difficult. At the local level, there are no restrictions for the access of germplasm that has been tested for suitability and adaptability to the country.

Access is not readily available from certain companies since they will not supply us if we do not have a signed agreement. E.g., for open pollinators, they will not supply. Access is being limited now in access to GM or anything that is germplasm because the companies are taking possessions of it.

In terms of breeding work, nothing has been done in Belize. Only screening for suitability of germ plasm. We are working on cereal, (corn & rice,) grain legumes, soya, cow pea. Grain legumes are maintained here on site.

Citrus and sugar industries maintains their germplasm. Any agreement there is an exchange of information. The stakeholders require notification about the release of any germplasm. However, once it is obtained, it is available without any restrictions within the country. Nonetheless, there is available parent material from outside the country. These countries are open to provide us the parent material, but because of our limitations, we are not accepting these.

Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology

117.  On Article 16(1), has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment?

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

Further information on the measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.

Belize, via CARDI, has concentrated on certain commodities, and they facilitate the transfer of technology for the use in the production of these commodities. Training and technical assistance is being supplied to farmers. However, specialized equipment coming from other countries has been used successfully. Transfer of Belize technology in peanut and pepper production is being adopting in some parts of the Caribbean.

118. On Article 16(3), has your country taken measures so that Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	x
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative arrangements are in place	
g) Not applicable	

119. On Article 16(4), has your country taken measures so that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of Government institutions and the private sector of developing countries?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	

Further information on the measures taken.

In Belize some screening work has been done by research institutions for the private sector. For example, CARDI has conducted screening work of varieties with varied fertilizer rates for a local company in Belize.

CARDI is also willing to provide assistance to other organizations, or private institutions, if they cover the cost of the assistance.

Peanut and habanero pepper production technology packages are shared with Jamaica and Antigua.

Varietal trials with different pesticides have also been done by CARDI.

Box LIV.

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

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

Access and transfer of technology has been successfully implemented in the agriculture sector. Local farmers have access to improved varieties as well as new technologies, which are relevant.

Programme of Work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation

120. Has your country provided financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the Programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation? (decision VII/29)

a) No	x
b) No, but relevant Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some Programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive Programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the provision of financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the Programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation.

121. Is your country taking any measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation? (decision VII/29)

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

Further comments on the measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation.

122. Has your country made any technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	x
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, basic assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, thorough assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building.

123. Has your country made any assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	x
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies.

124. Has your country identified and implemented any measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation, including assessing capacity building needs? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	x
b) No, but some Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some Programmes are in place and being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive Programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation.

125. Has your country taken any of the measures specified under Target 3.2 of the Programme of work as a preparatory phase to the development and implementation of national institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation as well as access to and adaptation of technologies of relevance to the Convention? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	x
b) No, but a few measures being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please specify below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please specify below)	

Further comments on the measures taken as a preparatory phase to the development and implementation of national institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation as well as access to and adaptation of technologies of relevance to the Convention.

Box LV.

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

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

Article 17 - Exchange of information

126. On Article 17(1), has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources with a view to assist with the implementation of the Convention and promote technical and scientific cooperation?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	

The following question (127) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

127. ♦ On Article 17(1), do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries and include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying Programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?	
a) No	
b) Yes, but they do not include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying Programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	
c) Yes, and they include categories of information listed in Article 17 (2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying Programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	

Box LVI.

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.
<p>The establishment and access on the internet of databases such as BERDS and BBIS makes possible for information to be shared among interested parties. The recently established CHM will provide links to many useful sites. There are other agencies that share information including the MBRS, Belize Botanic Gardens, and BAS.</p> <p>One of the regional objectives of the MBRS Programme, agreed to by the four participating countries, is to develop and implement a standardized data management system for ecosystem monitoring and facilitates the dissemination of its outputs throughout the region. As part of this objective, the MBRS project has launched a Regional Environmental and Information System in 2003.</p>

Article 18 - Technical and scientific cooperation

128. ♦ On Article 18(1), has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation.	
The Regional Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Programme under the CCAD has established MOUs for trans-boundary management of these protected areas. Technical cooperation exists with Mexico and	

Guatemala to this effect. Mexico/Belize and Guatemala/Belize).

Several international organizations such as WWF and WCS are presently conducting research along with Belizean counterparts.

The Forestry Department has ongoing collaboration with several research groups to conduct scientific research in the forest reserves. These include government agencies, universities and private groups.

129. On Article 18(4), has your country encouraged and developed methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention?

a) No	x
b) No, but relevant methods are under development	
c) Yes, methods are in place	

130. On Article 18(5), has your country promoted the establishment of joint research Programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide some examples below)	x

Examples for the establishment of joint research Programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention.

Monitoring Protocols (Anurans, Lepidoptera, jaguars, etc) for the Selva Maya have been developed for the three countries. Ixchel Farms produces medicines from Belizean herbs.

A silviculture project is underway in both Belize and Guatemala for the establishment and commercialization of Xate palms (*Chamaedorea sp.*).

131. Has your country established links to non-governmental organizations, private sector and other institutions holding important databases or undertaking significant work on biological diversity through the CHM? (decision V/14)

a) No	
b) No, but coordination with relevant NGOs, private sector and other institutions under way	
c) Yes, links established with relevant NGOs, private sector and institutions	x

The following question (132) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

132. Has your country further developed the CHM to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation? (decision V/14)

a) No	
b) Yes, by using funding opportunities	
c) Yes, by means of access to, and transfer of technology	
d) Yes, by using research cooperation facilities	
e) Yes, by using repatriation of information	
f) Yes, by using training opportunities	
g) Yes, by using promotion of contacts with relevant institutions, organizations and the private sector	
h) Yes, by using other means (please specify below)	

Further comments on CHM developments to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation.

133. Has your country used CHM to make information available more useful for researchers and decision-makers? (decision V/14)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant initiatives under consideration	x
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on development of relevant initiatives.

The CHM has only been established in late 2005 and further development of the site is ongoing. Links are presently available to other sites including relevant databases.

134. Has your country developed, provided and shared services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of the CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions? (decision V/14)

a) No	
b) Yes (please specify services and tools below)	x

Further comments on services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions.

Belize established its CHM in 2005 and it is available online. The Belize Tropical Forest Studies (BTFS) has also placed on its webpage the Biodiversity and Environmental Resources and Data System of Belize (BERDS), while WCS continues updating the BBIS, both being privately developed and maintained data bases for Belize. The CHM has been linked to the website of the MNRLGE.

The focal points for the CBD, Ramsar and Cites Conventions are within the Forest Department, which allows for close cooperation among these three Conventions. The Focal Point for the UNCCD and the UNFCCC are within the NMS. Both the Forest Department and the NMS are within the MNRLGE, thus further facilitation of the coordinating activities can be secured.

Box LVII.

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

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

The CHM has been established (2005) with the assistance of the GEF/UNDP. The CHM is constantly being improved with several links being established to national, regional and global sites.

Regional linkages are being established with SIAM and IABIN in Central America.

The CHM is an additional tool that is now available to assist in Biodiversity management.

The allocation of dedicated funds for maintenance of the system is not constant. This poses a great threat to the continued development of the CHM.

Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

135. On Article 19(1), has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	x
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation are in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy and subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place	

136. On Article 19(2), has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access by Parties, on a fair and equitable basis, to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Parties?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	x
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	

Box LVIII.

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

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

Challenges to the implementation of this article include the lack of legislation to properly manage research in biotechnology. Due to the absence of such legislation companies dealing with biotechnology are reluctant to enter into any agreement with Belize. To this end GMO's are presently not exported to Belize.

A Draft Bio-prospecting Framework for the marine biodiversity is presently under development.

BAHA developed the initial Biosafety Framework, which includes the Government's policy in Biotechnology.

There is interest from producer groups for the bio-prospecting legislation to be enacted. This would allow for formalization of relations with providing parties.

Article 20 – Financial resources

Box LIX.

Please describe for each of the following items the quantity of financial resources, both internal and external, that have been utilized, received or provided, as applicable, to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, on an annual basis, since your country became a Party to the Convention.	
a) Budgetary allocations by national and local Governments as well as different sectoral ministries	<p>The Government Of Belize allocates annual budgets for all departments that are partly responsible for biodiversity management. However these budgets are not specific for the implementation of the CBD but rather for national activities (such as wildlife conservation) which are also objectives of the CBD. These annual budgetary allocations also cover the cost of salaries and equipment purchase for use in the official duties of these organizations. Allocations for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 for some of these departments are as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Forestry Department - US\$800,000 Agriculture Department – US\$2.6 million Fisheries Department – US\$420,000</p>
b) Extra-budgetary resources (identified by donor agencies)	In 2002 PACT received US 25,000 from the GEF/MSP counterpart contributions.
c) Bilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	\$0
d) Regional channels (identified by donor agencies)	<p>The UNDP GEF/SGP has approved almost \$435,000.00 for various projects supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development as of November, 2005 (Operational Phase II). The COMPACT project has also approved \$289,874.00 up to December 15, 2005.</p> <p>MBC and MBRS received funding from regional GEF funding.</p>
e) Multilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	\$0
f) Private sources (identified by donor agencies)	\$0
g) Resources generated through financial instruments, such as charges for use of biodiversity	The Protected Areas Conservation Trust has a Trust Fund that has as one of its major activities the support of conservation activities. PACT charges a conservation fee to all non-national tourists. In 2003 this amounted to approximately US 1 Million.

Box LX.

Please describe in detail below any major financing Programmes, such as biodiversity trust funds or specific Programmes that have been established in your country.
The Protected Areas Conservation Trust Act No. 218 of the Laws of Belize was passed and the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) was established in June of 1996. PACT is an environmental trust fund of US\$2,500,000.00 and an endowment fund of US\$1,000,000.00 designed to enable and empower conservation, preservation, enhancement and management of Belize’s natural resources and protected areas while supporting national development goals.

PACT efforts are supportive and essential to meeting the requirements of the UNCBD, either through direct conservation or indirectly through offering alternative livelihoods to stakeholders.

Projects that have received funding from PACT include:

- the Forest Department (US\$340,000) to improve PA management through institutional strengthening of the Biodiversity Management Programme.
- PACT has awarded over 50 grants totaling over US\$1.25 million.
- The Fisheries Department is being funded to study Queen Conch populations in marine reserves.
- The MNRLGE was funded to develop a master user plan for the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve.
- Friends of Nature (FON), a Placencia-based NGO, is being supported to manage the Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve.
- The UB Natural Resource Management Programme (UB NRMP) is being funded to develop and equip a four year Bachelor's Degree Programme.
- UB Institute of Marine Studies (UB IMS) is being funded to develop stronger research capacity at the Calabash Caye Marine Station by the Oak Foundation and PACT.
- PACT also supports many students working on degree programmes both within UB and at universities abroad.

An important marine programme is the MBRS regional project. The MBRS Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Governments of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. The project is implemented by the World Bank and is executed by the four countries through the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) of the System for Central American Integration (SICA). The MBRS project is being executed by the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) on behalf of CCAD, with headquarters in Belize City, Belize. However, it should be noted that funds available for the implementation of the project activities are shared among the four countries, on an annual basis, according to the operational plan of the project. At the end of June 2005, the project had disbursed more than 7.2 million US dollars throughout the four countries of the MBRS region (MBRS, 2005).

137. On Article 20(1), has your country provided financial support and incentives to those national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes, incentives only (please provide a list of such incentives below)	
c) Yes, financial support only	x
d) Yes, financial support and incentives (please provide details below)	

Further comments on financial support and incentives provided.

Budgetary Allocations of the Forestry department involves activities for conservation and monitoring. These include implementation of the CITES and RAMSAR Conventions.

The next question (138) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

138. On Article 20(2), has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes (please indicate the amount, on an annual basis, of new and additional financial resources your country has provided)	

Further comments on new and additional financial resources provided.

The next question (139) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

139. On Article 20(2), has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable it to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?

a) No	x
b) Yes	

140. Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector? (decision V/11)

a) No	x
b) No, but procedures being established	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on processes to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector.

141. Has your country considered any measures like tax exemptions in national taxation systems to encourage financial support to biodiversity? (decision V/11)

a) No	
b) No, but exemptions are under development (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, exemptions are in place (please provide details below)	x
Further comments on tax exemptions for biodiversity-related donations.	
Registered NGOs are exempted from the payment of income taxes. They also enjoy importation of duty free vehicle and machinery.	
NGOs that co-manage protected areas also charge a user fee. This is used by the NGOs to finance their daily operations.	

142. Has your country reviewed national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance allocated to biodiversity, with particular attention paid to positive incentives and their performance as well as perverse incentives and ways and means for their removal or mitigation? (decision VI/16)

a) No	x
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes (please provide results of review below)	
Further comments on review of national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance.	

143. Is your country taking concrete actions to review and further integrate biodiversity considerations in the development and implementation of major international development initiatives, as well as in national sustainable development plans and relevant sectoral policies and plans? (decisions VI/16 and VII/21)

a) No	x
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, in some initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	
Further comments on review and integration of biodiversity considerations in relevant initiatives, policies and plans.	

144. Is your country enhancing the integration of biological diversity into the sectoral development and assistance Programmes? (decision VII/21)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant Programmes are under development	x
c) Yes, into some sectoral development and assistance Programmes (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, into major sectoral development and assistance Programmes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity into sectoral development and assistance Programmes	
The NPAPSP has recently been developed and adopted. It provides guidelines for the sustainable management of protected areas.	

The next question (145) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

145. Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which area your country has provided financial support to developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.	
A r e a s	Support provided
a) Undertaking national or regional assessments within the framework of MEA (decision VI/8)	
b) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)	
c) Enhance national capacity to establish and maintain the mechanisms to protect traditional knowledge (decision VI/10)	
d) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation (decision V/26)	
e) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)	
f) Implementation of the Bonn Guidelines (decision VI/24)	
g) Implementation of Programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (decision V/5)	
h) Preparation of first report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources (decision VI/17)	
i) Support to work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and development of regional and sub regional networks or processes (decision VI/27)	
j) Development of partnerships and other means to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the Programme of work on dry and subhumid lands biological diversity (decision VII/2)	

k) Financial support for the operations of the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VII/9)	
l) Support to the implementation of the Action Plan on Capacity Building as contained in the annex to decision VII/19 (decision VII/19)	
m) Support to the implementation of the Programme of work on mountain biological diversity (decision VII/27)	
n) Support to the implementation of the Programme of work on protected areas (decision VII/28)	
o) Support to the development of national indicators (decision VII/30)	
p) Others (please specify)	
Further information on financial support provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.	

The next question (146) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

146. Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which areas your country has applied for funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), from developed countries and/or from other sources. The same area may have more than one source of financial support. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.

Areas	Applied for funds from		
	GEF	Bilateral	Other
a) Preparation of national biodiversity strategies or action plans	x		
b) National capacity self-assessment for implementation of Convention (decision VI/27)	x		
c) Priority actions to implement the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision V/9)			
d) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)			
e) Development of national strategies or action plans to deal with alien species (decision VI/23)			x
f) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation, establishment and maintenance of <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation facilities (decision V/26)			x
g) Projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 (Education and Public Awareness) (decision VI/19)			x
h) Preparation of national reports (decisions III/9, V/19 and VI/25)	x		
i) Projects for conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity (decision IV/4)			
j) Activities for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity (decision V/5)			x
k) Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision VI/26)	x		
l) Implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative			
m) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity			
n) Others (please specify)			

Further information on application for financial support.

Box LXI.

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

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

The lack of financial resources is a major constraint to the implementation of the CBD. The PACT trust fund has been funding numerous activities including public awareness, education, research, and in-situ conservation. Several NGOs have also benefited from funding by environmental groups. For example, TIDE has received funding to do research in the Gulf of Honduras.

D. THEMATIC AREAS

147. Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the thematic Programmes of work of the Convention (marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands and mountain biodiversity).

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

Challenges	Programme of Work					
	Agricultural	Forest	Marine and coastal	Inland water ecosystem	Dry and subhumid lands	Mountain
(a) Lack of political will and support	1	2	3	3	na	na
(b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	3	2	1	1	na	na
(c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	3	3	2	2	na	na
(d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	3	2	2	3	na	na
(e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	1	2	2	3	na	na
(f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	2	1	2	2	na	na
(g) Loss of traditional knowledge	2	2	1	2	na	na

(h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	3	3	2	3	na	na
(i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	3	2	1	2	na	na
(j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	3	1	1	1	na	na
(k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	2	2	3	3	na	na
(l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	3	2	2	2	na	na
(m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	2	3	3	3	na	na
(n) Lack of economic incentive measures	2	3	1	1	na	na
(o) Lack of benefit-sharing	1	3	0	0	na	na
(p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	3	3	3	3	na	na
(q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	3	2	1	1	na	na
(r) Lack of effective partnerships	3	2	1	1	na	na
(s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	2	3	1	2	na	na
(t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	1	2	2	2	na	na
(u) Poverty	3	3	1	1	na	na
(v) Population pressure	2	2	3	3	na	na
(w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	2	3	3	3	na	na
(x) Lack of capacities for local communities	2	3	2	2	na	na
(y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	2	3	1	3	na	na

(z) Weak law enforcement capacity	3	3	2	2	na	na
(aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	1	3	1	1	na	na
(bb) Others (please specify)			-		na	na

Inland water ecosystems

148. Has your country incorporated the objectives and relevant activities of the Programme of work into the following and implemented them? (decision VII/4)				
Strategies, policies, plans and activities	No	Yes, partially, integrated but not implemented	Yes, fully integrated and implemented	N/A
a) Your biodiversity strategies and action plans		X		
b) Wetland policies and strategies		X		
c) Integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans being developed in line with paragraph 25 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development	X			
d) Enhanced coordination and cooperation between national actors responsible for inland water ecosystems and biological diversity	X			
Further comments on incorporation of the objectives and activities of the Programme of work				
<p>Belize has established a Pro-tem Water Commission with the objective of establishing a management mechanism for freshwater sources. However, actual implementation has been delayed due to financial constraints at the institutional level.</p> <p>Nonetheless, the Water Industry Act allows for the licensing of abstraction of ground water resources. However, this licensing procedure is primarily a control aimed at preventing the proliferation of well abstraction and subsequent loss of revenue for the company with responsibility for water distribution.</p> <p>The Fisheries Department has produced a Draft Statutory Instrument (S.I.) pertaining to fisheries on inland waterways.</p>				

149. Has your country identified priorities for each activity in the Programme of work, including timescales, in relation to outcome oriented targets? (decision VII/4)	
a) No	x
b) Outcome oriented targets developed but priority activities not developed	
c) Priority activities developed but not outcome oriented targets	
d) Yes, comprehensive outcome oriented targets and priority activities developed	
Further comments on the adoption of outcome oriented targets and priorities for activities, including providing a list of targets (if developed).	

150. Is your country promoting synergies between this Programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level? (decision VII/4)

a) Not applicable (not Party to Ramsar Convention)	
b) No	
c) No, but potential measures were identified for synergy and joint implementation	x
d) Yes, some measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	

Further comments on the promotion of synergies between the Programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level.

The establishment of a second Ramsar Site is a step towards promoting synergy between both conventions.

In addition, a special inland "no take area" is being developed by the Fisheries Department throughout the request of villagers and stakeholders.

151. Has your country taken steps to improve national data on: (decision VII/4)

Issues	Yes	No	No, but development is under way
a) Goods and services provided by inland water ecosystems?		X	
b) The uses and related socioeconomic variables of such goods and services?		X	
c) Basic hydrological aspects of water supply as they relate to maintaining ecosystem function?			X
d) Species and all taxonomic levels?		X	
e) On threats to which inland water ecosystems are subjected?			X

Further comments on the development of data sets, in particular a list of data sets developed in case you have replied "YES" above.

152. Has your country promoted the application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems? (decision VII/4)	
a) No, the guidelines have not been reviewed	x
b) No, the guidelines have been reviewed and found inappropriate	
c) Yes, the guidelines have been reviewed and application/promotion is pending	
d) Yes, the guidelines promoted and applied	
Further comments on the promotion and application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.	

Box LXII.

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this Programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.

**Marine and coastal biological diversity
General**

153. Do your country's strategies and action plans include the following? Please use an "X" to indicate your response. (decisions II/10 and IV/15)	
a) Developing new marine and coastal protected areas	X
b) Improving the management of existing marine and coastal protected areas	X
c) Building capacity within the country for management of marine and coastal resources, including through educational Programmes and targeted research initiatives (if yes, please elaborate on types of initiatives in the box below)	X
d) Instituting improved integrated marine and coastal area management (including catchments management) in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loads into the marine environment	
e) Protection of areas important for reproduction, such as spawning and nursery areas	X

f) Improving sewage and other waste treatment	
g) Controlling excessive fishing and destructive fishing practices	X
h) Developing a comprehensive oceans policy (if yes, please indicate current stage of development in the box below)	
i) Incorporation of local and traditional knowledge into management of marine and coastal resources (if yes, please elaborate on types of management arrangements in the box below)	
j) Others (please specify below)	
k) Not applicable	
Please elaborate on the above activities and list any other priority actions relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.	
<p>The National Protected Area Policy and System Plan (NPAPSP) is an important strategy for protected areas that incorporates spawning and nursery areas within the system. Building capacity is taking place through the MBRS and ICRAN projects, and through many programmes of national and international NGOs.</p> <p>The major policy objective for the fisheries sector is to maintain a sustainable yield of the fisheries resources while continuing to contribute to food production, foreign exchange earnings and to improved nutritional status in the longer term (From: Fisheries Department Policy, 2006). Specifically, the GOB fisheries policy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage and promote sustainable fish production systems in both sea areas and inland fisheries. ▪ Diversify production of the underutilized fish species in traditional waters so as to reduce pressure on high valued fish. ▪ Encourage deep sea fishing to take advantage of the 12 mile zone. ▪ Increase value added activities in the production system, fish processing and prepared fish food. ▪ Improve management of the ecological systems and marine environment of fish habitats. ▪ Expand production of non-traditional fish species. ▪ Retain product quality and remain competitive in export markets. ▪ Improve the economic and social well-being of fishers and their communities. <p>The Fisheries Department is currently preparing a national fisheries management plan.</p>	

Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

154. Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) Early stages of development	
c) Advanced stages of development	X
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management.	
<p>Belize was well advanced in the institutional arrangements for ICZM through the enactment of the CZM Act, and the establishment of the CZM Authority & Institute. However, implementation of the programme has been reduced significantly after the completion of grant funds and the lack of sustainability to run the CZM Authority & Institute.</p>	

The national fisheries policy is directed at ensuring a sustainable supply of marine products, particularly, lobster, shrimp and conch. While present policy measures include minimum size, closed season and licensing requirements, the GOB recognizes the need to harvest other species in deeper waters since it is aware that sustainable levels of production for conch, lobster, and shrimp have already reached their maximum. The strategies will facilitate proper management of marine resources and contribute towards its long-term viability and sustainable development. The major policy objective for the fisheries sector is to maintain a sustainable yield of the fisheries resources while continuing to contribute to food production, foreign exchange earnings and to improved nutritional status in the longer term.

155. Has your country implemented ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal resources, for example through integration of coastal management and watershed management, or through integrated multidisciplinary coastal and ocean management?

a) No	
b) Early stages of development	x
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of application of the ecosystem to management of marine and coastal resources.

The Fisheries Department recognizes that fisheries resources are collapsing worldwide due to over exploitation, bad management strategies and habitat destruction (Fisheries Development Policy). As a result, a recent paradigm shift has been the introduction of fishery management via ecosystems management. The Belize Fisheries Development Policy (Fisheries Department 2006) recognizes that Ecosystems management is a holistic approach to management of natural resources in a sustainable manner.

The Fisheries Department has established an Ecosystems Management Unit whose goal is "to promote the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources for the benefit of the Belizean people." (Fisheries Department, 2006). This goal will be achieved by environmental monitoring, educating and providing protection for coastal resources so and to ensure that fisheries legislation is adhered to. This goal will be supported by the following activities:

- i. Conducting routine patrols in the waters of Belize;
- ii. Continuous training of officers;
- iii. Providing presentations and lectures to fishers, schools and interested organizations;
- iv. Prosecuting offenders in a court of law;
- v. Developing conservation related programs on TV, radio, print and electronic media;
- vi. Assisting the Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) in the patrolling of the designated areas;
- vii. Ensuring that fisher folk are complying with all fishery regulations;
- viii. Enhancing local and regional fish stocks through enforcement of closed seasons, size limits and no fishing zones i.e. MPA's;
- ix. Protecting of the fish habitats by ensuring that the reef is not damaged by vessels or fishing practices;
- x. Assisting in conservation based fisheries management regimes

Integration was also occurring through the work of the CZM Advisory Council and the Coastal Advisory Committees, which coordinated the actions of many agencies having responsibility for coastal and marine resources management. However, the Council and Committees no longer meet.

The MBRS project includes activities for the training in ecosystem management. While this process has experienced delays, it is expected to progress shortly. This sub-component will support a training course for officers of the Fisheries Departments of the four countries, and for the researchers responsible for fish monitoring, focusing on the different ecosystems present in the region. It is expected that the traditional fishing methods will become re-oriented, directed towards specific species, and to a new integrated management of ecosystems.

Marine and Coastal Living Resources

156. Has your country identified components of your marine and coastal ecosystems, which are critical for their functioning, as well as key threats to those ecosystems?

a) No	
b) Plans for a comprehensive assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
c) A comprehensive assessment is currently in progress	
d) Critical ecosystem components have been identified, and management plans for them are being developed (please provide details below)	
e) Management plans for important components of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	x
f) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of assessment, monitoring and research relating to marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as key threats to them

The purpose of Belize's MPAs is "to ensure, increase and sustain the productive services and integrity of marine resources for the benefit of all Belizeans now and for future generations." (Fisheries Department 2006). The Fisheries Department has an indication that the fishery is experiencing overexploitation to a degree, and is working towards a full understanding of the fisheries status by restructuring its data collection unit so that it works very closely with the fishers, MPA staffs and other agencies in the capture fishery. The objective of Marine Protected Areas is as follows: "Conserving of marine biodiversity by protecting important ecosystems, habitats, and species." This goal is to be realized through:

- Supporting marine scientific research by providing a natural laboratory;
- Enhancing capacity through education, public awareness and collaboration;
- Mobilizing financial and technical resources for the sector;
- Deriving benefits from the tourist sector.

Furthermore, these Objectives will be facilitated through the following support services:

- i. Providing a refuge from harvesting activities.
- ii. Protecting habitats, especially those critical to lifecycle stages such as spawning, juvenile rearing and feeding.
- iii. Protecting spawning stocks and spawning stock biomass, thus enhancing reproductive capacity;
- iv. Protecting areas of species, habitats, and ecosystems restoration and recovery.
- v. Enhancing local and regional fish stocks through increased recruitment and spillover of adults and juveniles into adjacent areas.
- vi. Assisting in conservation-based fisheries management regimes.
- vii. Providing opportunities for scientific research.

With respect to the approach to protected areas management, management has shifted from species-specific protection to the protection of large ecosystems through the establishment of marine protected areas (Fisheries Department, 2006). The Fisheries Department will develop a marine protected areas systems plan, which will be adopted, and a funding mechanism will be developed to secure funds for management of these protected areas. Some work has been conducted in these regards. As a result, the first step in the process will be to draft a systems plan document and funding initiative. The drafting of the documents will involve stakeholders' participation through workshops and public consultations. After the consultations, legislation will be drafted for enactment of both documents.

Management plans have been completed for most of the 13 marine protected areas. Regional development guidelines have also been prepared for the cayes.

157. Is your country undertaking the following activities to implement the Convention's work plan on coral reefs? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.

Activities	Not implemented nor a priority	Not implemented but a priority	Currently implemented	Not applicable
a) Ecological assessment and monitoring of reefs			x	
b) Socio-economic assessment and monitoring of communities and stakeholders			x	
c) Management, particularly through application of integrated coastal management and marine and coastal protected areas in coral reef environments			x	
d) Identification and implementation of additional and alternative measures for securing livelihoods of people who directly depend on coral reef services			x	
e) Stakeholder partnerships, community participation Programmes and public education campaigns			x	
f) Provision of training and career opportunities for marine taxonomists and ecologists			x	
g) Development of early warning systems of coral bleaching		x		
h) Development of a rapid response capability to document coral bleaching and mortality			x	
i) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded coral reef habitats		x		
j) Others (please specify below)				

Please elaborate on ongoing activities.

Reef monitoring is taking place using the protocol developed by the MBRS project. Other monitoring is also occurring at CARICOMP sites.

Several socio-economic studies have been completed over the past couple of years for some sites. Training has also been offered in socioeconomic assessment techniques and more emphasis is being placed on this aspect, including these assessments as part of the evaluation of MPA management effectiveness.

Many training opportunities have been offered to fishermen to introduce alternative livelihood options, primarily in the tourism trade. However, more coordination of the activities is required, as well as a more comprehensive assessment of the needs.

Many of the MPAs are managed through partnerships with NGOs or CBOs, through co-management agreements.

Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded reefs is not occurring but research is underway to test some methods of restoration.

BAS is in the process of systematizing its data collection and processing through national and regional data management mechanisms, such as the Regional Environmental Information Systems being coordinated by the Meso-American Barrier Reef System Project.

In order to better equip the Fisheries Department, it has recommended the seeking of funding to support its enforcement capacity, the development of guidelines and manuals for evaluating impact assessments, with a view to consolidating the existing process, and to address the lack of legislation dealing with bio-prospecting by developing bio-prospecting legislation and having the Fisheries Department mandated to administrate aquatic bio prospecting.

Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

158. Which of the following statements can best describe the current status of marine and coastal protected areas in your country? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.

a) Marine and coastal protected areas have been declared and gazetted (please indicate below how many)	x
b) Management plans for these marine and coastal protected areas have been developed with involvement of all stakeholders	x
c) Effective management with enforcement and monitoring has been put in place	x
d) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas is under development	x
e) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas has been put in place	
f) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas managed for purpose of sustainable use, which may allow extractive activities	x
g) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas which exclude extractive uses	x
h) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas is surrounded by sustainable management practices over the wider marine and coastal environment.	x
i) Other (please describe below)	
j) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of marine and coastal protected areas.

Belize has 13 marine protected areas and 11 special marine reserves established to protect fish spawning sites. The recent gap analysis of the system conducted under the NPAPSP project may lead to some revisions of sites and declaring of new areas. Only very small areas of the MPA system are fully protected, i.e. excluding extractive uses.

Although a total of 26% of Belize's national territory is currently under some form of protection, the recent Protected Area Analysis (Meerman, 2005) identified that there are still several Belizean ecosystems that are not or insufficiently covered within existing the Protected Areas System and do not even meet the 10% minimum IUCN requirement. When divided into terrestrial and marine components, the figures for areas under protection represent 36.46% of Belize's total terrestrial area (non-marine), and 13.64% of its total marine area. However, extractive reserves form the majority of Belize's protected areas, and the large under-representation of the marine component is due primarily because the portion of deep water away from the coastal shelf that has not been targeted for conservation.

Management of Belize's marine protected areas has shifted from species-specific protection to the protection of large ecosystems through the establishment of marine protected areas. Conserving and protecting fish stocks is critical for the sustainability and stability of many Belizean coastal communities as well as the Belizean economy. Although a network of marine protected areas has been established, there is the lack of a systems plan for management standardization as well as infrastructure and funds needed for the intended management standards. The Fisheries Department will develop a marine protected areas systems plan, which will be adopted, and a funding mechanism to secure funds for management of these protected areas. Some work has been conducted in these regards. As a result, the first step in the process will be to draft a systems plan document and funding initiative. The drafting of the documents will involve stakeholders' participation through workshops and public consultations. After the consultations, legislation will be drafted for enactment of both documents (Fisheries Department, 2006).

Mariculture

159. Is your country applying the following techniques aimed at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity? Please check all that apply.

a)	Application of environmental impact assessments for mariculture developments	x
b)	Development and application of effective site selection methods in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management	
c)	Development of effective methods for effluent and waste control	x
d)	Development of appropriate genetic resource management plans at the hatchery level	x
e)	Development of controlled hatchery and genetically sound reproduction methods in order to avoid seed collection from nature.	x
f)	If seed collection from nature cannot be avoided, development of environmentally sound practices for spat collecting operations, including use of selective fishing gear to avoid by-catch	
g)	Use of native species and subspecies in mariculture	
h)	Implementation of effective measures to prevent the inadvertent release of mariculture species and fertile polypoids.	x
i)	Use of proper methods of breeding and proper places of releasing in order to protect genetic diversity	
j)	Minimizing the use of antibiotics through better husbandry techniques	x

k) Use of selective methods in commercial fishing to avoid or minimize by-catch	
l) Considering traditional knowledge, where applicable, as a source to develop sustainable mariculture techniques	
m) Not applicable	
Further comments on techniques that aim at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.	
<p>As per question 159 "h", the effective measures are as a result of the need of the private companies to protect their stock for economic reasons as opposed to the protection against threats to biodiversity.</p> <p>In Belize, the legality of requiring a license for aquaculture activity is not clear-cut; especially since there is no aquaculture-specific legislation. However, there is a draft aquaculture policy and a draft aquaculture legislation.</p> <p>Belize has no documented use of antibiotics in the mariculture industry.</p> <p>Measures to avoid escape of species include the use of physical screening devices at the influent as well as the effluent. This applies to both hatcheries and production ponds. Production facilities are certified by the local regulatory agency (BAHA) for quality assurance of the products destined for human consumption. BAHA is also in the process of applying HACCAP standards for products.</p> <p>Most products are being exported to the United States and are certified by the Aquaculture Certification Council (ACC). Europe also uses ISO 1400. Some of the firms have subscribed to the ACC and have received certification from the ACC in terms of clean husbandry and production practices. The process of certification is comprehensive and includes a traceability process for the products.</p>	

Alien Species and Genotypes

160. Has your country put in place mechanisms to control pathways of introduction of alien species in the marine and coastal environment? Please check all that apply and elaborate on types of measures in the space below.

a) No	
b) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from ballast water have been put in place (please provide details below)	
c) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from hull fouling have been put in place (please provide details below)	
d) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from aquaculture have been put in place (please provide details below)	x
e) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from accidental releases, such as aquarium releases, have been put in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of activities relating to prevention of introductions of alien species in the marine and coastal environment, as well as any eradication activities.	
The Belize Agricultural Health Authority in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture (Fisheries Department) is currently working with FAO in developing the specific legislation in <i>BIOSECURITY</i> which includes provisions for Aquatic Animal Health.	

Box LXIII.

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

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

Agricultural biological diversity

161. Has your country developed national strategies, Programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components? (decisions III/11 and IV/6)	
a) No	x
b) No, but strategies, Programmes and plans are under development	
c) Yes, some strategies, Programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, Programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on agrobiodiversity components in national strategies, Programmes and plans.	

162. Has your country identified 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? (decision V/5)	
a) No	x
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures identified (please provide details below)	
Further information on ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>In-situ</i> and <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.	
Assistance has been obtained from CATIE and IICA through REMERFI (Regional Programme for Plant Genetic Resource Conservation) including food security.	

Annex to decision V/5 - Programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

Programme element 1 – Assessment	
163. Has your country undertaken specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity such as on plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?	
a) No	x
b) Yes, assessments are in progress (please specify components below)	
c) Yes, assessments completed (please specify components and results of assessments below)	
Further comments on specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity.	

164. Is your country undertaking assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity referred to in Annex I of the Convention (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance)?

a) No	x
b) Yes, assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments completed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments completed (please provide details below)	

Further comments on assessment of biodiversity components (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance).

165. Has your country carried out an assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for food production and food security?

a) No	x
b) Yes, assessment is under way	
c) Yes, assessment completed (please specify where information can be retrieved below)	

Further comments on assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities.

166. Has your country been monitoring an overall degradation, status quo or restoration/rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity since 1993 when the Convention entered into force?

a) No	x
b) Yes, no change found (status quo)	
c) Yes, overall degradation found (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below)	

Further comments on observations.

Programme element 2 - Adaptive management

167. Has your country identified management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive, and mitigate the negative, impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods?

a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, technologies and policies being identified	x
c) Yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	
Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies.	

Programme element 3 - Capacity-building

168. Has your country increased the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainable agricultural biodiversity and to develop strategies and methodologies for *In-situ* conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biological diversity?

a) No	x
b) Yes (please specify area/component and target groups with increased capacity)	
Further comments on increased capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders.	

169. Has your country put in place operational mechanisms for participation by a wide range of stakeholder groups to develop genuine partnerships contributing to the implementation of the Programme of work on agricultural biodiversity?

a) No	x
b) No, but potential mechanisms being identified	
c) No, but mechanisms are under development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place	

170. Has your country improved the policy environment, including benefit-sharing arrangements and incentive measures, to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity?	
a) No	x
b) No, but some measures and arrangements being identified	
c) No, but measures and arrangements are under development	
d) Yes, measures and arrangements are being implemented (please specify below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to improve the policy environment.	

Programme element 4 – Mainstreaming	
171. Is your country mainstreaming or integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and Programmes?	
a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) No, but potential frameworks and mechanisms are being identified	x
d) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed and integrated into some sectoral plans and Programmes (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed into major sectoral plans and Programmes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on mainstreaming and integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and Programmes.	

172. Is your country supporting the institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans, and its integration into wider strategies and action plans for biodiversity?	
a) No	x
b) Yes, by supporting institutions in undertaking relevant assessments	
c) Yes, by developing policy and planning guidelines	
d) Yes, by developing training material	
e) Yes, by supporting capacity-building at policy, technical and local levels	
f) Yes, by promoting synergy in the implementation of agreed plans of action and between ongoing assessment and intergovernmental processes.	
Further comments on support for institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms.	

173. In the case of centres of origin in your country, is your country promoting activities for the conservation, on farm, *In-situ*, and *Ex-situ*, of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including their wild relatives?

a) No

x

b) Yes (please provide details below)

Further comments on of the conservation of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture in their centre of origin.

Box LXIV.

Please provide information concerning the actions taken by your country to implement the Plan of Action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.

No actions have been taken as yet with respect to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators.

Box LXV.

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

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

Forest Biological Diversity

General

174. Has your country incorporated relevant parts of the work Programme into your national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest Programmes?	
a) No	
b) Yes, please describe the process used	x
c) Yes, please describe constraints/obstacles encountered in the process	x
d) Yes, please describe lessons learned	
e) Yes, please describe targets for priority actions in the Programme of work	
Further comments on the incorporation of relevant parts of the work Programme into your NBSAP and forest Programmes	
<p>The incorporation of relevant parts of the work Programme has been done in an ad-hoc basis.</p> <p>Belize has established a Task Force on Xate (<i>Chamaedorea</i> sp.) with the objective to assess the potential for developing and promoting a sustainable industry in Belize for this species.</p> <p>Constraints include the inability of conducting a reliable assessment of the xate population due to continuous illegal and unsustainable extraction of this species.</p> <p>The target is to determine a sustainable rate of extraction of this species.</p>	

Box LXVI.

Please indicate what recently applied tools (policy, planning, management, assessment and measurement) and measures, if any, your country is using to implement and assess the Programme of work. Please indicate what tools and measures would assist the implementation.
The government's policy is to have adequate sustainable management plans in place before extraction concessions are granted.

Box LXVII.

Please indicate to what extent and how your country has involved indigenous and local communities, and respected their rights and interests, in implementing the Programme of work.
No resources applied as yet.

Box LXVIII.

Please indicate what efforts your country has made towards capacity building in human and capital resources for the implementation of the Programme of work.
The GOB has conducted a number of workshops aimed at facilitating local and bi-national initiatives in the ex-situ production of xate.

The UNDP GEF/SGP, has funded many capacity building activities. Most capacity building projects have been carried out by groups that are co-managers of protected areas or by buffer communities around these protected areas (From: UNDP GEF/SGP, 2006). The training activities have resulted in co-management organizations being able to better carry out their responsibilities of protection and enforcement, environmental education, data collection and reporting. The capacity building activities with communities have increased the number of stakeholders with special skills who are able to secure alternative livelihoods. For the most part, the capacity building training has focused on ecotourism and sustainable agriculture which coincides with national priorities. This has resulted in decreased reliance on fishing, hunting, unsustainable farming practices, and illegal extraction of forest products (From: UNDP GEF/SGP, 2006).

Some examples of successful capacity building activities include: Capacity Building for Southern Toledo Maya Communities to Conserve Local Biodiversity Project implemented by Golden Stream Corridor Preserve NGO; and, Strengthening the Management and Conservation of the Community Baboon Sanctuary Project implemented by Community Baboon Sanctuary Women's Conservation Group (UNDP GEF/SGP, 2006).

Box LXIX.

Please indicate how your country has collaborated and cooperated (e.g., south-south, north-south, south-north, north-north) with other governments, regional or international organizations in implementing the Programme of work. Please also indicate what are the constraints and/or needs identified.

Belize has not participated in any regional cooperation in implementing the Programme of Work.

Bi national initiatives for the sustainable production and harvesting of xate with indigenous communities (Belize & Guatemala) are being spear headed by local and governmental organizations.

Expanded Programme of work on forest biological diversity

Programme element 1 – Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing

175. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?

a) No (please provide reasons below)

b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below)

c) Yes (please provide details below)

x

Comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impact on forest management, constraints, needs, tools, and targets).

Belize is a member of the CCAD and of the Central American Commission of Forestry and Protected Areas (CCAB/AP). The IUCN-Mesoamerica, through its division of Forest Conservation and Protected Areas, was commissioned by the CCAD and CCAB/AP to develop a "Central American Forest Strategy on Forest Restoration based on the Ecosystems Approach".

There are a number of institutions mandated by legislation and co-management agreements that have direct or indirect bearing on forest resources and forest ecosystems. Administrative functions, however, fall within three types of agencies: Government, Non-government and Community Based Organizations. The Forest Department is the primary agency with the legal authority to manage forest resources. Non-government and Community Based Organizations often acquire responsibility for the management of both marine and terrestrial protected areas via co-management agreements. Co-management agreements apply to those protected areas consisting of national lands. However, private protected areas such as the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area, Shipstern Nature Reserve and the Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuaries have recently been included as "Private" reserves in the NPAPSP. Other important NGOs managing forest ecosystems as part of protected areas include the Belize Audubon Society which manages several terrestrial and marine protected areas. Perhaps one of the most important of these terrestrial protected areas is the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary.

The business of PfB on the RBCMA is conservation of tropical forest. Since its inception, PfB has secured 260,000 acres of forest in northwestern Belize that was otherwise destined for clearance (from: Pfb website: www.pfbelize.org). The RBCMA represents approximately 4% of Belize's total land area and is home to a rich sample of biodiversity which includes: 400 species of birds, 200 species of trees, 70 species of mammals and 12 endangered animal species. On the RBCMA, PfB conducts research, conservation education, professional training and promotes environmental awareness amongst visitors.

Approximately half of the RBCMA is managed as a strict nature reserve for the protection of biodiversity and natural habitats.

The Belize Audubon Society is "a non-governmental membership organization dedicated to the sustainable management of Belize's natural resources through leadership and strategic partnerships with stakeholders in order to create a balance between people and the environment. Under an agreement with the Government of Belize, BAS manages 8 protected areas, covering an area of over 162,000 acres (BAS, 2004 Annual Report).

Many community-based organizations are involved directly or indirectly with the management of protected areas. Examples of these are the Community Baboon Sanctuary, and Gra Gra Lagoon National Park.

The recently updated Forest Policy by the Forest Department has resulted in the expansion of its requirements for forest management plans to incorporate these in private forest plantations and areas held in private hands.

176. Has your country undertaken measures to reduce the threats to, and mitigate its impacts on forest biodiversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	x	Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions

		<p>Presently the legal and managerial frameworks were introduced to promote population recovery and stability.</p> <p>Agro-forestry Programmes and watershed management are being formulated in collaboration with regional institutions such as Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigacion y Ensenanza (CATIE), a regional educational institution headquartered in Costa Rica.</p> <p>The EIA Regulations, 1996, has recently undergone a process of updating, and the enactment of its amendment version will follow shortly. This legislation strengthens existing requirements for the protection, preservation of forested sites targeted for development, and attempts to promote enhancement of degraded forest biodiversity via mitigation measures at the project implementation stage.</p>
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to reduce threats to, and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

Belize forms part of the Regional Forest Programme (RFP) of the United Nations Development Programme (PROFOR-PNUD). As part of this Programme, Belize has recently revised its Forest Policy. The goal of the RFP is that the basic framework required to promote the social and economic functioning of forests of the region have been established by 2010, and that by 2025 the Central American Isthmus will have 45 to 60% forest cover. The RFP is being implemented by the Central American Council of Forests and Protected Areas, of the CCAD, via the UNDP Regional Forest Programme, and by FAO, with technical support from IUCN-Mesoamerica.

Belize's system of co-management of protected areas allows for stakeholders to build partnership in resource management, which, in turn provides direct economic incentives through the seeking and development of alternate livelihoods.

177. Is your country undertaking any measures to protect recover and restore forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Recently, the NPAPSP seeded to establish the protected areas based on the ecosystem approach and the recently conducted protected areas gap analysis. Introducing sustainable forest management on national lands and improving fire management have also been carried out at several protected areas.</p> <p>Several initiatives including re-forestation and plantation Programmes of Mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) as well as Pine (<i>Pinus caribaea</i>) is on-going.</p>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

178. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	x	<p>Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Priority actions include the promotion of Non-Timber Forest Product Development, and the placing of moratoria on the harvest of certain species.</p> <p>The extraction of Mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) is now subject to a comprehensive management plan, which includes re-planting and limitations on harvesting periods.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

Further comments on the promotion of the sustainable use of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

Belize's system of co-management of protected areas allows for stakeholders to build partnership in resource management, which, in turn provides direct economic incentives through the seeking and development of alternate livelihoods.

179. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 5 and describe measures undertaken
b) No	x	Please provide reasons below No bio-prospecting is presently being undertaken in Belize.
Further comments on the promotion of access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources. (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets)		

Programme element 2 – Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment		
180. Is your country undertaking any measures to enhance the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	x	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the enhancement of the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

181. Is your country undertaking any measures to address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	x	Please provide reasons below

Further comments on review of socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

182. Is your country undertaking any measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	x	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
		The NGO community leads this initiative.
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

Public awareness and education Programmes are on-going activities conducted by the various organizations implementing the convention. These include the NGOs, Government, and Community Based Organizations. The overall education and awareness Programmes include biodiversity protection, which encompasses forest biodiversity.

Programme element 3 – Knowledge, assessment and monitoring

183. Is your country undertaking any measures to characterize forest ecosystems at various scales in order to improve the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on characterization of forest ecosystems at various scales (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

Some measures taken to assess Belize's ecosystems as follows:

According to the *Compilation of Information on Biodiversity in Belize* submitted to INBIO of Costa Rica by Jan C. Meerman (Meerman, 2005), "Belize has an ecosystems map produced as part of the Central American Ecosystems Map (World bank/CCAD, 2001) and originally recognized 86 different ecosystems for Belize. The report described each of the ecosystems including a list of plant species identified in these. Maps give information on altitude, broad ecosystems, detailed ecosystems and fire risk. This 2001 ecosystems map was essentially an update of the 1995 Vegetation map of Belize by Iremonger and Brokaw. This Iremonger and Brokaw map borrowed heavily from the 1959 Natural Vegetation Map of Belize by Wright et al.

The final product being an all encompassing Belize Ecosystems Map on a scale of incorporating the main terrestrial and marine habitats (including deep sea habitats, 96 habitats were thus mapped (table 8, figure 2) :

- 65 Terrestrial classes
- 14 Marine classes
- 7 Agriculture/silviculture/mariculture classes
- 6 Mangrove classes
- 3 Inland water classes"

184. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve knowledge on, and methods for, the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below

Further comments on improvement of knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

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185. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below No national Programmes exist.
Further comments on the improvement of the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

186. Is your country undertaking any measures at national level to improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biodiversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities Belize participates in the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the improvement of the infrastructure for data and information management (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
No national forest inventories are otherwise attempted.		

Box LXX.

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

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

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Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

187. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the Programme of work? (decisions V/23 and VII/2)

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

Further comments on scientific, technical and financial support, at the national and regional levels, to the activities identified in the Programme of work.

This Programme element is not relevant to Belize, as there are no dry and sub-humid lands in Belize.

188. Has your country integrated actions under the Programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

Further comments on actions under the Programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands integrated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD.

189. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure synergistic/collaborative implementation of the Programme of work between the national UNCCD process and other processes under related environmental conventions? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)

a) No

b) Yes, some linkages established (please provide details below)

c) Yes, extensive linkages established (please provide details below)

Further comments on the measures to ensure the synergistic/collaborative implementation of the Programme of work between the national UNCCD processes and other processes under related environmental conventions.

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Programme Part A: Assessment

190. Has your country assessed and analyzed information on the state of dryland biological diversity and the pressures on it, disseminated existing knowledge and best practices, and filled knowledge gaps in order to determine adequate activities? (Decision V/23, Part A: Assessment, Operational objective, activities 1 to 6)

a) No	
b) No, but assessment is ongoing	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessment undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the relevant information on assessments of the status and trends and dissemination of existing knowledge and best practices.

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Programme Part B: Targeted Actions

191. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences? (part B of annex I of decision V/23, activities 7 to 9)

a) No	
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences.

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192. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the Programme of work?

a) No

b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)

c) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)

d) Yes, all identified capacity needs met (please provide details below)

Further comments on measures taken to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the Programme of work.

Box LXXI.

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

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

Mountain Biodiversity

Programme Element 1. Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing

193. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity?

a) No

b) No, but relevant measures are being considered

c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)

d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)

Further comments on the measures taken to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity

This Programme element is not relevant to Belize, as there are no Mountain Ecosystems in Belize.

194. Has your country taken any measures to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity	

195. Has your country taken any measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems	

196. Has your country taken any measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources, including preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources	

**Programme Element 2. Means of implementation for conservation,
sustainable use and benefit sharing**

197. Has your country developed any legal, policy and institutional framework for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing this Programme of work?

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) No | |
| b) No, but relevant frameworks are being developed | |
| c) Yes, some frameworks are in place (please provide details below) | |
| d) Yes, comprehensive frameworks are in place (please provide details below) | |

Further comments on the legal, policy and institutional frameworks for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing the Programme of work on mountain biodiversity.

198. Has your country been involved in regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) No | |
| b) No, but some cooperation frameworks are being considered | |
| c) Yes (please provide details below) | |

Further information on the regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

**Programme Element 3. Supporting actions for conservation,
sustainable use and benefit sharing**

199. Has your country taken any measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biological diversity?

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) No | |
| b) No, but relevant Programmes are under development | |
| c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below) | |
| d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below) | |

Further comments on the measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biodiversity

200. Has your country taken any measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

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

Further comments on the measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

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201. Has your country taken any measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems?

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

Further comments on the measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems

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Box LXXII.

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

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

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E. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

202. Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention? (decision V/20)	
a) No	x
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the regional and subregional activities in which your country has been involved.	

203. Is your country strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, enhancing integration and promoting synergies with relevant regional and subregional processes? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	x
Further comments on regional and subregional cooperation and processes.	
<p>Belize is a signatory to the Central American Convention on Biodiversity, and a member of the Central American Commission on Development and the Environment (CCAD), an agency of the Central American Integration System (SICA). This is a regional initiative between countries of Central America. Belize is also committed to the Council for Sustainable Development with the countries of the Caribbean region. Belize is also the Focal Point for the Caribbean Initiative on Sustainable Development.</p> <p>An important initiative at the regional level by Central American Countries is the <i>Central American Biodiversity Convention</i> (CCAB), which Belize has signed and ratified.</p> <p>Belize is also a signatory to the Tulum Declaration, which established a regional project, The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project (MBRS), which calls for sustainable use and protection of the Barrier Reef System and its biodiversity.</p> <p>The Fisheries Department is involved in transboundary and regional projects (e.g. TRIGOH, BEMAMCCOR, MBRS, and PREPAC), capacity building internally and towards the Marine Protected Areas it manages (e.g. MBRS, PREPAC, CRFM and co-management partners) and in International initiatives related to UN conventions such as MARPOL, SPAW, the IAC convention on Sea Turtles and COMPAM.</p> <p>BAHA conducts activities that are oriented towards agricultural health monitoring at the national, transboundary and regional level, as well as carry out capacity building activities (e.g. international training and short-term external training), and also has established technical partnership with PAHO and IICA. BAHA is also the implementing agency for international initiatives (e.g. CBD-Biosafety and FAO projects), and has formal MOUs with various international agencies that require weekly reporting including PAHO, OIE and USDA AFIS.</p>	

The following question (204) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

204. Is your country supporting the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) No, but Programmes are under development	
c) Yes, included in existing cooperation frameworks (please provide	

details below)	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities ongoing (please provide details below)	
Further comments on support for the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes.	

205. Is your country working with other Parties to strengthen the existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	x
b) Yes	

206. Has your country contributed to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

x

Further comments on contribution to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms.

As a member of the CCAD, Belize contributes to the regional UNCBD report that is submitted at each COP since COP 6.

Box LXXIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of the above decisions specifically focusing on:

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

F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT

Box LXXIV.

Please provide below recommendations on how to improve this reporting format.

The format is considered very lengthy. It is believed that an introductory page for the inclusion of acronyms and acknowledgements is required.
