



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-FBD.REV/3/2
27 May 2005

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Third meeting

Bonn, 25-29 July 2005

Item 3.3 of the provisional agenda*

PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES, AND OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

Assessment of information contained in the voluntary thematic national reports

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. The present note has been prepared in response to a request made in paragraph 27 of decision VI/22 on forest biological diversity in which the Conference of the Parties (COP) agreed to call a voluntary thematic national report in relation to the implementation of the programme of work on forest biological diversity, to elicit information on:

- (a) Priority actions that Parties have identified under the programme of work;
- (b) Successes in implementing the programme of work; and
- (c) Challenges and impediments to implementing these priority actions and, as appropriate, the programme of work.

2. In order to provide input to the Executive Secretary and to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Review of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity has been requested to give advice on ways and means by which this information can be used for the review of the forest work programme pursuant to its mandate as contained in paragraph 26 of decision VI/22 of the Conference of the Parties.

* UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-FBD.REV/3/1.

3. Contained herein are the essential elements of the views of 17 Parties ^{1/} who submitted voluntary thematic national reports to the Secretariat based on a questionnaire included as annex I to the present note. ^{2/} The reports were submitted to the Secretariat between June and September 2004. ^{3/}

4. The questionnaire consists of 31 questions. The first three elicit information on identified priority actions (at the programme goal, objective, and/or activity level as stated in question 1) and provide input on successes (question 2) as well as challenges and impediments (question 3) during their implementation at the national level. The fourth question relates to actions on regional and international cooperation, the results of which are not included because the responses are limited; they mention specific organizations but do not elaborate further. It should be noted however that out of 26 organizations mentioned, only 2 organizations, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) were mentioned by more than 3 Parties (this may simply be a product of geographical bias from the reports received). Finally, the remaining 27 questions (nos. 5 to 31 of the questionnaire) relate to the degree of implementation of each of the objectives as contained in the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity.

5. Section II below contains an analysis of the information derived from question 1, including the identification of priority actions, and the classification of them following the structure of the forest work programme. Section III states the progress of the implementation of these priority actions, as well as successes and impediments for their implementation. Section IV lists briefly the challenges for implementing priority actions, and section V shows preliminary conclusions. Due to the low number of responses, the present document should not be taken as a broad reflection of current status and trends.

I. ANALYSIS OF PRIORITY ACTIONS AND PROGRESS IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION

6. It should be noted that out of the 17 respondent Parties, 5 indicated that work was “under way” to identify priority actions for implementing the programme of work, thus leaving the sample size to be 12 Parties for question 1 on priorities. Most Parties reported that priority actions for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity have been incorporated into their national biodiversity strategies and environmental action plans, most likely under a National Forest Programme.

7. Of those 12 Parties that responded to question 1, a total of 28 priority actions were identified. Since question 1 asked Parties to list their priority actions at the goal, objective, and/or activity level according to the forest work programme, and in order to facilitate the analysis of the information, each of the reported priority actions was assigned to fit the programme’s format; of those 28 priority actions, only 4 were placed at the goal level.

8. To this end, table 1.1 lists the forest programme goals and objectives and the number of countries with a frequency of more than one that reported priority actions. It should also be noted that the priority actions listed fell broadly into the three programme elements (although not equally). Table 1.2 lists those priority actions identified by only a single Party.

^{1/} Austria, China, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Morocco, Myanmar, Poland, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

^{2/} All 17 reports can be accessed online at the Convention on Biological Diversity’s website at [<http://intranet.biodiv.org/world/reports.aspx?type=vfe>]

^{3/} A preliminary synthesis of the responses is contained in document UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-FBD.REV/3/INF/1.

Table 1.1 Frequency response (more than one respondent Party) of priority actions categorized under goals and objectives of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity.

Programme Element	Goal	Objective	Number of Parties
1. CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND BENEFIT-SHARING			
	1.	To apply the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests	
		(1) Develop practical methods, guidelines, indicators and strategies to apply the ecosystem approach adapted to regional differences to forests both inside and outside protected forest areas as well as both in managed and unmanaged forests	2
	2.	To reduce the threats and mitigate the impacts of threatening process on forest biological diversity	2
		(4) To prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression	2
		(6) To prevent and mitigate losses due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses	4
	3.	To protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity	5
		(1) Restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes, including in plantations.	3
		(2) Promote forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species	3
		(3) Ensure adequate and effective protected forest area networks	7
	4.	To promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity	4
		(1) Promote sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity	4
		(2) Prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources	2
		(4) Develop effective and equitable information systems and strategies and promote implementation of those strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of genetic diversity, and support countries in their implementation and monitoring	3
2. INSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENABLING ENVIRONMENT			
	1.	Enhance the institutional enabling environment	
		(3) Parties and Governments to develop good governance practices, review and revise and implement forest and forest-related laws, tenure and planning systems, to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity	5
		(4) Promote forest law enforcement and address related trade	2
	2.	Address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decision that result in loss of forest biological diversity	
		(1) Mitigate the economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity	3
	3.	Increase public education, participation, and awareness	
		(1) Increase public support and understanding of the value of forest biodiversity and its goods and services at all levels	7
3. KNOWLEDGE, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING			
	1.	To characterize and to analyse from forest ecosystem to global scale and develop general classification of forests on various scales in order to improve the assessment of status and trends of forest biological diversity	
		(2) Develop national forest classification systems and maps (using agreed international standards and protocols to enable regional and global synthesis)	2
		(3) To develop, where appropriate, specific forest ecosystems surveys in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity	3
	3.	Improve understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning	2
		(1) Conduct key research programmes on the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning	3

Table 1.2 Frequency response (only one respondent Party) of priority actions categorized under goals and objectives of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity

Programme Element	Goal	Objective
1. CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND BENEFIT-SHARING		
	2. To reduce the threats and mitigate the impacts of threatening process on forest biological diversity	
		(1) Prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, and mitigate their negative impacts on forest biological diversity in accordance with international law
		(2) Mitigate the impact of pollution such as acidification and eutrophication on forest biodiversity
		(3) Mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity
		(5) To mitigate effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur
2. INSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENABLING ENVIRONMENT		
	1. Enhance the institutional enabling environment	
		(1) Improve the understanding of the various causes of forest biological diversity losses
		(2) Parties, Governments and organizations to integrate biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes
3. KNOWLEDGE, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING		
	1. To characterize and to analyse from forest ecosystem to global scale and develop general classification of forests on various scales in order to improve the assessment of status and trends of forest biological diversity	
		(1) Review and adopt a harmonized global to regional forest classification system, based on harmonized and accepted forest definitions and addressing key forest biological diversity elements
	2. Improve knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity, based on available information	
		(1) Advance the development and implementation of international, regional and national criteria and indicators based on key regional, subregional and national measures within the framework of sustainable forest management

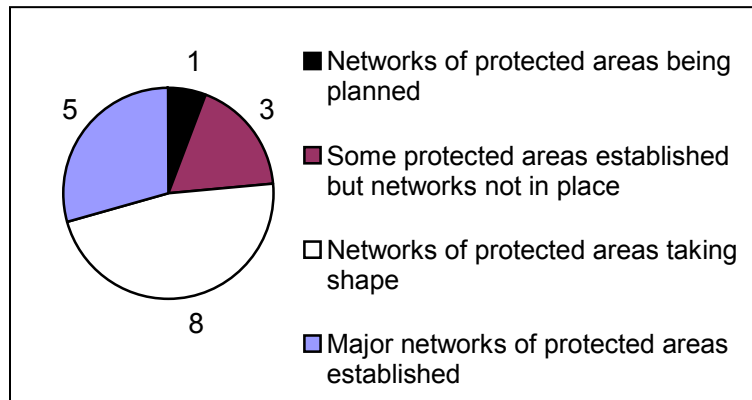
II. PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY ACTIONS

9. This section contains information on progress in implementing each of the priority actions listed by more than one Party as in table 1.2, and assessed through the information provided in questions 5 to 31 from the voluntary thematic reports (represented in graph format). In addition, the summation of these 27 questions is presented in a tabular format in annex II. The following analysis also contains a summary on successes (question no. 2 of the thematic report) and impediments (question no. 3 of the thematic report) encountered during implementation.

A. *Ensure adequate and effective protected forest area networks*

Programme element 1, goal 3, objective 3

10. Seven Parties listed the increase in area of protected forest networks as a priority action for the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. Only about one third of the Parties stated that they have established major networks of protected areas; the majority are still setting up networks. Three of the Parties that stated this point was a high priority also indicated that they already had major networks of protected areas established (China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sweden).

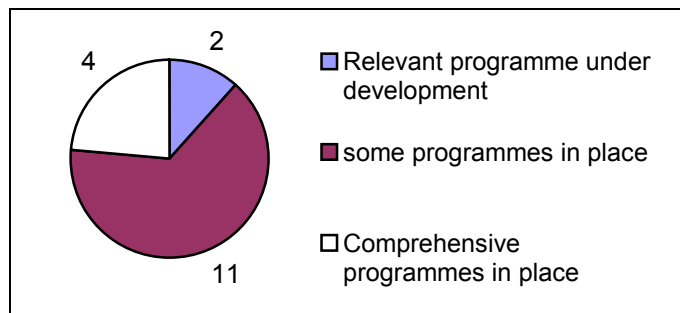


This may indicate that, while this priority action is being amended, it is still a major concern for Parties. For example, in Morocco the implementation of the National Study on Protected Areas (1995) identified 168 sites of biological and ecological interest, with 2.5 million ha of forest ecosystems consisting the majority. The importance of each site is currently being categorized, with the most endangered sites being rapidly converted into a protected area.

B. *Increase public support and understanding of the value of forest biodiversity and its goods and services at all levels*

Programme element 2, goal 3, objective 1

11. Seven Parties stated this as a priority action for the implementation of the programme of work; however, some Parties answered that at least some form of public education programme is already in place, and the remaining two Parties stating that programmes are under development. Six Parties, which stated this objective was a priority action, already have at least some programmes set in place. In addition, six



Parties listed examples of programmes under development or in place. As in the first point, it is suggested that although this objective is currently being improved it is still a high priority for many Parties as part of their goals for the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. Furthermore, reaching this objective for many Parties is an ongoing and continuous process.

C. Protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity

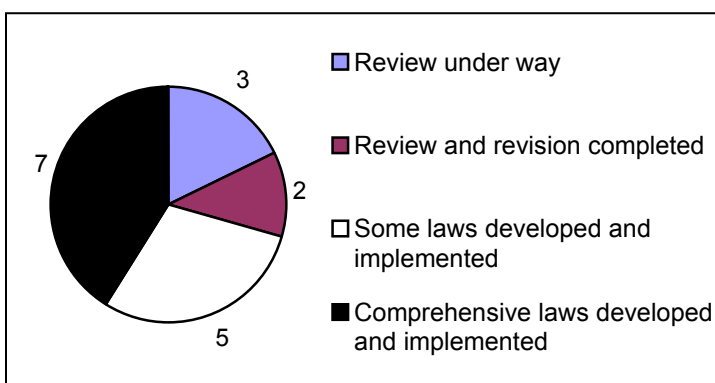
Programme element 1, goal 3

12. Overall, five Parties made general remarks about the conservation of forest biological diversity as a priority action in relation. In total, nine Parties stated that at least one priority action came under this goal. However, it is noteworthy that, out of these nine Parties, several of them have common goals. For instance, both **China** and **Sri Lanka** are interested in ensuring the conservation of endemic species (programme element 1, goal 3, objective 2; sub-section I), as well as adequate protection of forest networks (programme element 1, goal 3, objective 3; sub-section A). Also, **Colombia**, **Denmark** and **Ireland** are primarily concerned with forest rehabilitation (programme element 1, goal 3, objective 1; sub-section H) as well as adequate protection of forest networks.

D. Parties and Governments to develop good governance practices, review, revise and implement forest and forest-related laws, tenure and planning systems, to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity

Programme element 2, goal 1, objective 3

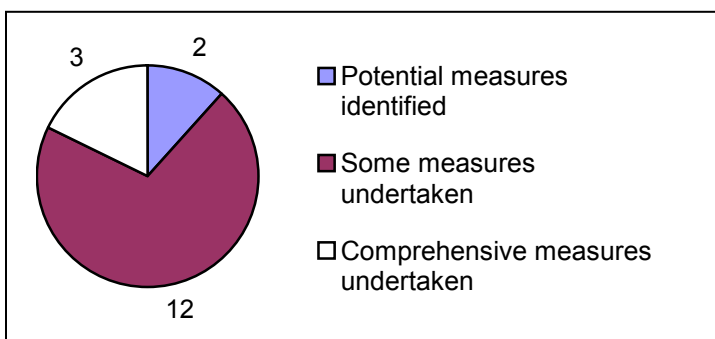
13. Five Parties stated this as a priority action. In general, 12 Parties stated that they have at least some set of practices and laws implemented for the conservation of forest biodiversity. Four Parties, which stated this objective was a priority action, already have some laws and regulations implemented; however, **Ireland's** legislation is currently under review. 11 Parties provided a listing of laws and regulations, while two Parties stated the progress of their laws under development. Furthermore, **Colombia** indicated lack of economic resources and institutional instability (particularly at the local level), as the main constraints to the development of good institutional and socio-economic reforms.



E. To prevent and mitigate losses due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses

Programme element 1, goal 2, objective 6

14. Four Parties stated that this objective was a priority action for their country. Only three Parties have legal framework for mitigating forest biodiversity loss, while 12 Parties have undertaken at least some mitigation measures. All four Parties, which stated this objective was a priority action, have undertaken some mitigation and prevention measures. **Denmark**, responded it had already undertaken comprehensive measures and had achieve some success, but that this was still a priority for them because the issue is ongoing. More specifically, **Denmark** reported that successes were due to centuries of efforts



in promoting afforestation programmes. Furthermore, new measures include incentives for the establishment of “shelter-belts,” which will serve as ecological corridors for migrating species. Other Parties mentioned afforestation as an important measure.

F. To promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity

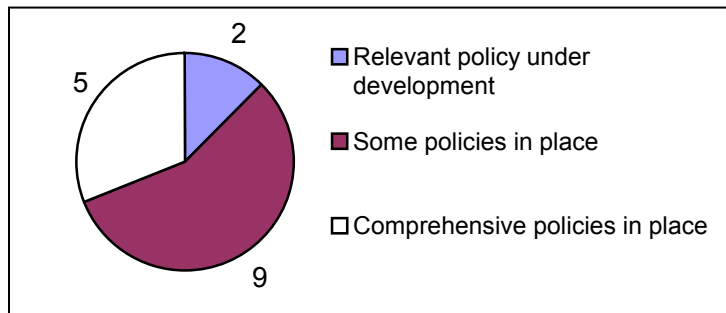
Programme element 1, goal 4

15. Four Parties made general remarks about the sustainable use of forest biological diversity (or sustainable forest management) as a priority action for the implementation of the expanded programmed of work on forest biodiversity. Out of these, two specified that at least one objective under this goal was also a priority action for their country: for **Estonia**, objective 1 and for **Turkey**, objectives 1 and 4. **Denmark** and **Germany** did not make general references to sustainable forest management, but went further by stating that three objectives of this goal were priority actions for the implementation of the expanded programme of work. Several Parties consider sustainable forest management as it conforms to the ecosystem approach.

G. Promote sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity

Programme element 1, goal 4, objective 1

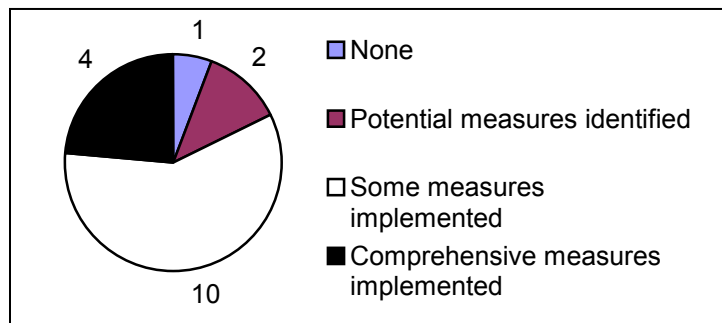
16. Four Parties stated that the sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity was a priority action for them. Fourteen Parties reported that they have at least some policies in place. As in the other objectives, three Parties, which stated this objective was a priority action, already have at least some policies in place to promote the sustainable use of forest resources. For example, in **Germany**, more than 60% of forests are certified according to the “certification schemes of the Pan-European Forest Certification and the Forest Stewardship Council. However, [due to] expenditures involved in verifying the chain of custody, certified finished products still account for a fairly low share of the market, thus restricting the benefits derived by forestry enterprises participating in the programme.” Hence, progress in implementing this objective is ongoing.



H. Restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes, including in plantations

Programme element 1, goal 3, objective 1

17. Three Parties stated this objective is a priority action for the implementation of the expanded programme of work. In total, 14 Parties, including the three that stated this objective was a priority action, declared that they had implemented some measure to restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests. **Switzerland**



responded that this objective does not apply to them because there is a long-standing tradition of close-to-

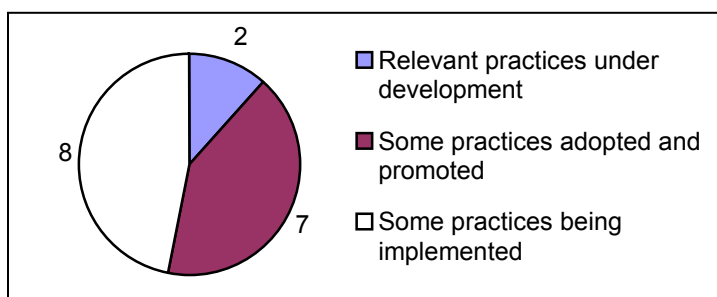
nature forest management, “which contributes to the prevention of degraded secondary forests [and] compared to other Parties the problem of degraded second growth forests is rather negligible.” Many Parties gave multiple examples of programmes and regulations set in place or under development, including compensation measures (**China** and **Denmark**). Most Parties are developing some form of multi-disciplinary reforestation programme: however, **Morocco** is the only Party, which stated that they are allowing, in part, the restoration of forest biodiversity to occur naturally.

I. Promote forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species

Programme element 1, goal 3, objective 2

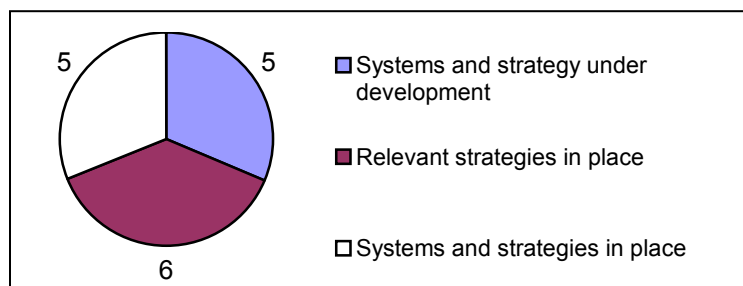
18. **China, Denmark, and Sri Lanka** stated that the conservation of endemic and threatened forest species was a priority action for the implementation of the forest programme of work. 15 Parties, including the aforementioned three, stated that at least some practices were being adopted, promoted and implemented. Moreover, 15 Parties gave examples of programmes already in place or under development.

In general, many Parties, have compiled lists of mostly threaten animals and plants species (known as “red lists” by some Parties), and currently monitor the status of these species. In addition, several Parties have created conservation centers for the preservation of specific endangered species. For example, **China** reported that it has succeeded with the conservation of certain animal species, including the giant panda and the crested ibis.



J. Develop effective and equitable information systems and strategies and promote implementation of those strategies for in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable use of genetic diversity, and support countries in their implementation and monitoring

Programme element 1, goal 4, objective 4

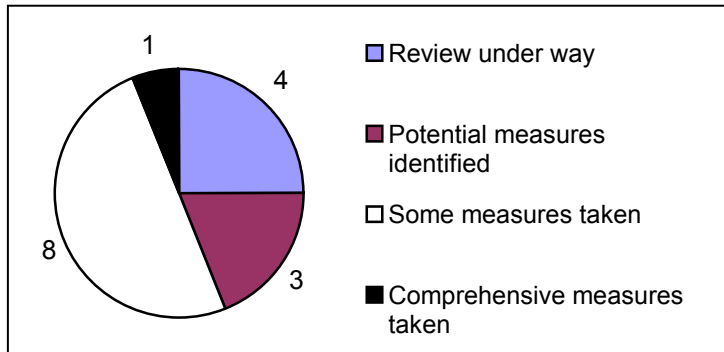


19. **Denmark, Germany and Turkey** stated that this objective was a priority action for the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity. In total, 11 Parties, including the three aforementioned Parties, stated that at least some systems or strategies in place. Ten Parties provided examples of programmes implemented or under development. In general, most Parties stated that they have already started a genetic database or bank (usually with several hundred species), but the challenge for the future is to complete the database. Some Parties, such as **Estonia**, have established this database in connection with another registry or network, such as a biodiversity information management network so that information can be more easily transmitted to where it is needed.

K. Mitigate the economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity

Programme element 2, goal 2, objective 1

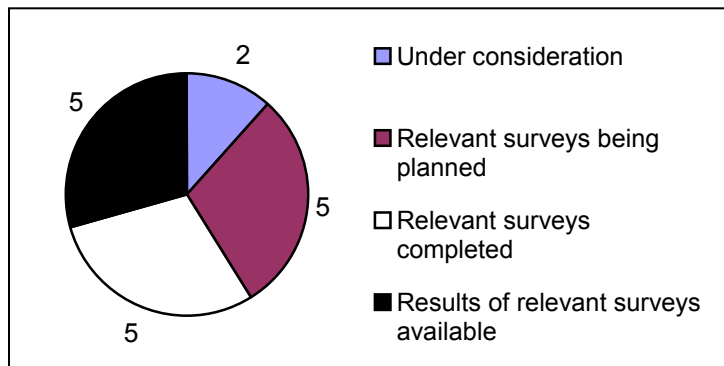
20. **Denmark, Germany and the Islamic Republic of Iran** listed the mitigation of economic failures that lead to the loss of forest biodiversity as a priority action. Overall, 9 Parties, including the first two aforementioned ones, have at least some measures taken to counteract the loss of forest biodiversity due to economic failures. Nine Parties provided examples of programmes under development or implemented. In general, several Parties indicated that they had some sort of compensation programmes or subsidies in place, for construction and management of public welfare forests or to reimburse private forest owners for the external costs generated by forests. For example, **Poland** provides subsidies to private forest owners for afforestation as well as tax relief for forests at least 40 years old.



L. Develop, where appropriate, specific forest ecosystems surveys in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity

Programme element 3, goal 1, objective 3

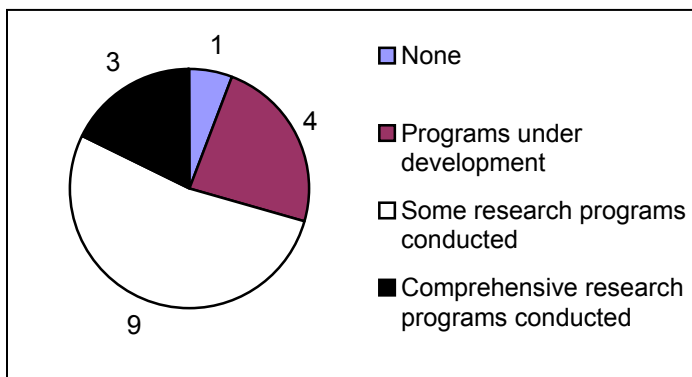
21. **Denmark, Sri Lanka and Sweden** reported that the development of forest ecosystem surveys for conservation was a priority action for the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. In total, 13 Parties, including two of the aforementioned Parties, have at least some surveys complete or available. **Ireland** indicated multiple answers (relevant surveys are being planned, are completed and available). **Germany** reported it has not answered the question because it wishes clarification of the phrase “specific forest ecosystem surveys.” Twelve Parties have provided examples or a listing of programmes under development or implemented. In general, many Parties reported surveys that were done in the past but few responses are given with regard to ongoing surveys or to surveys that are part of long-term monitoring. Some Parties reported that they created databases with the information collected over the years (including **China**).



M. Conduct key research programmes on the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning

Programme element 3, goal 3, objective 1

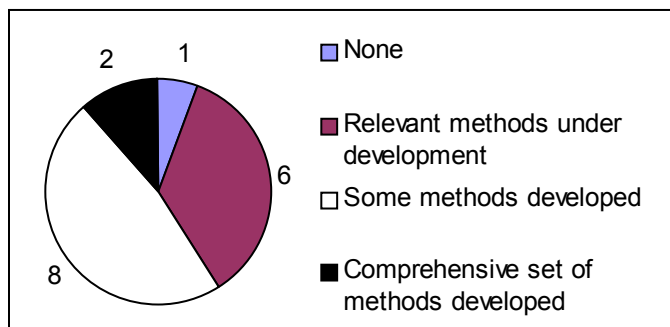
22. Three Parties (**Denmark, Germany, and Ireland**) reported that conducting key research programmes on the role of forest biodiversity was a priority action for the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity. In total, 12 Parties, including two of the aforementioned Parties, stated that they had at least some programmes in place. Only two Parties stated examples of programmes in place or under development.



N. Develop practical methods, guidelines, indicators and strategies to apply the ecosystem approach adapted to regional differences to forests both inside and outside protected forest areas as well as both in managed and unmanaged forests

Programme element 1, goal 1, objective 1

23. **Germany and Poland** stated this objective was a priority action for the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. Ten Parties have at least some management approaches developed. Eleven Parties have provided examples or a listing of programmes under development or implemented. Several Parties mention existing approaches and guidelines, which have not *per se* been developed to apply to the ecosystem approach, but which can be regarded as contributions to the implementation of the ecosystem approach within forestry. For example, a few Parties have mentioned implementing the Pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, especially in relation to the ecosystem approach, as part of reaching their goals for the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. For some Parties, the criteria and indicators relating to national strategies, policies or programmes for sustainable forest management are in place but need development for the ecosystem approach. On the other hand, in **Colombia** the development of guidelines to apply the ecosystem approach in forests coincides with the building of criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems.



O. To reduce the threats and mitigate the impacts of threatening process on forest biological diversity

Programme element 1, goal 2

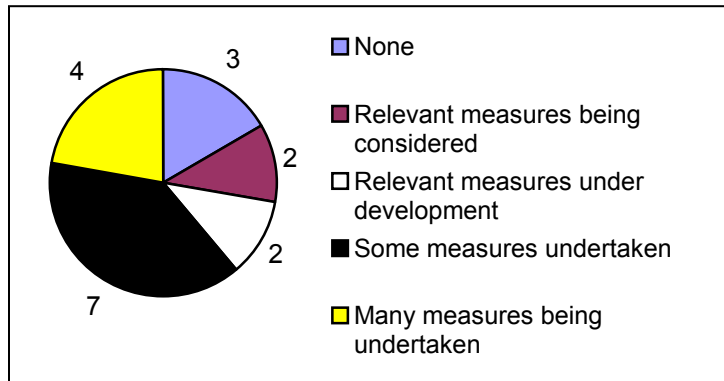
24. **Germany and the Islamic Republic of Iran** both reported that their Parties are taking measures to reduce external threats to forest biodiversity as a priority action for the implementation of the expanded

programme of work on forest biological diversity. **The Islamic Republic of Iran** has decided to create a special court to deal with illegal forest exploitations and occupations. Although **Sri Lanka** did not make any general remarks about reducing external threats they specified that several objectives under this goal were a priority for their country (objectives 1, 4 and 6). In addition, **Denmark** specified that objectives 2, 3, 5, and 6 were also priority goals for the national implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity.

P. To prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression

Programme element 1, goal 2, objective 4

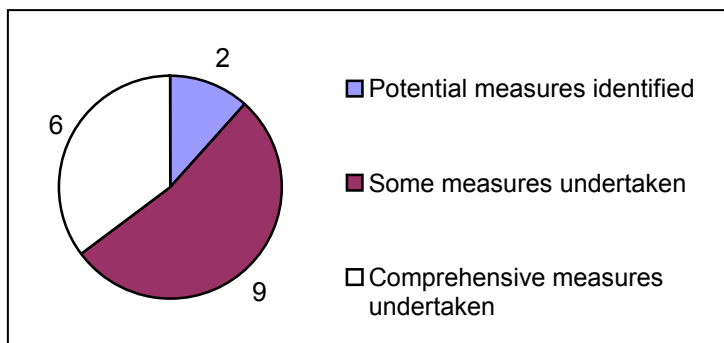
25. **Sri Lanka** and **Colombia** have both stated that this objective is important for the implementation of the forest programme of work. In total, 11 Parties have at least some mitigation measures undertaken. **Germany** indicated multiple answers for this objective: no measures have been taken with respect to the effects of forest fires suppression; and many measures have been taken with respect to the prevention of forest fires. Ten Parties stated examples of programmes in place or under development. Several Parties did not consider forest fires to be a large concern; therefore, no specific forest policy measures are needed and only normal fire emergency measures are in place, usually as part of their nation forest policy. For example, in most parts of **Germany** forest fires are not a serious problem due to climatic reasons, except in the Federal State of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, where a specific action plan against forest fires was adopted.



Q. Prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources

Programme element 1, goal 4, objective 2

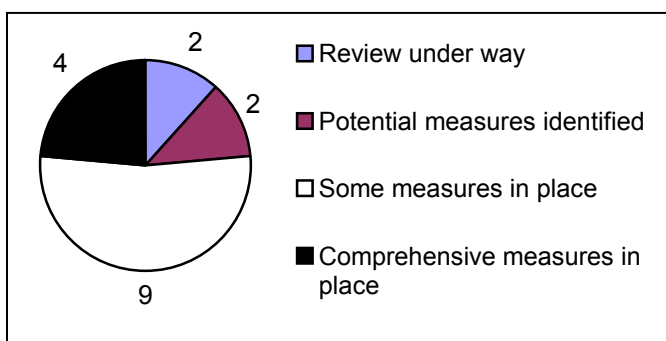
26. **Denmark** and **Germany** reported that the prevention of losses due to unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber resources is a priority action for the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. In total, 15 Parties reported that at least some measure were undertaken to prevent losses of unsustainable harvesting. Fourteen Parties stated examples of programmes in place or under development. In most cases, restrictions on clear-cutting and unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources are addressed by National Forest Acts. In addition to national legislation, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, such as recreational hunting laws (**Austria**), are often used to avoid unsustainable management practices and to ensure a regular and sustainable yield of the goods and services. Other instruments to prevent losses caused by unsustainable uses include the sustained yield principle, where the removal of the resource should not exceed its natural growth (**China**), such as a no cut zone in forest reserves (**Denmark**).



R. Promote forest law enforcement and address related trade

Programme element 2, goal 1, objective 4

27. **Denmark** and **the Islamic Republic of Iran** reported that the promotion of law enforcement and related trade for the conservation of forest biodiversity is a priority action. Thirteen Parties, including the two aforementioned Parties, reported that at least some measures were in place. Four Parties gave examples of programmes and laws in place. On average, forestry law enforcement is not considered to pose a serious problem.

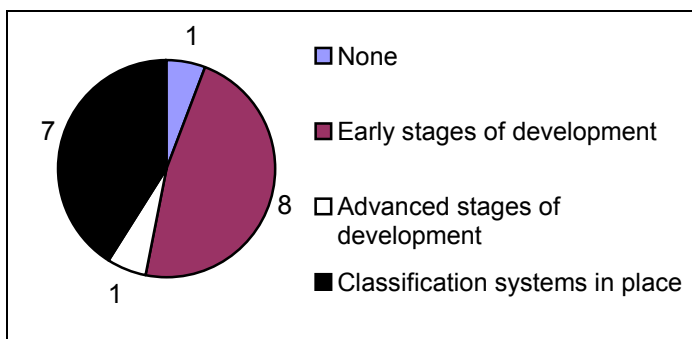


However, **the Islamic Republic of Iran** reported that military or police forces would be involved in the field of conservation. In **Denmark** and **Germany**, in terms of international trade, they are working to ensure that imported wood comes from legal sources with regard to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) regulations.

S. Develop national forest classification system and maps (using agreed international standards and protocol to enable regional and global synthesis)

Programme element 3, goal 1, objective 2

28. **Denmark** and **Ireland** listed the development of a national forest classification system as a priority action for the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. Overall, only seven Parties have classification systems in place. Both aforementioned Parties are in the stages of development.



T. Improve understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning

Programme element 3, goal 3

29. Both **Germany** and **Sri Lanka** made broad statements about monitoring the state of forest biodiversity as a priority action for the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. Three other Parties (**Denmark**, **Germany** and **Ireland**), reported that the only objective under this goal was a priority action for the implementation of the programme of work. Hence, five Parties are improving their understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.

U. Other priority actions as identified by only one Party (table 1.2)

Programme element 1, goal 2, objective 1

30. The first objective of table 1.2, “to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems and mitigate their negative impacts on forest biodiversity”, was reported by **Sri Lanka**. At least 15 Parties have some measures taken to prevent the invasion of invasive alien species and about 11 Parties list examples of programmes already in place or under development. Many Parties follow

guidelines and regulations already set in place. For example, **Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland** apply the European Union regulations and guidelines for the prevention and control of invasive alien species; and **the Islamic Republic of Iran and Myanmar** following the regulations of CITES.

Programme element 1, goal 2, objectives 2, 3 and 5

31. All but one of the objectives in table 1.2 was reported by **Denmark** as a priority action for the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. For programme element 1, goal 2, objective 2, 13 Parties have at least some mitigation measures for the reduction of pollution on forest biodiversity. For the same programme element and goal but objective 3, eight Parties have some mitigation measures to offset the negative impacts of climate change on forest biological diversity; however, no Parties have comprehensive measures ready. For objective 5 of the same goal and programme element, nine Parties have some measures in place, but no Parties have comprehensive measures to mitigate the effects of the loss of natural disturbance necessary to maintain biodiversity.

Programme element 2, goal 1, objectives 1 and 2

32. For these two objectives, 11 and 16 Parties respectively have at least a few measures set in place. More specifically, 10 Parties have some analyses completed and results available for improving the understanding of the various causes for the loss of forest biodiversity (objective 1). Many Parties list multiple causes for the loss of forest biodiversity; however, answers were so diverse that no correlations were found. In addition, 10 Parties also have integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into policies and programmes in some sectors (objective 2); hence, the majority of Parties lie somewhere in the middle of completing their objectives for the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity.

Programme element 3, goals 1 and 2, objective 1

33. For goal 1, objective 1, the majority of Parties have a forest classification system developed and adopted into their policies; however, five Parties have not begun to develop a system. Lastly, for goal 2, objective 1, 15 Parties, have implemented at least some international, regional and national criteria and indicators.

34. Overall, **Denmark** by far indicated the most priority actions (21 in total), and, has already implemented at least some of the necessary actions for each objective.

IV. CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

35. Many of the challenges faced by Parties are country specific. However, six Parties reported the greatest challenge being limited financial resources. For example, **Denmark** indicated that limited resources were a common problem for state forests as well as privately owned forests, which makes it necessary to identify priorities for implementation.

36. **Estonia, Poland and United Kingdom** stated that it is difficult to improve sustainable forest management. **Estonia**, responded that this is due to the continuously changing threshold levels for the preservation of species.

37. Both **Switzerland** and **Turkey** are having increasing difficulty with involving and coordinating other actors and stakeholders in existing processes, which results in low levels of participation. **Switzerland** states that this challenge, coupled with limited administrative resources, makes it very difficult for small countries “to comply with all the different international obligations.”

38. For the **Islamic Republic of Iran** and **Sri Lanka**, limited scientific resources are also a significant challenge to the implementation of the expanded programmed of work on forest biological diversity. **Sri Lanka** indicates a shortage of trained manpower as a cause for this challenge.

39. Other constraints mentioned are: effective protection measures, prevention of forest fires, forest plantation development, identification of priorities, increasing protected forests areas, increasing species protection, limited administrative resources, limited public understanding, limited technical resources, methodological constraints, and updating forest inventories.

40. Finally, **China** also indicated a number of constraints, including human population pressures and their effects: unregulated hunting, over-exploitation of medicinal herbs, forest over-cutting, and environmental pollution.

V. PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

41. The majority of Parties that reported priority actions have already taken measures to counteract the impacts. More specifically, the counteractive measures for the priority objectives summarized in this report are in place or most likely under development.

42. Parties usually cited the national environmental and/or forestry programme that corresponded with the objective. Furthermore, several Parties indicated that the realization of a priority objective is an ongoing and continuous process that could take many years to fulfill, especially with the changing norms of society.

43. The majority of respondent Parties are in the process of implementing their relevant objectives of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. Overall, 24 out of the 27 objectives of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity were identified by the at least one of the 17 Parties as a priority action. More specifically, 16 objectives were identified by more than one Party as a priority action and 8 objectives were identified by only one Party.

44. However, the following 3 objectives of the forest programme of work were not mentioned by any Party:

(a) Programme element 1, goal 4 objective 3: *Enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainable use forest biological diversity;*

(b) Programme element 1, goal 5, objective 1: *Promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge;*

(c) Programme element 3, goal 4, objective 1: *Enhance and improve the technical capacity at the international level to monitor forest biological diversity, benefiting from the opportunities offered through the clearing-house mechanism, and to develop associated databases as required on a global scale*

Annex I

FORMAT FOR A VOLUNTARY REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY

1. Has your country identified priority goals, objectives and activities included in the expanded programme of work for implementation at the national level?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes (please provide a list of priorities identified)	
Further comments on identification of priority goals, objectives and activities	
2. From the list of priorities, did some or all of them produce the expected impacts after their implementation (i.e. a success)?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes (please specify success stories)	
Further comments on impacts of implementation of priority activities	
3. Were there any challenges/impediments to the implementation of priority activities that could have negatively affected their chance of success?	
a) yes (please specify the activities and the main challenges/impediments)	
b) no	
Further comments on challenges/impediments to implementation of priority activities	
4. Is your country collaborating with other Governments and regional and international organizations and processes to implement regional or international activities in the expanded programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited collaboration (please provide details)	
c) yes, significant collaboration (please provide details)	
Further comments on collaboration with other Governments and regional and international organizations and processes to implement regional or international activities in the expanded programme of work	

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

5. Has your country developed practical methods, guidelines and/or indicators to apply the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) relevant methods, guidelines and indicators under development	
c) some methods, guidelines and indicators developed (please provide details)	
d) a comprehensive set of methods, guidelines and indicators developed (please provide details)	
Further comments on the practical methods, guidelines and indicators to apply the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management	
6. Has your country taken any measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, and mitigate their negative impacts on forest biodiversity in accordance with international law?	
a) no	
b) relevant measures under development	
c) yes, some measures taken (please outline the measures)	
d) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please outline the measures)	
Further comments on the measures taken	
7. Has your country taken any measures to mitigate the impact of pollution on forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) relevant measures under development	
d) yes, some measures taken (please provide details)	
e) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details)	
Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate the impact of pollution on forest biodiversity	
8. Has your country taken any measures to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant research and monitoring programmes under development	
c) some research and monitoring activities being undertaken but no measures taken	
d) yes, some measures taken (please outline the measures)	

e) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please outline the measures)	
Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity	
9. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression (where fire is a natural disturbance agent)?	
a) no	
b) relevant measures being considered	
c) relevant measures under development	
d) yes, some measures undertaken (please specify)	
e) yes, many measures being undertaken (please specify)	
Further comments on the measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression	
10. Is your country mitigating effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur?	
a) no	
b) monitoring and assessment of effects ongoing	
c) potential measures identified	
d) yes, some adopted and being implemented (please provide details)	
e) yes, comprehensive measures adopted and being implemented (please provide further details)	
Further comments on measures adopted to mitigate effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur	
11. Is your country preventing and mitigating losses of forest biodiversity due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses?	
a) no	
b) potential measures identified	
c) yes, some measures undertaken	
b) yes, comprehensive measures undertaken	
12. Is your country restoring forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes?	
a) no	
b) potential measures identified	
c) yes, some measures implemented in some areas (please provide details)	

d) yes, comprehensive measures implemented in major areas (please provide details)	
Further comments on the measures to restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes	
13. Is your country promoting forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species?	
a) no	
b) relevant forest management practices under development	
c) yes, some practices adopted and promoted (please provide details)	
d) yes, some practices being implemented (please provide details)	
Further comments on the forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species	
14. Is your country ensuring adequate and effective protected forest area networks?	
a) no	
b) networks of protected areas being planned	
c) some protected areas established but networks not in place	
d) networks of protected areas taking shape	
e) major networks of protected areas established	
15. Is your country promoting sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant policy and programme under development	
c) yes, some policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on the policies and programmes for promoting sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biodiversity	
16. Is your country preventing losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources?	
a) no	
b) potential measures identified	
c) some measures undertaken (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details)	

Further comments on the measures to prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timbering forest resources	
17. Is your country taking any measure to enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) not applicable	
c) relevant policy and programme under development	
d) yes, some policies and programmes in place (please specify)	
Further comments on the policies and programmes to enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity	
18. Has your country developed effective and equitable information systems and strategies and promoted implementation of those strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant information system and strategy under development	
c) relevant information system in place	
d) relevant strategies in place (please provide details)	
e) relevant information system and strategies in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on the strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity	
19. Is your country promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge?	
a) no	
b) relevant policies and programmes under development	
c) some policies and programmes in place (please specify)	
d) comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please specify)	
Further comments on the policies and programmes for promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge	

Programme Element 2: Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment

20. Is your country improving the understanding of the various causes of forest biodiversity losses?	
a) no	
b) a limited analysis being undertaken	
c) a thorough analysis being undertaken	
d) yes, some analyses completed and results available (please outline some findings from these analyses)	
e) yes, comprehensive analysis completed and results available (please provide some findings from these analyses)	
Further comments on the analysis of the various causes of forest biodiversity losses	
21. Has your country integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) yes, integrated into policies and programmes in some sectors (please provide details)	
d) yes, integrated into policies and programmes in major sectors (please provide details)	
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes	
22. Has your country developed good governance practices, reviewed and revised and implemented forest and forest-related laws, tenure and planning systems, to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) review and revision completed	
d) some good governance practices and related laws developed and implemented (please provide details)	
e) a comprehensive set of practices and laws developed and implemented (please provide details)	
Further comments on the practices and laws developed and implemented to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity	

23. Is your country promoting forest law enforcement and addressing related trade?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) potential measures identified	
d) yes, some measures in place to strengthen law enforcement and address related trade	
e) yes, comprehensive measures in place to strengthen law enforcement and address related trade	
24. Is your country mitigating the economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) potential measures identified	
d) yes, some measures taken (please provide details)	
e) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details)	
Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biodiversity	
25. Is your country increasing public support and understanding of the value of forest biodiversity and its goods and services at all levels?	
a) no	
b) relevant programme under development	
c) yes, some programmes in place	
d) yes, comprehensive programmes in place	

Programme Element 3: Knowledge, assessment and monitoring

26. Has your country reviewed and adopted a minimum forest classification system, based on harmonized and accepted forest definitions and addressing key forest biodiversity elements?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) review completed	
d) a forest classification system adopted	
27. Has your country developed national forest ecosystem classification systems and maps that use agreed international standards and protocols?	
a) no	

b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes, classification systems in place	
28. Has your country developed specific forest ecosystems surveys in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) relevant surveys being planned	
d) relevant surveys completed (please provide details)	
e) results of relevant surveys available (please provide details)	
Further comments on the surveys of specific forest ecosystems in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity	
29. Is your country advancing the development and implementation of international, regional and national criteria and indicators based on key regional, subregional and national measures within the framework of sustainable forest management?	
a) no	
b) relevant programme under development	
c) some criteria and indicators developed (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive indicators developed (please provide details)	
Further comments on the development and implementation of criteria and indicators	
30. Has your country conducted key research programmes on the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?	
a) no	
b) research programs under development	
c) yes, some research programs conducted	
d) yes, comprehensive research programs conducted	
31. Is your country enhancing and improving the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biodiversity, benefiting from the opportunities offered through the Clearing House Mechanism of CBD?	
a) no	
b) capacity-building programme under development	
c) yes, some programmes in place (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive programmes in place (please provide details)	

Further comments on the programmes to enhance and improve the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biodiversity

*Annex II***SUMMATION TABLE OF 17 PARTIES' RESPONSES FOR 27 QUESTIONS OF THE VOLUNTARY THEMATIC NATIONAL REPORTS**

A, B, C, D, and E correspond respectively to the multiple choices for each question and the numbers under each cell indicate the frequency of response by Parties

Question	A	B	C	D	E	No answer	Multiple answers
5	1	6	8	2	-		
6	0	3	14	1	-		Germany
7	0	1	2	8	5	Colombia	
8	0	6	4	8	-		Germany
9	3	2	2	7	4		Germany
10	3	5	2	9	-		Germany and Finland
11	0	2	12	3	-		
12	1	2	10	4	-		
13	0	2	7	8	-		
14	0	1	3	7	6		
15	0	2	9	5	-	Colombia	
16	0	2	9	6	-		
17	0	4	8	5	-		
18	0	5	0	6	5	Colombia	
19	4	8	5	0	-	Austria	Denmark
20	1	2	3	10	1		
21	0	1	10	6	-		
22	0	3	2	5	7		
23	0	2	2	9	4		
24	0	4	3	8	1	Colombia	
25	0	2	11	4	-		
26	5	3	1	8	-		
27	1	8	1	7	-		
28	0	2	5	5	5	Austria and Germany	Ireland
29	1	1	8	7	-		
30	1	4	9	3	-		
31	4	6	7	0	-		
