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REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR EUROPE ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

Isle of Vilm, Germany, 27–30 April 2008

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

STATUS OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity ^{1/} requires each Party to develop or adapt national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

2. In its decisions VI/26, on the Strategic Plan for the Convention, and VI/27 A, on implementation of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties of the Convention stressed that the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans constitute the cornerstone of national implementation of the Convention. This is reflected in goal 3 of the Strategic Plan, namely, that “national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention”.

3. The Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its first meeting, in September 2005, examined progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and concluded that there is little progress towards goal 2 and that this remains a major constraint on implementation. The Working Group also noted that progress towards goal 3 is also poor. In view of this slow progress, the Conference

* UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-EUR/1/1.

^{1/} Article 6 of the Convention states that:

“(a) Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, *inter alia*, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned.

(b) Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.”

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of the Parties decided to conduct an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan. This note provides a summary of the results of that review, as considered by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, at its second meeting, in July 2007 (Section II).

4. This series of regional workshops on capacity building for NBSAPs is intended to contribute to the review process. Section III of the note provides information on the status and implementation of NBSAPs in Europe, as a basis for further work during the workshop (see section IV below).

5. Since considering the issue of national biodiversity strategies and action plans at its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties has issued guidance on the preparation and implementation of such strategies and plans and endorsed third-party guidelines developed to assist countries to fulfil their obligations under Article 6 of the Convention. The second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, held in July 2007 prepared consolidated and updated guidance (see UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-1/3).

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NBSAPS: A GLOBAL OVERVIEW

6. As noted above, at its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider at its ninth meeting the in-depth review of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan (decision VIII/8). It requested the Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI) to prepare for the in-depth review by focusing in particular on:

- (a) The status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and their updating;
- (b) The extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6(b) of the Convention ;
- (c) The implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs); and
- (d) The provision of financial resources, capacity-building, access to and transfer of technology and technology cooperation.

7. The relevant goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan are:

Goal 2: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the Convention.

Objective 2.1: All Parties have adequate capacity for implementation of priority actions in national biodiversity strategies and action plans

Objective 2.2: Developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, and other Parties with economies in transition, have sufficient resources available to implement the three objectives of the Convention

Objective 2.5: Technical and scientific cooperation is making a significant contribution to building capacity

Goal 3: National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention.

Objective 3.1: Every Party has effective national strategies, plans and programmes in place to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention

Objective 3.3: Biodiversity concerns are being integrated into relevant national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies

Objective 3.4: The priorities in national biodiversity strategies and action plans are being actively implemented, as a means to achieve national implementation of the Convention, and as a significant contribution towards the global biodiversity agenda.

8. In line with decision VIII/8, the Executive Secretary synthesized and analysed information in NBSAPs, the 127 third national reports submitted by Parties by April 2007, ^{2/} and other information submitted by Parties in response to the invitation in decision VIII/8 to provide updates on the status of NBSAPs, obstacles to implementation, national reviews of implementation and the availability of resources. The Secretariat also consulted relevant academic studies and reports prepared by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies. The latter includes evaluations of GEF support for enabling activities, National Capacity Self-Assessment reports and analyses of environment-related issues included in poverty reduction strategies and strategies for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

9. The following provides a summary of the main conclusions of the review, focusing on implementation of NBSAPs and the availability of financial resources^{3/}. It reproduces the conclusions of the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (July 2007), with data updated to (31 March 2008):

(a) From information provided to the Secretariat from Parties, 160 Parties (84% of the total) have finalized their NBSAPs or equivalent instruments. Seventeen Parties have informed the secretariat that they are preparing their NBSAP. Thirteen Parties have not prepared an NBSAP or initiated the process to do so, or have not informed the Secretariat that they have done so;

(b) Seventeen Parties have revised NBSAPs, and sixteen more have revisions in progress. Revisions are designed to identify and meet new challenges and to respond to recent guidance from the Conference of the Parties. Some Parties are developing biodiversity strategies and/or action plans at the sub-national level;

(c) Stakeholder consultations have been a major part of NBSAP preparation. However, the range of stakeholders involved is often not adequate to ensure effective ownership of NBSAPs or to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity beyond the environment community;

(d) While most NBSAPs include goals and targets few are quantitative and few respond directly to the 2010 biodiversity target or other targets established under the Convention. In part, this results from the fact that most NBSAPs pre-date the establishment of the targets by the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Similarly, reference to the ecosystem approach is absent from most NBSAPs, and most do not include reference to all of the relevant programmes of work and thematic issues under the Convention;

^{2/} Third national reports had been received by 137 Parties by 31 March 2008.

^{3/} The full results of the Secretariat's analysis is provided in the following documents:

- Status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the strategic plan focusing on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and availability of financial resources: an overview (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2)
- Synthesis and analysis of obstacles to implementation of NBSAPs, lessons learned from the review, effectiveness of policy instruments and strategic priorities for action (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/2/Add.1)
- Updated synthesis of information contained in third national reports (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/1)
- NBSAPs: a meta-analysis of earlier reviews (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/9)
- Review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, biodiversity mainstreaming and implementation of the Convention: a bibliography (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/2/INF/10).

(f) Most NBSAPs include action plans. However, frequently these tend to be focused on projects rather than on the fundamental issues that need to be addressed to achieve the objectives of the Convention. Few specify domestic funding sources;

(g) Effective communication programmes are lacking from many NBSAPs;

(h) Most countries report efforts to mainstream biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes. This is probably more effective with some sectors (eg: forestry, tourism) than others. Mainstreaming of biodiversity into national development and poverty reduction strategies and broader planning processes appears to be generally weak;

(i) Most countries have identified priorities for implementation of their NBSAPs, but few of them have indicated in their national reports whether and to what extent they have been implemented. Some countries may have comprehensive reports on implementation but these are not systematically available to the Secretariat;

(j) Parties report that the most widespread constraints to implementation of the Convention are “lack of financial, human and technical resources” and “lack of economic incentive measures”. Articles 7, 12, 8(h) and 8(a-e) are reported to be the provisions most constrained by lack of resources;

(k) While nearly all countries indicate that they provide some financial support or incentives to national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention, budget cuts are a serious problem in some countries. There are many examples of private contributions and resources generated from revenue measures, but the resources are generally small at national or international levels;

(l) Several countries have begun to introduce innovative financial mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services, but, generally speaking, they have not yet borne fruit in generating sustainable financing. About one third of the reporting countries have adopted tax exemption status for biodiversity-related donations

(m) Most countries do not have a process to monitor financial support in their countries, and only one fifth of reporting countries have conducted a review of how their national budgets (including official development assistance) support of national biodiversity activities;

(n) According to data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) about US\$ 9 billion dollars of biodiversity-related donor assistance have been provided for the period 1998–2005. No clear long term trends in bilateral assistance can be discerned;

(o) While some positive outcomes are reported for specific activities, in general, technology transfer and cooperation under the Convention appears to have been very limited;

(p) Important progress has been made with respect to the exchange of information and scientific and technical cooperation in general. However, the overall role of the clearing house mechanism in supporting such cooperation need to be further elaborated. About one half of the Parties have developed a national clearing house mechanism.

10. In their third national report, Parties were asked to indicate the relative importance of various obstacles ^{4/} to implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the thematic programmes of work, by ranking them as “high-level”, “medium-level”, or “low-level” challenges. Taking all reporting

^{4/} See UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/2/Add.1 These obstacles correspond generally, but not exactly, to the list appended to the Strategic Plan (decision VI/26).

Parties together, the following ten challenges were ranked as “high” or “medium-level” by more than 70% of Parties for the implementation of Article 6:

- Lack of financial, human, technical resources (84%);
- Lack of economic incentive measures (82%);
- Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented (76%);
- Lack of public education and awareness at all levels (75%)
- Lack of effective partnerships (74%);
- Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders (73%);
- Unsustainable production and consumption patterns (72%);
- Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors (71%);
- Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness (70%);
- Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management (70%).

III. THE STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NBSAPS IN EUROPE

11. Of the 48 Parties invited to participate in this regional workshop, thirty-five (73%) have completed national biodiversity strategies and action plans (See table 1) – a completion rate somewhat below the global average. Annex I provides a digest of the NBSAPs as featured in the country profiles on the Convention’s website. Some Parties have prepared posters on aspects of their NBSAPs (as of 31 March 2008, only the United Kingdom from the European region had provided a poster). These are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-session.shtml>

12. Five Parties in the region (10%) have revised their NBSAP – a higher proportion than the global average – and four more indicate that revisions are in progress. Thirteen Parties have not completed their NBSAP and eight of these have indicated that preparation is under way. One country in the region (Andorra), invited to the workshop, is not yet a Party to the Convention.

13. As part of the global analysis, summarized in section II above, Parties were invited to submit information on the status of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, their implementation and updating, and the extent to which biodiversity concerns have been effectively mainstreamed in accordance with Article 6(b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. From the Europe region, Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and Sweden provided information, which was included in the compilation prepared by the Secretariat for the second meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/2/INF/7).

14. To complement and extend the global analysis, the Secretariat requested each participant to the Workshop, nominated by CBD National Focal Points, to provide further information on their country’s NBSAP (See UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-EUR/1/Add.1, Annex III).

IV. ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE WORKSHOPS

15. As noted in the annotated agenda (UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-EUR/1/Add.1), participants will be invited to discuss national experiences and lessons learned in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, focusing on:

- (a) Status of NBSAPs or similar strategies and programmes;
- (b) Major Features of NBSAPs;

- (c) Priority actions identified for implementing NBSAPs;
- (d) Mechanisms identified for implementing NBSAPs;
- (e) Obstacles encountered in the implementation of NBSAPs; and,
- (f) Reviews undertaken of the implementation of NBSAPs and assessment of the effectiveness of the strategy;

Table 1: Status of NBSAPS and national reports in Europe

Country	NBSAP (year of adoption)	National reports		
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Albania	Yes (1999)	Yes	No	Yes
Andorra	N/A (* not a CBD Party)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armenia	Yes (1999)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Austria	Yes (1998) ; revised in 2005	Yes	Yes	Yes
Azerbaijan	Yes (2004)	Yes	No	No
Belarus	Yes (1997)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belgium	Yes (2007)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bosnia and Herzegovina	No (under development)	n/a	No	Yes
Bulgaria	Yes (2000); Action Plan Only	Yes	Yes	No
Croatia	Yes (1999)	Yes	No	Yes
Cyprus	No	No	No	Yes
Czech Republic	Yes (2005)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Denmark	Yes (1996)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Estonia	Yes (1999); currently under revision	Yes	Yes	Yes
European Community	Yes (1998); currently under revision	Yes	Yes	Yes
Finland	Yes (1997); revised 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes
France	Yes (2004); Strategy Only	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgia	Yes (2005)	Yes	No	No
Germany	Yes (2007)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greece	No (under development)	Yes	Yes	No
Hungary	Yes (2004)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iceland	No (under development)	Yes	Yes	No
Ireland	Yes (2002); currently under revision	Yes	Yes	Yes
Italy	No (under development)	Yes	Yes	No
Latvia	Yes (2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Liechtenstein	No	No	No	No
Lithuania	Yes (1996)	No	Yes	Yes

Luxembourg	No	Yes	No	No
Malta	No (under development)	n/a	No	No
Republic of Moldova	Yes (2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monaco	No (under development)	Yes	Yes	No
Montenegro	No	n/a	n/a	No
Netherlands	Yes (1995); Revised 2001	Yes	Yes	Yes
Norway	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Poland	Yes (2003)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Portugal	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Romania	Yes (1996); Under revision	Yes	Yes	Yes
Russian Federation	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes
San Marino	No	No	No	No
Serbia	No (under development)	n/a	No	No
Slovakia	Yes (1998)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Slovenia	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spain	Yes (1999); Strategy only; Under revision	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sweden	Yes (1995); Revised 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes
Switzerland	Yes (2006)	No	Yes	Yes
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Yes (2005)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Turkey	No (under development)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ukraine	Yes (1998); Strategy only	Yes	Yes	Yes
United Kingdom	Yes (1994); Revised 2006	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Annex I***MAJOR FEATURES OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS IN EUROPE**

This annex provides brief outlines of the major features of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as provided on the Convention's website at <http://www.cbd.int/countries/>. Those entries with a tick mark (✓) have been finalized and approved by Parties on the basis of a draft prepared by the Secretariat. For the remaining countries, the profiles have been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information provided in the NBSAP and national reports, but have not been reviewed by the Party concerned.

Albania✓

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was developed based on the 11 priority issues defined by the Pan-European Strategy on Biological and Landscape Diversity. The strategy highlights, for each sector of activity having an impact on biodiversity, the priority issues that need to be addressed. The action plan is divided into a series of issues, each containing immediate actions, short-term actions (1-5 years), mid-term actions (5-10 years) and long-term actions (10+ years). These issues relate to legislation, institutions, agriculture, energy and industry, forestry, fisheries and hunting, tourism, water management and in situ and ex situ conservation. For example, as relates to forestry, immediate actions include taking measures to control illegal forest harvesting in the most sensitive areas, while long-term action includes the reforestation of areas not regenerating on their own. The timeframe given for the preparation of action plans for threatened habitats is 1-2 years and the timeframe is 3-5 years for all other habitats.

Andorra

n/a

Armenia✓

The national strategy has 13 main objectives pertaining to increased investments in research, technologies and conservation, increased conservation, regeneration and sustainable use of ecosystems, the development and improvement of mechanisms, management systems and legislation, increased outreach activities, and poverty reduction. Among the various activities related to the main objectives, in-situ conservation has high priority and an important budget is dedicated to the improvement of the protected areas system management. Moreover, the conservation and rehabilitation of wetland, forest and areas damaged by industrial activities is among the highest priorities. In the ex-situ conservation category, high priority and budget are given to the establishment of new centers for the rehabilitation and reintroduction of key threatened species, such as the Armenian mouflon and the wild boar. In the sustainable use category, regeneration of pastures and replanting of deforested areas are also given high priority. Finally, the establishment of a steering committee, a technical working group and a focal unit within the Ministry of Nature Protection are important steps in implementation.

Austria✓

The Austrian National Biodiversity Strategy contains objectives concerning the preservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of biological diversity, the conservation of species and landscapes, research and monitoring, the tourism/mining/industry/energy sectors, transportation, development cooperation, indigenous people and the ecological approach. The Strategy focuses on the sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and the preservation of stable breeding populations. The Revised Austrian Biodiversity Strategy is available since 2005 (German only, still not online). The goal to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010 constitutes the overall objective of the Strategy. The implementation of the strategy follows the principles of the ecosystem approach of the CBD. There are, however, no quantifiable goals or objectives established in this strategy yet. The National Action Plan on Invasive Alien Species was adopted in 2004.

Azerbaijan

The NBSAP provides strategic direction and measurable targets for the conservation of the country's biodiversity over the next five years. It also contains an outline of the priority activities that should be undertaken in order to achieve these targets. The final NBSAP document will comprise three main sections: 1) Country study that summarizes the current status of Azerbaijan's biodiversity, including uses and threats, and outlines the current state of conservation activities. 2) National Strategy -This strategic framework is a guide to the most pressing conservation activities. It consists of an overall aim and a series of measurable objectives. The strategy outlines principles that will guide the implementation of the NBSAP, and constraints and opportunities that should be considered during its design and implementation. 3) National Action Plan -This section outlines a series of prioritized activities that must be undertaken in order to achieve the objectives set in the strategy.

Belarus

As stated in the NBSAP, the most important measures for the implementation of the basic provisions of the National Strategy are: the formulation of State policies and improvement of legislation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; the improvement of State management and control over conservation and use of biodiversity; the creation of ecological and economical backgrounds for the regulation of conservation and use of biodiversity; the development of fundamental and applied science in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; the development of the System of Specially Protected Territories and measures for the protection of rare and endangered species; the ecological improvement of scientific and technical activities and optimum use of natural resources in various social and economic sectors; ecological education, training and promotion; and sources and ways of attraction of capital investments and technical resources.

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Belgium

The general objective of Belgium's National Biodiversity Strategy is to contribute nationally and internationally towards the achievement of the European target of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. The Strategy presents 15 strategic objectives and 78 operational objectives defined for a 10-year period (2006-2016). The Strategy includes the existing Regional and Federal frameworks or plans. It aims at giving strategic political orientations in order to allow actors for biodiversity in Belgium to work in partnership to contribute nationally and internationally towards the achievement of the European target of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. This will be achieved by ensuring a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, while also taking into account the other biodiversity agreements where relevant. The Strategy pays particular attention to creating more coherence and filling the gaps existing in Belgian instruments for dealing with this area and optimising integration of biodiversity concern at national and international level. The Strategy offers a framework for policy-making and further development of actions. Within this framework, it lays down 15 strategic objectives that take priority and should be crystallised into actions in a second stage.

Many different actors have an active role to play in the implementation of the Strategy: ministries and administrations, advisory and consultative bodies, research institutes, NGOs, information centres, individuals and community groups, etc. Several actions will have to be performed simultaneously in different sectors and – after further consultation and coordination - on several administrative levels. Neither specific actions nor targets are adopted in the Strategy itself but they will be adopted and developed in a latter stage in the implementation process, in consultation with all the actors for biodiversity in Belgium. The implementation of this Strategy will be guided by ten fundamental guiding principles: the Principle of Preventive Action, the Precautionary Principle, the Polluter Pays Principle, Public Participation and Public Access to Information and Justice in Environmental Matters, Good Governance, Sectoral Integration, the Ecosystem Approach, the concept of Ecological Networks, the Subsidiarity Principle and the Compensation Principle. [Extracted from NBSAP]

Bosnia and Herzegovina

n/a

Bulgaria✓

The National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy was inspired by the Pan European Strategy for Biological and Landscape Diversity, and the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan is a direct follow-up of this strategy. The identified actions are largely achievable within the existing institutional, financial and personnel resources and are set in a five-year plan. To achieve conservation of biodiversity, the first priority set by Bulgaria is the drafting of acts, normative acts and information/managerial documents, followed by the institutional strengthening of government biodiversity units, the establishment and maintenance of a national eco-network and protected area network, restoration and maintenance activities, strengthening of the scientific base for biodiversity conservation, and finally education and training. A total of 96 separate activities have been identified to address these priorities. Indicators were established to monitor the successes of the plan, of which the main ones include changes in area covered with various vegetation types, changes in the age structure of the forests, changes in balance of nutrients, changes in soil acidity, and percentage of the area under management plans.

Croatia

The six basic principles of the national strategy and action plan are: the recognition of the fundamental value of biological diversity and its role as a resource for future development; a commitment to conserving and improving existing biological and landscape diversity; the development of measures to identify, conserve and improve this diversity; incorporation of conservation measures in all economic activities; the systematic extension of efforts for protection at the national, regional and local levels; and the harmonization of efforts with international activities. The general strategic objectives are to complete integrated inventories of biodiversity, map distributions, assess the state of endangerment, prepare and implement action plans for threatened biodiversity, monitor changes, and develop implementation mechanisms. Action plans are divided into 15 groups such as plans for threat assessment, plans for species protection and plans for research and monitoring. There are several plans included into each of these groups and a priority level is often associated with a given plan.

Cyprus

n/a

Czech Republic✓

The National Biodiversity Strategy is an ambitious document detailing 158 objectives, such as the publication of a binding list of species whose introduction or spread can be considered a risk from the standpoint of potential impacts in natural ecosystems, and to provide for genetic resource cryoconservation in the national gene banks. All of the objectives of the Strategy are directed towards achieving this target, as agreed by the representatives of the individual countries. The preparation of the National Action Plan elaborating the strategic objectives into specific measures is required by May 2008. This strategic document was approved by the Czech Government in May 2005 and is therefore legally binding for all ministries. They are requested to take into consideration goals of the Strategy in all programmes and sectoral materials, policies, strategies, concepts and legal enactments.

Denmark

The 105 targets of the strategy include ensuring the presence of natural forests, untouched forests and old forms of operation on a least 10% of the actual forest area by 2040, re-establishing 8,000 hectares of saltmarsh by 2025, increasing the knowledge of biodiversity, and drafting management plans within all groups of species. Although the strategy is very comprehensive in describing the status, trends and desired directions for a wide variety of biodiversity-related topics, there are few quantitative targets, and there is no action plan or implementation framework.

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European Community✓

EU Heads of State or Government agreed in 2001 “to halt the decline of biodiversity the EU by 2010” and to “restore habitats and natural systems”. In 2002, they joined some 130 world leaders at the WSSD in agreeing “to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010”. At Community level, the policy framework to halt biodiversity loss in the EU is now largely in place. Biodiversity objectives are, for example, integrated in the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) and the Lisbon partnership for growth and jobs and in a wide range of environmental and sector policies. An EC Biodiversity Strategy was adopted in 1998 and related Action Plans in 2001. Most Member States have also developed, or are developing, such strategies and/or action plans. See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature_biodiversity/index_en.htm

On World Biodiversity Day 2006, the European Commission adopted a new Communication which sets out an ambitious policy approach to halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010. See also http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/current_biodiversity_policy/biodiversity_com_2006/index_en.htm. The Communication provides a new EU Action Plan on halting biodiversity loss by 2010 and beyond. It proposes concrete measures and outlines the responsibilities of EU institutions and Member States, respectively. It also specifies indicators to monitor progress, and a timetable for evaluations. The Action Plan contains four key policy areas – biodiversity in the EU, the EU and global biodiversity, biodiversity and climate change, and the knowledge base. It proposes 10 priority objectives in relation to these, addressing most important habitats and species; actions in the wider countryside and marine environment; making regional development more compatible with nature; reducing impacts of invasive alien species; effective international governance; support to biodiversity in international development; reducing negative impacts of international trade; adaptation to climate change; and strengthening the knowledge base.

Estonia✓

The strategy and action plan contains 28 objectives ranging from the in situ conservation of genetic resources to a gradual reduction in the use of oil shale as an energy source in the industrial sector and the development of organic agriculture. For the successful realization of each objective, a total of 408 actions are detailed, each of which includes a priority ranking, time scale and cost. Estonia lists 5 science tasks as being of the highest priority, which are: the compilation of a species inventory, the identification of major trends in the number of species, a compilation of the Black Data Book, the creation of diversity indicators for biocensus, and identification of the role of nature in Estonian culture. A new version of the Strategy and Action Plan for 2007 – 2013 is currently under development and is expected to be ready sometime in 2007.

Finland

The NBSAP sets out 124 measures related to the preservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity, to be implemented by 2005. The national priorities and measures include the review of current legislation and necessary reforms, the incorporation of biodiversity into the daily routine of administration, trade, industry and all economic activities, the maintenance and use of biodiversity at the local and regional level, the presence of in-situ and ex-situ conservation, the regulation of non-native species and genetically modified organisms, the ownership of and access to genetic material and the protection of the status of indigenous people. To monitor the implementation of the plan and of the Convention on Biological Diversity, a monitoring group has been created, composed of members from various Ministries, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, the Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers, the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest-Owners, the Sàmi Parliament, and the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation. Since the beginning of the

implementation of the NBSAP, 3 progress reports of the Action Plan have been issued. Finland has also revised its NBSAP for the 2006-2016 period.

France✓

The objectives of the National Strategy for Biodiversity is to protect habitats and ecosystem diversity, species and genetic diversity, to maintain and develop a web of natural areas over the territory and to ensure the maintenance of ecosystem health and functions. It strives to achieve these objectives in four ways: by mobilizing all stakeholders (e.g. to involve all stakeholders in the implementation of the strategy and raise public awareness); by recognizing the value of biological diversity (e.g. to develop a system that recognizes the services provided by ecosystems and takes into consideration the damages inflicted on the environment); to improve public policies (e.g. to integrate biodiversity into sectoral public policies, to manage territories in a sustainable manner, and to develop cooperation for biodiversity) and especially strengthen the implementation of protected areas and species protection policies; and to develop operational scientific knowledge (e.g. to reinforce scientific research in regard to conservation biology and to develop monitoring indicators).

Georgia✓

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was approved by Government decree #27 on 19 February 2005. The document analyses the country's biodiversity issues and identifies problems. It outlines a 10-year national strategy for the conservation of the country's unique biodiversity, supported by a 5-year plan for specific activities required to achieve the objectives of the strategy.

The following strategic goals are given in the NBSAP: (a): to develop a protected areas system to ensure conservation and sustainable use of biological resources; (b) to maintain and restore Georgia's habitats, species and genetic diversity through in-situ, ex-situ and inter-situ conservation measures, and through sustainable use of biological resources; (c) to conserve Georgian agro-biodiversity by ensuring its sustainable use and by promoting ex-situ and in-situ conservation measures; (d) to promote sustainable hunting and fishing through adequate planning, restoration and protection of key biological resources; (e) to develop a biodiversity monitoring system and an active and integrated biodiversity database to ensure sustainable use and conservation of biological resources; (f) to protect both the human population and biodiversity from potential threats from genetically modified organisms (biotechnology), by strengthening legislation and through increasing public involvement in the decision making process; (g) to raise public awareness of biodiversity issues and to encourage public participation in the decision making process; (h) to ensure appropriate financial and economic programmes are in place in order to support effective conservation of biodiversity, and to ensure the delivery of the BSAP; (i) to further improve national legislation (and associated institutions) relating to biodiversity conservation, through the creation of new, and elaboration of existing laws and regulations, and through ensuring harmonization of international legal responsibilities; (j) to conserve forest biodiversity through sustainable forest management.

Germany✓

In November 2007 the German Federal Government passed a comprehensive "National Strategy on Biological Diversity". On the 5th and 6th of December the first national forum on biological diversity took place in Berlin as a kick-off meeting towards a multiyear implementing phase. In a series of seven regional workshops starting in January 2008 specific topics will be discussed and dealt with.

One of the central objectives of the German NBSAP is to reduce the number of highly threatened and endangered species listed in the national Red Data Books and to improve the current status of most of the species at least by one category by 2020. Within the same timeframe the area of forests with natural

development (natural forests) shall increase to 5 % (currently only 1%) and the storage capacity for CO₂ within terrestrial ecosystems shall be increased by 10 %. This shall be achieved through a combined effort: Increasing natural forest cover as well as restoring mires and peat bogs.

The German NBSAP also aims at improving urban life: Until 2020 public parks and gardens shall be made available for all city dwellers within walking distance.

Furthermore, Germany wants to mainstream the basic idea of sustainable development into all sections of public life, the economic as well as the private sector. The strategy calls upon the public sector to serve as role models as well as the industrial, trade, and consumer sector to take on responsibility and to respect certain ecological standards concerning the conservation of species and habitats. E.g. development funds for development projects which aim at the conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing of biological diversity shall increase by 50 % respective to the total development budget until 2015. Public spending within the procurement sector as well as public building trade shall act as a special role model respecting certain conservation standards regarding species and habitats. Until 2020 at least 25 % of all imported natural goods shall be of ecologically sound and socially friendly origin. At the same time eco balances from the German industry shall include national and international effects on biodiversity from all stages of a product's life cycle, starting from the resources used for production all the way to its final disposal.

Greece

10 National Parks and 1 Marine Park, totaling 696,000 ha (3.6% of the total surface of Greece) have been designated under various conservation categories. In addition, 264 areas have been included in the national list for the European Ecological Network Natura 2000, which correspond to about 16 % of the country's terrestrial area.

Hungary✓

Hungary's NBSAP was approved by the Ministry of Environment and Water and in order to further mainstream biodiversity concerns, the inter-sectoral review of the NBSAP is planned to be done in the near future.

During the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan the aim was to have all relevant sectors, governmental and non-governmental organizations work together for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The NBSAP consists of a framework chapter determining the strategic objectives of biodiversity conservation and nine thematic chapters (mining; forestry and forest management; fisheries management, fishing, angling; agriculture; regional development and tourism; land use; hunting; water management; and molecular biology methods).

Iceland

n/a

Ireland

The main objectives relate to the sustainable use and the conservation of habitat, species, and genetic diversity. The NBSAP comprises four principles, which, respectively, state that: the conservation of biodiversity is essential for sustainable development and for maintaining the quality of human life; each form of biodiversity is unique and of value in its own right; all sectors and actors are responsible for advancing the conservation of biodiversity in their respective areas; and the "polluter pays principle" and the "precautionary principle" will be supported. The main activities focus notably on sectoral integration

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of biodiversity concerns, legislation, protected areas, species conservation, habitat and ecosystem conservation, biosafety, knowledge, and public awareness and education. (NBSAP)

Italy✓

Italy's commitment in relation to the CBD was put into effect through Law No. 124 of 14 February 1994, which ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity. Upon ratification of the Convention, the document entitled "Strategies and Preliminary Programme to Implement the Convention on Biodiversity in Italy" was drawn up, and then approved by the CIPE (Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning) on 16 March 1994. This document started several national activities on biodiversity through different environmental policy instruments and financial resources available at that time. The objectives of the strategy are grouped into 9 work areas and specific actions are associated with each objective. The work areas are: (i) knowledge of Italian biodiversity heritage, (ii) monitoring of the state of biodiversity, (iii) education and training, (iv) in-situ conservation, (v) promotion of sustainable activities, (vi) containment of risk factors, (vii) ex-situ conservation, (viii) biotechnology transfer and safety, and (ix) international cooperation and eco-diplomacy. There have been different attempts to define a national Plan for Biodiversity, but it has not been possible to find an agreement. In the last years, there have been different actions to improve and spread the knowledge on biodiversity as well as to sensitize different stakeholders regarding the objectives of the Convention. These actions allowed a "new deal" including a new national coordination of initiatives on biodiversity.

Latvia✓

The National Biodiversity Strategy is divided into three sections. The first section is on nature protection and it is divided into habitat types and features. Each subsection includes a short description of the current status and a list of targets such as the development of criteria for assessment of biological diversity in rivers and the prohibition of sport and training events on valuable dolomite exposures. The next section is on sustainable use and is divided into activity sectors. Lists of targets are also provided for each sector, including maintaining a constant proportion of old trees in forest stands and promoting the cultivation of local cranberries on formerly harvested peat bogs. The final section concerns the policy instruments available in Latvia for the implementation of the plan.

Liechtenstein

n/a

Lithuania✓

This document contains a very comprehensive overview of the current status and trends of biodiversity in Lithuania, followed by a strategy section containing 31 goals divided into 6 levels of conservation (geosystematic, ecosystematic, species, genetic in-situ, genetic ex-situ and organizational). The prevention of further degradation of the karst landscape, the conservation of natural meadows by prohibiting their non-traditional use and the creation of a national collection of micro-organisms constitute a few of the goals set by Lithuania. A Nature Frame action plan has been developed to attain the main goal of the geosystematic level, which is to connect Lithuania's most valuable natural areas. Specific action plans have also been established for the protection of forest, coastal and Baltic Sea ecosystems, inland aquatic habitats, wetlands and meadows, and anthropogenic environments. Finally, action plans were elaborated for the protection of species and for ex-situ conservation activities.

Luxembourg

n/a

Malta✓

The process for developing the NBSAP of the Maltese Islands was introduced at a preliminary stakeholders' meeting, which was held in 2004 in Malta. Terms of reference (ToRs) setting up the way forward have been recently approved. These ToRs recognise the need for establishing an administrative structure and adopting a participatory approach for addressing biodiversity concerns in a national context. The planned structure for the NBSAP document incorporates a set of themes: Biodiversity & Natural Resources; Biodiversity & Water; Biodiversity & Land Use; Biodiversity & Air; Biodiversity & Recreation; Biodiversity & Competitiveness; and a section covering Cross-cutting Issues – education, public awareness, science and research. The need to establish the NBSAP for the Maltese Islands has been recognised as one of the priorities under the Strategic Theme 05 - Environment, which appears in the Malta National Reform Programme 2005-2008. The latter has been prepared to enhance Malta's competitive edge in connection with the guidance provided by the EU through the Lisbon Agenda. The NBSAP development process is planned to be finalised by the 2009.

Republic of Moldova

The overall goal of the Strategy is the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity and landscapes in order to ensure social and economic sustainable development of the Republic of Moldova. The Strategy also includes particular goals, strategy objectives, main directions of biodiversity conservation activity, biodiversity conservation strategy components, principles of biodiversity conservation, and terms of strategy implementation. Furthermore, the document comprises eleven action plans, which start with the General Action Plan on biodiversity conservation, and continue with the action plans on: creating the National Ecological Network; the protection of forest ecosystems; the protection of steppe ecosystem; the protection of meadow ecosystem; the protection of petrophyte ecosystem; the protection of aquatic and paludous ecosystems; the protection of agricultural ecosystems biodiversity; the protection of biodiversity in urban ecosystems; species protection; and biodiversity conservation outside natural habitats.

Monaco✓
n/a

Montenegro
n/a

Netherlands✓

The national strategy is integrated into several national government policy papers and programmes. The main ones are:

1. Policy paper "Nature for People, People for Nature" (2000) Important instruments in this policy paper are: Flora and Fauna Act. This Act regulates protection of plant and animal species living in the wild. It includes those aspects of the EU Habitats Directive and Wild Birds Directive dealing with species protection, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; Nature Conservation Act. In addition to nature area protection regulated under the Wild Birds and Habitats Directives, the Nature Conservation Act of 1 October 2005 also regulates the conservation of wetlands and nature monuments; Active species policy. Policy is aimed at drafting and implementing of national species protection plans. Red Lists for plant and animal species under threat have been drawn up. A specific policy paper and measures for invasive alien species have also been put in place; National Ecological Network. In addition to the statutory protection of a number of nature areas, the Netherlands is also working on the National Ecological Network, a coherent network of nature areas. The National Ecological Network is intended to link up with nature areas in Germany and Belgium in the future, to strengthen the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN).

2. 4th National Environment Policy Paper (2001) and Environment Agenda (2006) These papers address environmental problems such as climate change, overexploitation of natural resources that effect biodiversity. They also contain goals for achieving sustainable production and consumption while preserving biodiversity.

3. Government Position Paper on Tropical Rainforests (1991) This paper describes the Dutch policies with regard to protecting, managing and exploiting the tropical rain forest in such a way that its conservation is guaranteed.

4. 4th National Policy Document on Water (1998) The main aim of the Dutch government is to develop sustainable watersystems worldwide. More detail can be found in the programme "Partners for Water".

5. National 2010 Biodiversity Action Programme In 2007, a "national 2010 biodiversity action programme" will be published which indicates specific priorities and needs for intensification of existing policy measures in the Netherlands.

Norway

Norway's Biodiversity Strategy is incorporated in the Report to the Storting No. 58, adopted in 1997, and its Biodiversity Action Plan in the Report to the Storting No. 42, adopted in 2001. While these reports deal with the government's environmental policy as a whole, priority has been given to implementation of measures to halt biodiversity loss by 2010 at both national and international levels. Examples of actions to be undertaken to achieve this overarching objective include: review of legislation and development of new relevant legislation; expansion of research, survey and monitoring activities, and the commencement of such activities in marine areas; drawing up of action plans in the period 2005-2010 for selected habitats and species, including plans for coral reefs and cultural landscapes; drawing up of management plans for national parks and protected areas, including a national plan for marine protected areas, and genetic resources. Other actions comprise the development by 2006 of a cross-sectoral strategy dealing with alien species; strengthening regulatory regimes for commercial marine fish stocks; hosting the Fifth International Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity in 2007.

Poland✓

Poland's overriding objective states that all actions taken should preserve the full native wealth of its natural resources and the safeguarding of the continuity and possibilities for development at all levels at which it is organized (within the species, between species, and above the level of species). The four fundamental strategic activities are: the recognition and monitoring of the status of biological diversity and the existing or potential threats; the removal or limitation of current and potential threats to biodiversity; the preservation and/or enhancement of existing elements of biodiversity, and the reinstatement of those that are disappearing; and the integration of actions for biodiversity conservation with emphasis on those of importance in the sectors of economy, public administration and society in general. The operational activity is divided into sectoral targets. Environment, water management, agriculture, construction planning and housing, tourism, education, science, transport, economy, and national defense constitute most of the sectors involved.

Portugal✓

Portugal's NBSAP was based on the following ten guiding principles: an overall higher level of protection; the sustainable use of biological resources; prevention; precaution; recuperation; responsibility; integration; participation; international cooperation and decentralization. The NBSAP then lists 10 fundamental strategies that form the basis of their action plan, which include: to promote scientific research and knowledge of local patrimony; to enhance the National Protected Areas Network; to promote the valorization of the protected areas, and ensure the conservation of all social, cultural and natural components; ensure conservation and valorization of areas within the Natura 2000 Network; implement, across the entire national territory, actions specific to the conservation and management of species and habitats of particular interest; integrate conservation and sustainable use principles into national and regional policies and laws; reinforce cooperation between all levels of administration; promote education and formation in conservation fields; ensure public education, awareness and sensitization; and strengthen international cooperation. These strategies are then outlined in detail with short, medium and long term actions that will be taken in order to meet the three objectives of the Convention.

Romania✓

In order of priority, the biodiversity objectives established for Romania include: the development of the legislative framework and institutional capacity; the organization of the national network of protected areas; the conservation of species with a high economic value; the integration of the NBSAP into national, sectoral and local strategies and policies; and the protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity outside protected areas and biodiversity specific to agro-systems. Actions to be taken are divided into three possible timeframes, 1-5 years, 5-10 years and 5-20 years. Short-term actions include: the development and implementation of detailed management plans in 1-2 national parks or reserves; establishment of the national network of protected areas; reintroduction of key species extirpated from Romania; completion of a biodiversity inventory of the primary types of ecosystems; and conduction of various cost-benefit analyses.

Russian Federation✓

The overall goal of the strategy is the conservation of the diversity of natural ecosystems at the level ensuring their sustainable existence and use, as well as conservation of the diversity of domesticated and cultivated forms of living organisms and manmade ecologically balanced natural-cultural complexes at the level ensuring the development of efficient economy and an optimal human environment.

Main objectives are given for conservation at the organism, population, species, biocenose, ecosystem, territorial and biosphere level, followed by a description of implementation mechanisms. These main objectives include conservation of genotypes, rehabilitation of natural communities and conservation of ecologically balanced natural-cultural complexes. Threats and priorities are also identified for all major ecosystem types. The action plan defines measures to be taken in order to attain the objectives of the strategy, although these are not quantifiable or time-bound.

San Marino

n/a

Serbia

n/a

Slovakia

The 24 goals of the strategy include the identification of the status of biological diversity components, managing threatening processes, strengthening of in-situ biodiversity conservation and promoting ecologically sound and sustainable tourism concepts. Detailed strategic directions are given for each of these goals, for instance the designation of authorities for biosafety control including the establishment of an early warning system.

Slovenia✓

One of the main measures taken for the conservation of biodiversity in Slovenia is the sustainable use of resources. This is addressed through a variety of initiatives, including agri-environmental measures within the Rural Development Plan 2007-13, which aims to popularize farming practices that protect human health, ensure sustainable use of natural resources and preserve the biodiversity and characteristic features of the Slovenian landscapes. There is also the Action Plan for development of organic farming in Slovenia by 2015 that was adopted in 2006 and the National Forestry Programme which is being renewed.

In addition to the Nature Conservation Act, regulations on the protection of endangered wild flora and fauna were amended in 2004 in order to transpose the Birds and Habitats Directives in Slovenia's legal system. According to these Directives, species found in Slovenia, including all native bird species, have to be maintained in the favorable conservation status. Because the country has many caves in karst areas, a Cave Protection Act was also adopted in 2004. The protection of autochthonous inland water fish species is addressed in management procedures and a five-year action plan is in preparation. Specific programmes on repopulation of certain threatened fish species are being prepared. Special measures have been taken to protect mountain species due to collection pressures on butterflies and beetles, all of which are now protected above the tree line.

All commercial activities including export, import, sale, offer for sale etc. are prohibited for nationally protected species as well as for European or internationally protected species. In the past two years, Slovenia has built up a rather strict spatial land use planning policy, which contributes to decreased degradation of natural habitats and has specific measures for the protection of biodiversity. Municipal spatial development strategies are also being prepared. A legal system of Environmental Impact Assessments is fully in place and is being well implemented. Since 2004, an additional system of impact assessments was put in place for protected areas and Natura 2000 sites.

Spain✓

The main objectives of the 1999 strategy are (i) the active cooperation of all stakeholders to achieve a conservation commitment, (ii) the inclusion of restoration, conservation and sustainable use principles in policy planning and implementation, (iii) the creation of planning mechanisms for natural resource management and conservation (iv) the stimulation of research, awareness and training, (v) the stimulation of education and information dissemination, (vi) the adaptation or creation of necessary legal and financial instruments, (vii) and the stimulation of active international cooperation. Some measures of the action plan include: the inauguration of the Biodiversity Center; rendering the Nature Data Bank fully operational; drafting guidelines for the Natura 2000 Network; constitution of the Genetic Resources Task Force; drafting priorities and guidelines to develop a National Research Programme for Biodiversity Management; and drafting the National Research Programme for Biodiversity Management.

Sweden✓

The biodiversity strategy and action plans have been, in several but not all parts, superseded by the system of sixteen environmental quality objectives, adopted by Government and Parliament. These objectives express the environmental quality that should be reached within a generation (app. the year 2020). There is not "a Swedish NBSAP" contained in one document. Instead, biodiversity is included in many of the 16 national environmental quality objectives and their interim targets. This also means that biodiversity is treated in an integrated fashion; both in the broad environmental process, and also into relevant sectors, in accordance with article 6 of CBD.

Since 2005, the 2010 target is incorporated within Sweden's environmental quality objectives, as an interim target within the objective "a rich diversity of plant and animal life". The Swedish parliament, when adopting the target, judged that it can be reached by means of the activities specified under the biodiversity-related environmental objectives, as well as the action strategy for sustainable management of natural resources. However, in its first review in 2006, the Swedish environmental objectives council expressed doubts concerning the sufficiency of these measures. The council also pointed out that many of the biological processes concerned are too slow for an improvement to be detectable during the specified time frame for the objective (ie 2020).

The objectives that have a direct relation to biodiversity besides "A rich diversity of plant and animal life" are "a varied agricultural landscape", "flourishing lakes and streams", "thriving wetlands", "sustainable forests", "a balanced marine environment, flourishing coastal areas and archipelagos", "a magnificent mountain landscape" and "zero eutrophication".

The objectives have been made operational through interim targets, using clearly defined measurable targets and time frames ranging from 2005 to 2020. The implementation of these targets is supported by three action strategies, one of which implies the sustainable management of natural resources as mentioned above. The biodiversity quality objective includes three interim targets: to halt the loss of biodiversity until 2010, to improve the conservation status for threatened species, and to achieve sustainable use of biological diversity and resources.

An example of concrete measures undertaken to reach the national objectives is the programme for plant genetic resources, which is actively inventorying plants in traditional use, collecting samples, and documenting associated local knowledge. Another example is the use of species action plans for the conservation of threatened species. The goal is to produce around 200 such action plans by 2010. If implemented correctly, these will improve conditions for about 500 out of 3600 red-listed species. There are more such detailed programs and plans in place in order to fulfil both the national objectives and various CBD-targets. There are also other measures and programmes in place to address issues not directly mentioned as interim targets in the environmental quality objectives. For example, there is also an Environmental Code and associated regulations, which include protection for some threatened species. There are now two national fisheries regulations imposing a total ban on fisheries for 11 threatened marine species and almost as many for brackish and freshwater species.

Switzerland✓

The "Swiss Landscape Concept" contains objectives that include the creation of a habitat network covering at least 10% of lowland areas as well as the improvement of status of threatened species. The genetic diversity is addressed in agriculture, predominantly through the implementation of the national action plan for the conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Swiss farmers have committed themselves to integrated agriculture to provide the ecological services prescribed by Switzerland's agricultural policy. In consequence, the use of pesticides decreased of more than 30% since 1990, losses of nitrogen by 13%, phosphorous use by 69%, emissions of greenhouse gases by 8% and ammonia emissions by 18%. The agricultural surface cultivated according to organic farming steadily increases and reached 11% of the total agricultural surface or 1'153 km² in the year 2005. In forestry, genetic forest resources are conserved in situ through the applied close-to-nature silviculture guidelines that are also promoting rare species of trees and shrubs. Specific genetic reserves are maintained at appropriate sites all over the country. 53% of the total forest area is certified according to the criteria and principles of FSC (Forest Stewardship Council). In the presently discussed amendments in the forest legislation, the management of biodiversity has high priority and has been translated in concrete actions and prescriptions. At present, over 10% of the federal financial

contributions to forest owners are based on the objectives to promote forest biodiversity. The reduction of soil pollution (heavy metals), of water pollution (nitrate in the groundwater, phosphorous in lakes) and of air pollution (nitrogen dioxides, ammonia emissions in agriculture, ozone concentration and emissions of NOX, NH₂, and NMVOCs) are a target of Switzerland's sustainable development strategy.

Legislative tools and measures taken for the Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its monitoring The principle of sustainable development is anchored in the Federal Constitution and further defined in Switzerland's legal and strategic/programmatic framework. Switzerland conducts a particular effort to implement the Convention within its legislative framework. The implementation of the Federal Laws and Ordinances is strengthened through various concepts, programmes and guidance, in order to support the federal and cantonal authorities to achieve the goals set up in the legislation. Switzerland's strategic and programmatic framework includes, among others, the "Sustainable Development Strategy 2002", which aims at integrating sustainable development principles in policy areas; the "Swiss Landscape Concept" and the "Landscape 2020" project, both targeting the integration of nature conservancy in policy areas in a strategic way, the "Swiss Forest Programme" that identifies sustainability and conservation goals up to 2015; the "National Ecological Network" – a planning tool for the creation of corridors between habitats and a contribution to the Pan-European Ecological Network. The progress and trend of Switzerland's biodiversity and environmental policy are monitored by the programmes "Biodiversity Monitoring Switzerland (BDM)" and "Monitoring Sustainable Development (MONET)".

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Secretariat has not yet been provided with a copy of the NBSAP.

Turkey

Turkey's NBSAP is based on the five following assumptions: biodiversity is the biological foundation for sustainable development; biodiversity is in jeopardy; conserving biodiversity is a shared responsibility; biodiversity links to future prosperity; and Turkey contributes to global biodiversity conservation. Turkey's NBSAP comprise 6 goals, which relate to: conservation and sustainable use; ecological management; education and awareness; incentives and legislation; International Cupertino; and implementation. In addition, Turkey has prepared a priority action plan and the NBSAP specifies that progress reports will be elaborated every two years. (NBSAP)

Ukraine✓

Ukraine approved the Concept (Strategy) for Conservation of Biological Diversity in 1997. The main goals identified in this strategy include: (a) conservation, improvement and restoration of natural and disturbed ecosystems, landscape components, and habitats of some species; (b) promoting a transition to sustainable, well-balanced use of natural resources; (c) minimizing any indirect negative influences on ecosystems, their components and ecological complexes; (d) strengthening public awareness, improving availability of information on biodiversity, involving more of local population in conservation activities; (e) defining and strengthening responsibility for biodiversity conservation, especially the responsibilities of institutions, organizations, land users, companies and individuals that use or affect natural resources. To achieve these goals, major measures identified include (a) conservation and restoration of coastal, marine, riparian, floodplain, lacustrine, mire, wetland, meadow, steppe, forest and montane ecosystems; (b) preservation of species and populations; (c) ecological optimization of urban landscapes and other highly disturbed territories; (d) "ecologization" of agricultural landscapes and agricultural technologies, as well as existing practices in forestry, fishery, game, land and water management; (e) development of national ecological networks (a system of "green corridors") as a constituent part of the EECONET (European Econet). In 2004 the updated National

Strategy on Biodiversity Conservation was approved by the Government (Decree as of September 22 # 675). The draft SAP has been elaborated and disseminated for inter-ministerial consideration before being submitted to Parliament.

United Kingdom✓

Each country now contributes to delivery on biodiversity issues through the implementation of their own strategies. Implementation of these strategies will be aided in England, Wales and Scotland through legislation placing a duty on all public bodies to “have regard” in England and Wales, and to “further” in Scotland, for the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their duties (Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act in England and Wales; Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act in Scotland). Northern Ireland proposes to introduce a similar statutory biodiversity duty as part of its review of the Wildlife Order (NI) 1985.

Under the UKBAP, species-focused, well-targeted habitat restoration has delivered notable successes. However, many of our current challenges, such as the continuing and accelerating decline in coastal habitats, arise from cumulative pressures and cut-across convenient compartmentalised areas of environmental policy.

In line with the thinking behind the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment approach, we are now looking to consider ecosystems as a whole and how the different components function and depend on one another, especially as these relationships respond to climatic and other environmental changes. With this in mind, the future emphasis in the UK will increasingly be on Habitat Action Plans (HAPs), while recognising the need to ensure that habitat based working delivers the needs of species. For the most part, species objectives are expected to be integrated within HAPs but in some circumstances separate Species Action Plans will continue to be the best focus for action.

We are also working to develop a more integrated approach to conservation, management and enhancement of the natural environment more broadly that is consistent with the principles of the Ecosystem Approach. This focuses on the design of policies which deliver healthy, functioning ecosystems and ways to reflect the true value of ecosystem services in decision-making.

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