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SECOND REGIONAL CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR EUROPE ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND THE MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY

Isle of Vilm, Germany, 13-17 June 2009
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, and, most recently, in decision IX/8, 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 was little progress towards goal 2 and that that remained a major constraint on implementation. The Working Group also noted that progress towards goal 3 was also poor. In view of this slow progress, the Conference of the Parties decided to conduct an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3

* UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-EUR/2/1.

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.”

/...

of the Strategic Plan. Section II of the present 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, and presented to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in May 2008 (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Rev.1 and UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4).

4. This series of regional workshops on capacity development for national biodiversity strategies and action plans is intended to contribute to the review process. Section III of the note provides information on the status and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans 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-EUR/2/3). The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Bonn in May 2008, adopted this guidance in paragraph 8 of decision IX/8.

II. IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS: 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 to prepare for the in-depth review by focusing in particular on the following elements:

- (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 development, 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 national biodiversity strategies and action plans, 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 national biodiversity strategies and action plans, 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 national biodiversity strategies and action plans 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, held in July 2007, and presented to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in May 2008. Data in subparagraphs (a) and (b) have been updated on 8 May 2009:

(a) From information provided to the Secretariat from Parties, 166 Parties (87 per cent of the total) have finalized their national biodiversity strategy and action plan or equivalent instruments. Twelve Parties (6 per cent) have informed the Secretariat that they are preparing their national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Thirteen (7 per cent) Parties have not prepared a national biodiversity strategy and action plan or initiated the process to do so, or have not provided recent information to the Secretariat on the status of their national biodiversity strategy and action plan;

^{2/} Third national reports had been received by 148 Parties as of 8 May 2009.

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

- Implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/14/Rev.1)
- Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4)
- 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).

(b) Twenty-three (12 per cent) Parties have revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and fifteen (8 per cent) 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 subnational level;

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

(d) While most national biodiversity strategies and action plans 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 national biodiversity strategies and action plans pre-date the establishment of the targets by the Convention on Biological Diversity;

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

(f) Most national biodiversity strategies and action plans include action plans. However, frequently, these action plans 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 national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(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 (e.g., 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 national biodiversity strategies and action plans, 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 needs 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 obstacles⁴ 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 Parties together, the following ten challenges were ranked as “high” or “medium-level” by more than 70 per cent 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%).

^{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).

III. THE STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS IN EUROPE ^{*5}

11. The following 30 European countries have been invited to participate in this regional workshop: Albania, Andorra (non-Party), Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (FYR), Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine. In addition, 1 country (Israel) from outside the region has been invited to participate in the workshop.

12. Of the total 31 Parties invited to participate in the workshop, 18 (58 per cent) have completed a national biodiversity strategy and action plan while three (10 per cent) countries have completed a national biodiversity strategy only -- a completion rate considerably lower than the global average. Annex I provides a digest of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans as featured in the country profiles on the Convention's website. While some countries have prepared posters on aspects of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, Belgium is the only Party invited to this workshop that has prepared a poster. These posters are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/poster-session.shtml>

13. Of the total 31 Parties invited to participate in this workshop, 3 Parties (Austria, Netherlands, Turkey) have revised both their national biodiversity strategy and action plan, while 1 Party (Latvia) has revised its action plan only. However, the Secretariat is aware that 1 Party (Ireland) has begun a revision of both documents and that 1 Party (Spain) is currently revising its strategy.

14. 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 Europe, information for this 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), was provided by Austria and Poland only.

15. To complement and extend the global analysis, the Secretariat has requested each participant in the workshop, nominated by national focal points for the Convention, to provide further information on their country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan. Further details are provided in the annotated agenda (see UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-EUR/2/1/Add.1, paras. 7 and 8).

IV. ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE WORKSHOP

16. As noted in the annotated agenda (UNEP/CBD/NBSAP/CBW-EUR/2/1/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 national biodiversity strategies and action plans or similar strategies and programmes;

(b) Major features of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

⁵ Information in Section III has been updated in accordance with information made available to the Secretariat during and after the conduct of the first NBSAP workshop for Europe held in April 2008.

- (c) Priority actions identified for implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (d) Mechanisms identified for implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- (e) Obstacles encountered in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans; and
- (f) Reviews undertaken of the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and assessment of the effectiveness of the strategy.

Table 1: Status of NBSAPs and national reports in Europe

* Information in the table below has been updated in accordance with information provided to the Secretariat during and after the conduct of the first European NBSAP capacity-development workshop held 27-30 April 2008. Documents for the first workshop are available at the following address: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops/europe.shtml>

Country	NBSAP	National reports			
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
	* year of completion indicated where year of adoption is unknown or unclear; year of revision indicated where applicable				
Albania	Yes (1999)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Andorra	N/A * not a CBD Party	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armenia	Yes (1999)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Austria	Yes (1998, 2005)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Azerbaijan	Yes (2004)	Yes	No	No	No
Belarus	Yes (1997)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belgium	Yes (2007)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Yes (informed by Minister on 14 August 2008 that draft NBSAP has been completed and is being reviewed by government however SCBD has not yet received a copy of the document or information regarding its adoption)	N/A	No	Yes	No
Bulgaria	Yes (Strategy in 1994; Action Plan in 2000)	Yes	Yes	No	No
Croatia	Yes (1999)	Yes	No	Yes	No
Cyprus	No (under development)	No	No	Yes	No
Czech Republic	Yes (2005)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Denmark	Yes (1996)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Estonia	Yes (1999) * currently under revision	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
European Community	Yes (1998, 2006)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Finland	Yes (1997, 2006)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
France	Yes (2004) * Strategy only	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Georgia	Yes (2005)	Yes	No	No	No
Germany	Yes (2007)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Greece	No (under development)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Hungary	Yes (2004)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Iceland	No (under development)	Yes	Yes	No	No
Ireland	Yes (2002) * currently under revision	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Israel	No * recent information has <i>not</i> been received by SCBD regarding the status of this document	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Italy	No (under development)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Latvia	Yes (2000; Action Plan revised in 2003)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Liechtenstein	No * recent information has <i>not</i> been received by SCBD	No	No	No	No

	regarding the status of this document				
Lithuania	Yes (1998)	No	Yes	Yes	No
Luxembourg	No * recent information has <i>not</i> been received by SCBD regarding the status of this document	Yes	No	No	No
Macedonia (FYR)	Yes (2005) * SCBD has not received a copy of this document in spite of requests.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Malta	No (under development)	N/A	No	No	No
Republic of Moldova	Yes (2000)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Monaco	No (under development)	Yes	Yes	No	No
Montenegro	Yes * informed on 3 April 2009 that draft National Biodiversity Strategy with Action plan for 2009-2014 had been adopted however a copy has not yet been received by the Secretariat	N/A	N/A	No	No
Netherlands	Yes (1995, 2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Norway	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Poland	Yes (2003)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Portugal	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Romania	Yes (1996) * currently under revision	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Russian Federation	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
San Marino	No * recent information has <i>not</i> been received by SCBD regarding the status of this document	No	No	No	No
Serbia	No (under development)	N/A	No	No	No
Slovakia	Yes (1998)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Slovenia	Yes (2001)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Spain	Yes (1999) * Strategy only which is currently under revision	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sweden	Yes (1995, 2006)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Switzerland	Yes (2006)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Turkey	Yes (2001, 2007)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ukraine	Yes (2006) * Strategy only, Action Plan still in progress	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
United Kingdom	Yes (1994, 2006)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

*Annex I***MAJOR FEATURES OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS OF CENTRAL ASIA**

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 national biodiversity strategy and action plan 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 *not applicable**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.

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. The objectives are: (i) identify and monitor priority components of biodiversity in Belgium; (ii) investigate and monitor the effects of threatening processes and activities and their causes; (iii) maintain or rehabilitate biodiversity to a favourable conservation status; (iv) ensure and promote sustainable use of components of biodiversity; (v) improve the integration of biodiversity concerns into all social and economic sectoral policies; (vi) promote and contribute to an equitable access to and sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources; (vii) improve and communicate scientific knowledge on biodiversity; (viii) involve the community through communication, education, public awareness and training; (ix) strengthen biodiversity-related regulatory framework and ensure compliance of biodiversity-related legislations; (x) ensure consistency between and a coherent implementation of biodiversity-related commitments and agreements; (xi) ensure continued and effective international cooperation for the protection of biodiversity; (xii) influence the international agenda within biodiversity-related conventions; (xiii) enhance Belgium's effort to integrate biodiversity concerns in relevant international organisations and programmes; (xiv) promote sustainable forest management in other countries; (xv) ensure the provision of adequate resources for biodiversity.

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.

(Extract from Belgian Biodiversity Strategy)

Bosnia and Herzegovina * not available**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 *not available**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.

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.

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.

Specific Measures for Implementation

Species and Habitats Conservation and Protected Areas: With inter alia the EU Habitats and Birds Directive, and the Establishment of the protected areas network Natura 2000, the EU has comprehensive legislation in place to ensure the conservation of threatened species and habitats. See also http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/index_en.htm

Invasive Alien Species: The European Commission is currently developing a proposal for a new EU Strategy on Invasive Alien species, a first proposal is expected to be presented in early 2008. Information on past activities is available at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/infoproducts/alienspecies_en.pdf.

Sustainable Use: Major progress has been made, for instance, in bringing agriculture, fisheries and forestry activities in the EU into line with Article 10 of the CBD.

Agriculture: Recent reforms of the EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) have enabled further integration of biodiversity concerns into agricultural policy. Key elements are support for rural development and the so-called 'agri-environmental measures', the introduction of Cross-Compliance, of a Single Farm Payment Scheme, the promotion of Organic Farming, the development of specific environmental Indicators (IRENA), a specific Community programme which finances measures to promote the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources, and the adoption of a specific Biodiversity Action Plan for Biodiversity in Agriculture. EU Rural Development Policy aims to lessen the adverse environmental impacts of farming, and to reconcile agriculture with the objectives of the CBD through a series of measures that encourage farmers to protect and enhance landscape and biodiversity, in ways that go beyond usual good farming practice. See also http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/envir/index_en.htm#biodiv

Marine, coastal and inland water biodiversity – fisheries: The EU Biodiversity Strategy put forward broad objectives for the fisheries sector, while the Biodiversity Action Plan for Fisheries, adopted in 2001, made specific recommendations to protect biodiversity from the impact of marine fisheries and aquaculture. A number of new legislation has been adopted in recent years to that regard. See also http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/management_resources_en.htm and http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine/index_en.htm The EU Water Framework Directive (2000) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html modified the way fresh and coastal waters are managed, to improve water quality and the way aquatic ecosystems in Europe work.

Forest Biological Diversity: On top of supporting the implementation of the CBD expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity, the EU supports global initiatives promoting conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, such as the United Nations Forum on Forests, and is a party to the International Tropical Timber Agreement. On 15 June 2006, a new EU Forest Action Plan was adopted. See also http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/fore/index_en.htm. The main forum for pan-European coordination on forest policy is the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) process, to which the EC, EU Member States and other European Countries are a signatory.

Sustainable wildlife trade: The EU fully supports international legislation concerning endangered species and habitats, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to which all Member States are Parties. A Regulation on the Implementation of the CITES (1997) has improved its application within the EU. See also http://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/home_en.htm

Sustainable production and consumption: The EU has developed a range of instruments to promote sustainable consumption and production. These include Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC); the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS); the promotion of environmental, social and fair-trade labels; the new framework for taxation of energy products and electricity; the Integrated Product Policy (IPP), and recent developments in chemicals policy (REACH) see also http://ec.europa.eu/environment/industry/index_en.htm and

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/index.htm>

Biodiversity research and training: EU multi-year framework programmes for Research and Technological Development (RTD) allocate funds for research into a wide range of areas; including biological diversity conservation, in line with Article 12 of the CBD. Global change and ecosystems are among the research priority areas for 2002-2006. Framework funds are also used to improve scientific support to policy. From 1998 to 2006, the EU has allocated about €100 million to biodiversity-related projects. See also http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/themes/article_1348_en.htm. The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) aims to identify and promote strategically important biodiversity research that will contribute to policies and management relating to biodiversity loss.

Public education: The Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) at <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/> is the main online source of information covering EU responses to the CBD. Several initiatives have been launched at the EU level, by Member States and other organisations, to publicise efforts carried out to halt the loss of biodiversity in Europe. One example is the Countdown 2010 Initiative (<http://www.countdown2010.net/>), coordinated by the IUCN (The World Conservation Union) and supported by the European Commission and many Member States.

Impact assessment: The EU has put into place assessment procedures to identify projects of high risk to biodiversity, in line with Article 14 of the CBD. The legislation is available at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/home.htm>

Liability & Redress: Legislation based on the 'polluter pays' principle penalises those who inflict damage on biodiversity. See also <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/liability/>. An EU network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) was established in 1993.

Access and Benefit Sharing: Implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing Guidelines is one of the EU priorities to achieve the 2010 targets. A European Commission Communication of 23 December 2003 lays out steps for implementing the Bonn Guidelines in the EC and its Member States. More information is available at <http://abs.eea.eu.int/>)

Traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities: The Member States of the European Union, through Council resolutions issued in 1998 and 2002 on indigenous peoples' issues, have set the framework for EU support to indigenous peoples. In 2005, a call for proposal was launched specifically to help indigenous peoples and their representatives participate in – and follow-up the work of – UN and other organisations, such as the CBD. See also http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/human_rights/ip/index.htm

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: In line with CBD Article 19, the EU ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2002. Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in the EU relies on a comprehensive legal framework addressing the use of GMOs, including imports. More information is available at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biotechnology/index_en.htm and <http://bch.biodiv.org/protocolreports/interim.shtml>. The EU supports efforts to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in third countries, including through its Joint Research Centre (JRC).

Financial resources and development co-operation: The EU has made considerable financial resources available for activities aimed at conserving biological diversity in developing, neighbouring and other partner countries, in line with Article 20 of the CBD. The “European Consensus” (the new EU development policy) main objective is poverty eradication; environment and natural resources are one of the priority sectors which can be chosen as focal sectors in the Country (Regional) Strategy Papers. Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) will now be carried out on a systematic basis, therefore ensuring a better mainstreaming of environment. Country (Regional) Environmental Profiles (CEPs/REPs) have to be drafted systematically, the conclusions of which are to be integrated in the Country (Regional) Strategy Paper. Besides, the Environment and Natural Resources Thematic Program (ENRTP) will allow the funding of environment related actions at global level. Biodiversity will benefit from this new instrument. As the new development co-operation policy will be guided by the principles of partnership and ownership, additional funding for biodiversity will only materialise if biodiversity is effectively integrated as a priority objective in partner countries’ national development strategies or poverty reduction strategies. See also http://ec.europa.eu/development/Policies/9Interventionareas/Environment_en.cfm

Financial support within the EU: The Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE) was established in 1992, and is the funding 'backbone' for the implementation of EU environmental policy. See also <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/home.htm>

Finland

The Finnish Action Plan for Biodiversity for the period 1997-2005 sets out 124 measures related to the preservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity, which were to have been implemented by 2005. National priorities and measures included: 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 levels; 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 was 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.

Three progress reports have been issued since the beginning of implementation of the 1997-2005 National Biodiversity Action Plan. Significant challenges identified at the end of this implementation period comprised matters related to: the broad scope of the Action Plan; the lack of a comprehensive research-based overview of the state of biodiversity and impacts of the Action Plan; sectoral responsibilities; the need for new economic mechanisms, information dissemination at regional and local levels as well as a better understanding of related policies by the general public.

Finland has also completed a revised Action Plan for 2006-2016 and an accompanying Biodiversity Strategy. Notably, the revised Plan has been aligned with the EU nature conservation directives and obligations. The Strategy’s four strategic goals are: to halt of biodiversity decline by 2010; to establish favourable trends in the state of the natural environment; to prepare, by 2016, for global environmental changes that may threaten the natural environment in Finland, particularly climate change; and to strengthen Finland’s influence in the preservation of biodiversity globally through international co-

operation. One hundred and ten measures are proposed through which the Strategy can be implemented.

A key goal which guided the formulation of the Action Plan, and therefore which will also guide its implementation, is the need to safeguard Finland's biological diversity by preventing the diminishment and genetic depletion of habitats and natural organisms, including stocks of cultivated and domesticated species. A further aim is to create jobs and promote business and industry laid down in the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements. Additionally, the Ecosystem Approach will be widely applied in the implementation of various projects.

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”. The first national forum on biological diversity took place on 5-6 December 2007 in Berlin as a kick-off meeting towards a multi-year implementation 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 by at least 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 areas of public life, as well as the economic and private sector. The strategy calls upon the public sector to serve as a role model, as well as upon the industrial, trade, and consumer sector to take on responsibility and respect certain ecological standards concerning the conservation of species and habitats. For example, development funds for development projects, whose goals include the conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing of biological diversity, shall increase by 50% with respect to the total development budget until 2015. Public spending in the procurement sector as well as in public building trade shall act as a special role model in 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 German industry shall include national and international effects on biodiversity at all stages of a product’s life cycle, beginning at the resources used for production to its final disposal.

Greece *not available

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 * not available

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

Israel *not available**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 *not available**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 *not available

Macedonia (FYR) *not available

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.

Moldova (Republic of)

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 *not available

Montenegro *not available

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 *not available

Serbia *not available

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 NO_x, NH₃, 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)”.

Turkey

Turkey's original NBSAP, prepared in 2001, 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. The original document comprises 6 goals, which relate to: conservation and sustainable use; ecological management; education and awareness; incentives and legislation; international cooperation; and implementation. In addition, Turkey has prepared a priority action plan. Moreover, the NBSAP states that progress reports will be elaborated every two years. Turkey updated its NBSAP in 2007 in response to changing national and international trends, adding 4 goals and focussing on issues related to biodiversity protection and monitoring; genetic diversity, including traditional knowledge; biodiversity components of importance to agrobiodiversity; protection of steppe biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity; systems for monitoring, management and coordination of forest and mountain biological diversity; and the establishment of a mechanism for measuring and reporting on implementation.

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.
