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SUSTAINABLE USE: DEVELOPMENT OF PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES, OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE AND ASSOCIATED INSTRUMENTS

Note by the Executive Secretary

Addendum

MANAGEMENT OF FOREST BIODIVERSITY TO DERIVE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES AND BENEFIT-SHARING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present note was drafted in response to paragraph 19 (f) of decision VI/22 of the Conference of the Parties, which requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, a report, including recommendations, on the management of forest biodiversity, sustainable use to derive products and services and benefit-sharing. The Conference of the Parties requested that the report should contain the following elements: (i) sustainable use and management of forests, including by indigenous and local communities; (ii) planning and modelling tools; (iii) criteria and indicators; (iv) economic valuation of forest biodiversity goods and services; (v) monitoring unsustainable uses; (vi) needs of indigenous and local communities; and (vii) information pertaining to the consideration of the needs of future generations. The Conference of the Parties further requested that the report be based on information provided by Parties and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

To facilitate the gathering of relevant information the Executive Secretary circulated in October 2002 a questionnaire addressing the aforementioned issues. The present note provides, in its introduction, a brief explanation of the request contained in paragraph 19 (f) of decision VI/22, and the process used to assemble relevant information. Twenty-five Parties to the Convention responded to the questionnaire and their responses are synthesized below.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/1.

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Policy and planning issues and legislative matters

After a brief introduction, section II of the present note summarizes information regarding legislative, policy and planning issues. In general, coordination efforts and institutional changes made by countries seem to ensure consistency of action within national departments and institutions. In addition, amendments in environmental legal frameworks, which have been by and large the consequence of agreements reached at the international level or changes in national political courses, are supporting the transition towards sound environmental policies and, in particular, the establishment of protected areas and natural reserves. Parties have also consistently addressed the needs of future generations by promoting a combination of activities for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its forest resources and the sharing of the benefits derived from their use as well as the empowerment of local communities.

The groundwork being laid by countries and their implementation of a series of programmes and plans for the sustainable management of forest resources, as well as the elaboration of national policies and strategies, are generally aimed at achieving the sustainability and optimization of ecological services, together with increased competitiveness and productivity of the forestry sector. In many instances, national forest programmes are presented as instruments for consensus building, promoting the involvement of stakeholders and local communities in the sustainable management of forests through shared decision-making. In many cases the programmes and plans integrate socio-economic and cultural values in forest management and provide protection of traditional knowledge and customs. Public participation has emerged as one of the main instruments for balancing environmental, economic and ecological factors in forest planning and management. A number of subsidies and other incentives have also been established to support sustainable management of forest biodiversity.

Indigenous and local communities

Regarding indigenous and local community-related issues (section III), the report stresses the importance of developing programmes to promote the sustainable management and use of forest resources, which address indigenous and local communities specific needs. In this regard, successful actions generally entail the implementation of specific projects and the establishment of participatory mechanisms. In general, the majority of projects described by Parties aim at the enhancement of the quality of life of local communities through the sustainable use of biodiversity. Also, a series of mechanisms and procedures for balancing diversified interests of a number of stakeholders have been adopted.

Tools and criteria

On the issue of economic valuation of forest biodiversity goods and services, many countries have engaged in research to develop new approaches (section IV). Nevertheless, while progressing, research has not yet overcome the constraints to the making economic valuation operational. Attempts to build accounting systems are still in the preliminary phases in many countries. Specific planning tools and approaches to resource management and reports on the adoption of criteria and indicators defined at the international level, and the adaptation and refinement of such indicators for application at the national level have also been undertaken. In this context, Parties considered plans to be the practical instrument for the implementation of long-term programmes and legislation addressing forestry issues. Regarding the issue of non-timber forest resources (NTFRs), most countries reported that such resources are widely used, but specific programmes and activities targeting their sustainable management are still lacking. As far as the monitoring of unsustainable uses is concerned, investigations by Parties generally use surveying methods from biological sciences that cover ecological and biological parameters, but do not necessarily portray the sustainability of uses or management of forest biodiversity.

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Status of implementation of voluntary independent forest certification schemes

Among the 25 countries that responded to the questionnaire, several forest certification systems were highlighted, the main ones being the scheme of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Pan-European Forest Certification scheme (PEFC). The choices of countries and the development of national certification schemes were generally inspired by the afore-mentioned models. For each of the respondent Parties, the paper highlights how the adoption of the voluntary scheme supported the implementation of sustainable forest management practices (section V).

Support and contribution to regional cooperation initiatives

Among cooperation mechanisms developed at the national and regional level the Model Forest Networks seems to emerge as one of the most effective forms of cooperation. The role of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the South Pacific Regional Environmental (SPREP) programme are also stressed and described through the experiences of respondent of Parties (section VI).

Lessons learned

Section VII covers the lessons learned by countries on the sustainable use of forest biodiversity and benefit sharing and on the country's specific concerns on these issues are the subject of. From the replies received, consensus emerges on the importance of public awareness, education and communication programmes to promote sustainable practices. Also, the need for further research on and monitoring of biodiversity and the sharing of information was identified to be a priority by many countries. In addition, consultation with local communities and capacity building were identified by a number of countries as means to improve the sustainable management of forests.

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The following suggested elements for recommendations by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the Conference of the Parties are derived from the views and suggestions provided by the respondent Parties and are based on national experiences with the sustainable use of forest biodiversity and benefit-sharing.

1. *Regarding management strategies and approaches, there is a need to*:

(a) Recognize a broad approach to ecosystem management, encompassing sustainable forest management paradigms as well as the ecosystem approach as an appropriate framework to support planning and management at the required landscape scales;

(b) Recognize that sustainable forest management based on the principles of economic viability, socio-environmental acceptance and ecological integrity is a suitable framework for linking conservation and development objectives;

(c) Develop and/or review relevant legislation at the national level in order to address and strengthen existing regimes for the sustainable management of forests.

2. *Regarding indigenous and local communities, there is a need to*:

(a) Review existing legislation and develop, as needed, specific legislative measures for the protection of forest related traditional knowledge;

(b) Ensure effective enforcement of legislation in order to advance the sustainable management and use of forest biological diversity and benefit sharing;

(c) Initiate or strengthen specific public awareness campaigns to promote public participation on sustainable management of forest biodiversity in indigenous and local communities;

(d) Promote technology transfer and the use of adequate incentives to enhance the participation of indigenous and local communities in sustainable management of forest biodiversity;

(e) Identify and address technical and financial needs of indigenous and local communities related to sustainable forest management.

3. *Regarding participation mechanisms, information sharing and education, there is a need to:*

(a) Undertake additional activities at the international and national levels and strengthen cooperation among relevant organizations and institutions responsible for the conservation and management of forest resources, by, *inter alia*, sharing information on lessons learned on the sustainable management of forests and the identification of technical and financial mechanisms that could support developing countries in the implementation of relevant programmes and strategies;

(b) Improve forest national monitoring systems and, to this end, create national inventories and record centres, develop and use adequate indicators for forest biological diversity and undertake mapping and regular monitoring of biodiversity;

(c) Encourage relevant stakeholders and allow them to participate in national forestry programmes to address demands on native forest resources while promoting sustainable use of the resources and protecting traditional knowledge;

(d) Consider education and professional training as a priority for the sustainable management of forests and, in this regard, promote the creation of regional, national and/or local education and training systems targeted to different stakeholders.

4. *Regarding cooperation, there is a need to:*

(a) Identify technical and financial mechanisms that support countries in the implementation of programmes and strategic actions for the promotion of sustainable use of forest biodiversity, such as research and inventories, and strengthen the participation of local and indigenous community organizations;

(b) Provide additional technical and financial assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition through, *inter alia*, a stronger commitment from donor governments and international organizations to support the sustainable management and use of biological diversity.

CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In April 2002, the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopted an expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity (decision VI/22). In order to assist with the implementation of the expanded programme of work, the Executive Secretary was requested to undertake actions addressing some initial focus areas, which are identified as important steps for the implementation of regional and international activities. In paragraph 19 (f) of decision VI/22, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Forum of Forests and Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, and other relevant bodies including indigenous peoples organizations, institutions and processes, to compile a report, with recommendations, addressing the management of forest biological diversity, sustainable use to derive products and services, and benefit sharing.

2. The purpose of this report is to "help implement the activities under element 1, goal 4, objective 1 of the programme of work (reproduced in annex I to below), by looking at how Parties consider long-term sustainability and conservation of forest biological diversity in the context of the commerce and related harvesting of forest products". As required by decision VI/22, the report should be based on information provided by Parties and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and cover, *inter alia*: (a) sustainable use and management of forests; (b) planning and modeling tools; (c) criteria and indicators; (d) economic valuation of forest biodiversity goods and services; (e) monitoring unsustainable use; and (f) needs of indigenous and local communities and information pertaining to the consideration of the needs of future generations.

3. In order to gather relevant information from Parties, the Secretariat issued, in October 2002 a questionnaire (see annex II) addressing the aforementioned subjects. Information contained in this report is based on the replies to the questionnaire provided by 25 Parties 1/ to the Convention. The full text of Parties' submissions is available on the website of the Convention at www.biodiv.org.

4. In order to facilitate the contribution of the United Nations Forum of Forests and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and other relevant bodies, the Secretariat created in June 2003 a restricted page on the Convention website where all the draft documents were posted for review and additional comments.

5. Considering the limited number of responses received the conclusions drawn in this note cannot be generalized to all the countries.

II. POLICY AND PLANNING ISSUES AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

6. In order to promote the sustainable management and use forest biodiversity, countries have undertaken a number of measures including institutional changes and modification and/or establishment of new legislation, the preparation of intergenerational plans and strategies, policies and plans addressing the issue, and the incorporation of socio-economic and cultural values into relevant policy-making. An account of these measures taken by countries is provided below.

1/ Submissions were received from: Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mauritius, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Samoa, Sudan, Switzerland, Tajikistan, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

A. Modification of existing institutional arrangements and forestry legislation

7. A number of Parties established new institutions with a view to enhancing consistency of action and avoid duplication of efforts among national departments and institutions. For example, in Nigeria, Argentina and Samoa new departments of environmental conservation and national environmental conservation agencies have been established within ministries of natural resources to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Similarly, in Guatemala, the creation of the National Commission for Forest Standards is expected to enhance synergy among 15 national institutions in their work on sustainable management standards, and criteria and indicators. Plans are also under way in many countries to merge under one technical unit different sections and departments in order to converge environmental and conservation responsibilities.

8. Internal political changes and restructuring, as well as new commitments and developments agreed on at the international level, are at the basis of most of the amendments in the environmental legal frameworks undertaken in many countries. In European countries, the commitment and principles agreed on at the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, for instance, had a major impact on national forest acts and legislation. Austria and Belarus are a case in point: both the Austrian Forest Act and the Belarus Forest Code are built on the concepts of sustainable multifunctional use of forest, the conservation of biological and landscape diversity and the maintenance of forest ecological functions.

9. New legislation was adopted in the last decade also to promote the establishment of protected areas including natural reserves, and other areas of specific value. In Estonia, the Government established in 1995 the "Critical reserves of renewable natural resources" through the Sustainable Development Act, in order to support the natural balance and renewal of biological diversity. With a similar purpose, Finland is planning to implement by 2004 several programmes for the development of national parks and natural reserves. Guatemala is establishing legal mechanisms, which would promote the sustainable management of forests within protected areas. Ecologically important sites are protected in Switzerland through the Nature Heritage Protection Bill adopted in 1966, which identifies sites to be placed under special management regimes, and the upcoming protected forest area concept, which sets the objectives for protected areas. Protection of species at risk is promoted in Canada through the Species at Risk Act (SARA – 2002) and action plans for the recovery of species found to be most at risk, in which indigenous communities have an essential role. Other national regimes were established with the intent to specifically address sustainable use and benefit-sharing issues, such as in the case of the Forest Law in Bolivia and the draft law addressing the conservation and proper use of biodiversity resources of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman.

B. Needs and interests of future generations

10. Parties have addressed the issue of the inter-generational nature of their plans and strategies for the management and use of forest biodiversity in a similar manner. Forest stability as well as the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is generally considered as important means to guarantee social and environmental sustainability of forests. In other words, maintenance of forest ecosystems in the long-term is considered achievable through a combination of conservation of species diversity, sustainable use and efficient utilization of biodiversity components and the sharing of the benefits derived from that use, which will contribute to poverty alleviation in future generations and higher life standards. This concept is found for example in the planning systems of the Czech Republic, Colombia, Estonia, Bolivia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Nigeria. For a number of respondent Parties planning for the next generation entails also the establishment of multi-year plans, which lifespan could cover the interests of generations to come. Belarus strategic plan for forest management and national programme for afforestation, the Finnish forestry policy, the Polish

national programme for afforestation, as well as the Colombian National Plan for Forest Development have all set long-term visions and objectives.

11. Political leadership and the empowerment of local communities in the management of natural resources were also identified to be crucial means for addressing the needs of current and future generations. Ecuador, Samoa and Germany stressed the concept of stewardship and Switzerland recalled the national principle of direct democracy, which gives citizens opportunities to influence government activities through people's initiatives. Similarly, in Canada, the needs of future generations are identified trough broad and ongoing consultations by way of public forums. Canada noted that its past and current national forest strategies represent the collective vision and values of citizens for the future of their forests and are meant to guide national efforts in sustainable forest management.

C. Policies, strategies, programmes and plans

12. Almost all respondent Parties reported on the elaboration of national policies and strategies that are meant to consolidate and support forest regimes. Strategic plans generally seek a balance between sustainability and optimization of ecological services, and the increased competitiveness and productivity of the forestry sector. In the case of Estonia, for example, the National Environmental Strategy combines the need to achieve forest sustainability with increased efficiency of forest management, including sustainable production and effective use of forest products. In Bolivia the development of the forest sector is pursued through increased capacity of public institutions as well as the promotion of forest services. The "Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Forests of Ecuador" promotes environmental services and the protection of cultural and biological diversity as means for economic and social development of future generations. The need for balance between different forest services is also the focus of the multifunctional approach to forest management and use promoted by Colombia, Germany and Belarus. In all cases, sustainability of forest is considered to be a combination of conservation and the preservation of forest uses and functions.

13. Conservation of forest biodiversity is generally advanced through the establishment of systems of green corridors or networks of protected areas representative of the country's diversity, such as in the cases of the Canadian National Forest Strategy or the Strategy on Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector of Moldova. It is recognized that an approach based on the creation of protected areas could retain intact ecosystems, contribute to the maintenance of healthy populations of native species and act as storehouse of replaceable genetic resources.

14. Although not specifically addressed by the questionnaire, Parties also reported on the establishment of subsidies and other incentives for the sustainable management of forest biodiversity. In Austria, in addition to a comprehensive system of forest subsidies, which provides forest owners with public funds support to specific activities, the Government recognizes forest owners who managed their forest in a sustainable manner, with the "Exemplary Forest Management" award. In general subsidies are used to promote reforestation and conservation, such as in the Czech Republic, or in Finland. In the latter case, the compensation scheme establishes how a landowner, under a special contract, should maintain or add to the natural value of his forest and how it will be compensated by the "buyer" of such natural value, being the State or a foundation. Likewise, in Ireland, conservation and development of native woodlands can benefit from grant aid. In Mauritius, incentives to private owners for the reforestation of mountain and riparian areas entail also technical assistance.

15. Parties have also extensively reported on the preparation and implementation of a series of programmes and plans for the sustainable management of forest resources, which generally reflect provisions, principles and guidelines agreed on at the international level. Programmes are often different in

nature and aspirations. The restoration and recovery of the forest biomass, re-afforestation and the expansion of forest nurseries, together with the diversification of productions, are the main goals of programmes in Argentina (i.e., "social forest programme" and the "national forest model programme") and in Mauritius. The Colombian National Plan for Forest Development (PNDF) comprehensively addresses conservation and sustainable use, industry development and community participation. In other cases, national programmes seem to privilege forest conservation and the creation of networks of protected areas or natural reserves. The natural reserves programme in Austria as well as the national programme for the efficient use of natural resources and the protection of the environment of Belarus are two examples of this type. Similarly, the Finnish national forest programme focuses on the restoration and management of the existing nature conservation areas.

16. In many instances, national forest programmes are instruments for consensus building on relevant planning issues, promoting the involvement of different stakeholders and local communities in sustainable forest management through shared decision-making. The Canadian Model Forest Program, for example, involves partnerships of groups and individuals in the management of 11 model forests through Canada, covering more than 6 million hectares and representing the diverse ecologies of major forests. Likewise, Switzerland launched in 2001 the Swiss national forest programme, a participatory and cross-sectoral process involving the private and public sector in the sustainable management of forests. The German national forest programme promoted an ongoing dialogue on the issue, providing a framework for policy and action to different stakeholders.

D. Incorporation of socio-economic and cultural values

17. A number of countries recognized the need to protect indigenous and local communities knowledge and customs in programmes and plans for the sustainable management of forests, together with the need to address the implications that changes in the forest uses may have on traditional forest management in agricultural areas, such as in the case of Argentina and Belarus. The Bolivian forest regime also addresses positive economic effects that could be generated by forest uses, and consequently the need to distribute benefits in an equitable manner to all stakeholders.

18. Other countries considered integrated forest uses to be the key element in forest management and planning, in order to combine ecological and economic functions of forests. In the Czech Republic, for instance, the maintenance of socio-economic functions is one of the main criteria contained in the forest planning scheme, which promotes, *inter alia*, rural development in forest areas, the development of new employment opportunities and recreational uses of forests. Recreational uses, landscape design and *in situ* archaeology are also cultural values included in the Irish sustainable forest plan. Multifunctional forestry, the central goal of German forest policy, applies to a**l** types of planning, management and monitoring tools. Social and cultural sustainability is supported in Finland through the integration of different forest uses, such as hunting and other recreational uses. In addition, stakeholder participation in the preparation of forest policies and programmes ensures that socio-economic and cultural values are incorporated into planned activities.

19. Indeed, public participation has emerged as one of the main instruments for balancing environmental, economic and ecological factors in forest planning. Participation of civil society, in particular rural population and indigenous and local communities, in policy-making is strongly promoted in Guatemala, Ecuador and Colombia. Oman supports public involvement in various forestry programmes. In Samoa, projects have been initiated and implemented through a multidisciplinary consultation process in order to actively involve main stakeholders. The Government of Sudan is promoting the participation of local communities in forest protection and sustainable use and has secured land tenure for community forests. Communities are aware of management issues and actively involved in regeneration, protection,

silvicultural practices and development of forest resources. Public participation procedures have been formally introduced in forest management planning at a regional level in Switzerland, whereby cantons need to ensure that the public is: (i) informed about the objectives and the course of the planning process; (ii) able to participate in an adequate way; and (iii) consulted on the planning documents.

20. Socio-cultural and ecologically sustainable development of forests is fostered in Austria through special areas designated as biosphere reserves or granted with the European Diploma of the Council of Europe. In both cases, socio-economic aspects are among the main criteria for selection. Moreover, scientific work is carried out by academic institutions with regard to the socio-economic and cultural values of forests, and provides the basis for designing planning tools for the sustainable use of forests resources. Canada is also undertaking a series of socio-economic studies on resource-based communities and seeks to incorporate socio-economic and cultural values in forestry practices by understanding the interdependence of humans and nature. A survey was undertaken among a sample of 87,000 Canadians on behalf of a partnership of 16 federal, provincial, and territorial governments agencies in order to collect accurate information on the importance and value of nature to Canadian citizens.

III. INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

21. Parties were requested to provide information on programmes implemented at the national level, focusing in particular on how the specific needs of indigenous and local communities are addressed, including support offered to those activities involving the use of forest-related knowledge in biodiversity management. Responses received show that Parties launched and implemented pilot or specific projects are using participatory mechanisms to involve indigenous and local communities in relevant decision-making processes.

A. Projects promoting traditional uses and knowledge

22. The majority of reported projects aim at the enhancement of the quality of life of local communities through the sustainable use of biodiversity. Whether such initiatives target small settlements such as the Toba aboriginal community in the Formosa province of Argentina or protected areas such as the forest of the Park Altos de San Miguel in Guatemala, they generally entail a series of activities aimed at the promotion of sustainable use and the protection of traditional practices and knowledge. Interdisciplinary projects were launched in Switzerland whereby local communities were encouraged to use traditional forest management to preserve local biodiversity. Traditional knowledge with respect to the use of wood is increasingly incorporated in modern construction. Likewise, Austria is carrying out projects, within the European Union initiative LEADER, supporting sustainable development in rural areas, as well as the biosphere reserves, to promote the traditional use of timber and traditional knowledge in house building and restoration. Canada has also encouraged a number of partnerships and over 1,300 projects supporting training in sustainable use and sustainable forest management practices for First Nations.

23. Development of community forestry and establishment of indigenous forest conservation areas in villages are also good examples of how the specific needs of local communities are addressed by Parties. The Forest Conservation Area Project in Samoa and the PROFORS (Programa Forestal Sucumbios) project in Ecuador, for instance, promote the development of sound and sustainable forest use for income generation and community conservation practices. Also Nigeria reported on the establishment of various community owned forest reserves, such as the EKURI initiative in the Cross River State, whereby indigenous communities manage the forest using traditional practices and knowledge.

B. Participatory mechanisms

24. Whether called "social partnerships" such as in the case of Austria, or "direct democracy", as in Switzerland, or simply public participation processes, as in Finland, Parties have reported on the establishment of mechanisms and procedures for balancing diverging interests of different stakeholders, in particular, to allow that indigenous and local communities' views are taken into consideration in decision making processes. In Canada, the Model Forest Pogramme offers opportunities for aboriginal communities to participate in sustainable forest management decision-making. Colombia is concluding the second phase of the Project for the Development of Community Participation in the Forest Sector (PACOFOR), which seeks to promote participation of indigenous and local communities in forest and agroforestry activities in order to improve their quality of life.

IV. TOOLS AND CRITERIA

25. The questionnaire addressed a series of questions pertaining to methods, criteria and mechanisms utilized in their efforts towards the implementation of sustainable forest management. Respondent Parties elaborated on: (i) their attempts to asses and calculate the economic value of biodiversity; (ii) planning and modeling tools for the sustainable use and management of forest biodiversity; (iii) criteria utilized to monitor uses of forest biodiversity and asses progress in the implementation of sustainable management policies; and (iv) the sustainable use of forest non-timber resources.

A. Economic valuation of forest biodiversity goods and services

26. The international focus on the valuation of forest goods and services reflects the understanding amongst the world's forest experts of the multiple functions performed by forests in support of and for the provision of ecosystem functions and services. Although, in general, there are general estimates of forest values, including notions on intrinsic, ecological, cultural, social and spiritual values, there is often little information on the monetary value of such functions. Also, despite the importance of non-timber forest resources, their values is rarely taken into account in land-use planning, nor are the economic values of these products and the services they provide taken into account in assessing gross domestic product. 2/ From the submissions received, it has emerged that, notwithstanding the desire to internalize these values into management decisions, research in many countries to develop new approaches to valuation, while progressing, has not yet overcome theoretical and other problems necessary for valuation to be an operational tool.

27. In Canada, research into the valuation of non-timber and non-traditional forest products is ongoing in universities, including at masters and doctorate levels. In Austria, a study was commissioned by the European Community to investigate the stability of the EUROSTAT framework for monitoring the non-wood functions of forests from an Austrian point of view. Research on the valuation of non-timber forest products and other forest functions was also undertaken by institutes and foundations in the Czech Republic, Samoa and Ecuador. In Germany, studies on the valuation of non-market goods and services use environmental economic methods, to estimate the monetary value of protecting biodiversity as well as the recreational services provided by forest areas. The Swiss Forest Agency funded a first study in 1996 to assess the quantity and value of non-forest products being utilized in Switzerland. No regular and comprehensive data are collected on the subject at the national level, with the exception of game. With the increasing interest in the subject, however, several projects were initiated in Switzerland to integrate data on non-wood products into existing statistics, such as the forest and timber industry survey.

2/ SCBD (2001)"Sustainable management of non-timber forest resources", CBD Technical Series No. 6

28. Accounting systems for non-timber products and services are under study and development in a number of countries. The 2002 statistical yearbook of Finland includes a comprehensive evaluation of the wood-based industry and services in the national economy of non-wood forest products. Initiatives for the establishment of a formal evaluation system have been undertaken also by Guatemala, Bolivia and Ecuador.

B. Planning and modelling tools for the sustainable use and management of forest biodiversity

29. Integrated resource management approaches and multiple uses of forests have been promoted and implemented in many of the respondent countries. In this context, Parties consider plans (regional, local or site specific) to be the main instruments for the sustainable management of forests. Regional forest plans, for instance, are strategic documents which set medium and long term objectives that address Swiss society's interest in forest and are a framework for future orientation and decision for forest authorities. Austria supports interdisciplinary planning through the Forest Development Plan and a Technical Forestry Plan, the latter being a document drafted by the owner or the appropriate technician including information on the area of interest. Similarly, in Finland a forest management plan for private forest holding is usually prepared by forestry professionals in cooperation with the forest owner. It contains information on, for example, tree species, volumes, ages and forest biodiversity. Forestry centers and forest management associations provide forest owners with training and other advisory services for the implementation of their forest management plans.

30. Plans are often the practical instrument for the implementation of long-term programmes or legislation addressing forestry issues, such in the case of the National Forest Act of the Czech Republic. Also associated with plans are usually a wide range of legislative tools and guidelines imposed on forest management activities, such for example the Province of Alberta's Timber Harvest Planning and Operations Ground Rules or the Watershed Planning and Biodiversity Guidelines under the British Columbia Forest Practices Code in Canada.

31. In addition to plans directly addressing biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, other plans have been formulated to cover specific matters relevant to forest biodiversity conservation. For instance, in Belarus, the plan for the effective allocation of special protected areas is the main tool for the protection of natural and cultural heritage, the conservation of biodiversity and gene resources and the protection of landscape complexes. Of a similar nature is the Finnish Landscape Ecological Plan, whose long-term objective is to ensure the survival of native species as viable populations. Among other actions, this requires the conservation of existing valuable habitats and ensuring that new ones are given the necessary conditions for them to evolve. The Colombian programme on biodiversity addresses the conservation and restoration of high priority areas and non-forest ecosystems, as well as the protection of threatened species.

32. In addition to plans, Samoa stated that geographical information systems (GIS) were capable instruments that assist in forest development and forest harvest planning. In Samoa, a GIS has been developed which holds both physical (e.g., contours, drainage patterns) and political land clarification information (e.g., ownership boundaries, concession boundaries). The system runs in a software package with digitized databases and will lead to the development of the Forest Inventory.

C. Criteria and indicators of sustainable use of forest biological diversity

33. Several Parties reported on the adoption of criteria and indicators developed at the international level, and of the subsequent refinement of those criteria for better application to national and local

conditions and values. The Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forest has inspired many countries in the elaboration of national monitoring and inventory systems. At the regional level, the Pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management are at the basis of most of the European systems (e.g. Austria, Czech Republic, Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland and Switzerland). European countries have adapted those criteria to local circumstances, by generally adding other indicators at the national level. In most cases, the development of a national set of criteria and indicators took into account also recent developments of international forestry processes, such as IPF/IFF proposals for action and Lisbon resolution L2.

34. At the national level, a number of countries reported on the establishment of specific criteria and indicators. For instance, Belarus derived its monitoring criteria on information available in inventories and land-surveys conducted by the State Forest Fund. The Republic of Moldova, after becoming a member of the ICP-Forests organized permanent tests for the evaluation of the health status of forest vegetation consisting of defoliation evaluation and take-off of foliage from the trees, as well as physical damages caused by different biotic and abiotic factors. Samoa formulated and enforced a National Code of Logging Practice which contains lists of criteria and indicators for monitoring and assessing commercial logging operations and defines penalties for practices that are inconsistent with the Forest Policy Provisions and the Code of Logging Practice. Ecuador is working on pilot projects to test the criteria and indicators for the sustainable Amazon forest. Colombia completed, with the support of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), a project on the application and evaluation of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. It reached concrete results such as the definition of some methodological guidelines to assist the Unit for Forest Management in forest planning. The Government of Colombia has advanced a proposal for criteria and indicators for sustainable management of natural forests. The Canadian Council of Forest Ministries had developed a criteria and indicators framework, which measures and reports on scientifically based indicators of forest sustainability. Efforts are also underway to develop local level indicators, which are developed to suit local and regional conditions, and provide the framework for monitoring on-the-ground changes and assessing their influence on the many components of sustainable forest management.

35. Parties reported also on their inventories and monitoring systems, whose investigations generally using surveying methods from biological sciences and covering ecological and biological parameters. These systems do not necessarily portray the sustainability of uses or management of forest biodiversity. Nevertheless, new and more comprehensive inventory systems are developing. A case in point is the Austrian forest inventory, which, in addition to traditional data on forest land and growing stocks, now offers valuable information on forest status development and forest biological diversity. The inventory will provide key ecological and economic data on more than 11,000 monitoring plots all over Austria which will provide forest policy, forest economy and forest science with updated basic information for the development of legal and planning measures. Countries consider inventories as important databases in support of forest management in general and the conservation and enhancement of forest biodiversity in particular. Among the various programmes and individual projects that have been established in Switzerland with this purpose, the national forest inventory (NFI) represents the most comprehensive database on the subject. As part of the national monitoring programme of Swiss forests, the NFI documents the structure of the forest and its evolution.

36. More focused on sustainability is the Canadian national forest strategy, which provides a system of national indicators to measure progress in achieving sustainable forest management. The Canadian Council on Forest Management released in 1995 a document entitled “Defining sustainable forest management – a Canadian approach to criteria and indicators”, in which biological diversity is the first indicator. Other similar publications have compiled information reporting on the status of forest

biodiversity and provide a focus on information requirements and gaps. The Colombian national strategy for the prevention and control of illegal traffic in wild species aims at enhancing environmental management through the establishment of preventing measures, tracking, monitoring and control of illegal traffic.

D. Sustainable use of non-timber forest resources (NTFR)

37. Although in all countries which responded to the questionnaire, non-timber forest resources are widely used, a number of Parties reported on the absence of programmes and activities targeting their sustainable management. Some countries are in the process of developing specific legislation regulating their use, such as for example the natural conservation acts of the federal provinces in Austria or the Estonian Sustainable Development Act, or the proposal for the new forestry law in Ecuador. Legal frameworks are often set to regulate the use of a specific resource, such as in the case of the Reindeer Husbandry Act of Finland or several others national hunting regulations. Technical regulations have been elaborated by the Government of Bolivia, in order to promote the use and sustainable management of non-timber forest resources.

38. As far as the resource monitoring is concerned, Argentina has created a special unit, within the Department of Forests, to evaluate the current state and potential of non-timber goods. Monitoring activities are usually carried out by research institutes. Natural Resources Canada, for instance, supports a partnership with Royal Roads University focused on non-timber forest products in British Columbia's coastal forestry. Similarly, the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute is responsible for monitoring large mammal species and game birds; the sustainable management of game species is based on these statistics. Other activities initiated by countries to promote the sustainable use of non-timber forest resources include projects and the establishment of "special zones". For instance, the VAFOR (Valorization of Forests) project in Switzerland is encouraging forest owners to rely on their own entrepreneurship by seeking remuneration for the numerous services offered by forests. The Green Market Programme is Colombia aims at consolidating the production of environmentally sustainable goods and to increase the supply of competitive environmental services in domestic and international markets, contributing to the improvement of environmental quality and social welfare. Mauritius is counting on the estimated expansion of the tourism industry to create additional opportunities for the handicraft sector; special zones will be set aside for the production of plants in support of the handicraft industry.

V. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF VOLUNTARY INDEPENDENT FOREST CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

39. Forest certification schemes seek to complement regulations and legislation defining a set of principles and indicators that certify that products originate from sustainably managed forests. Among the 25 countries that provided input to the questionnaire, several forest certification systems were highlighted. The most widely used certification scheme at a global level is that of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), established in 1993. In the European region several countries use the Pan-European Forest Certification (PEFC) scheme, created in 1999 (see table 1). The FSC and PEFC certification systems use slightly different criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, but both consider forest biodiversity and both are based on independent third party evaluations. In most of reporting countries, forest owners have a choice to select the system they prefer to use.

40. Bolivia is the country with the largest surface of FSC-certified natural tropical forests in the world, with approximately one million hectares. Guatemala has the second largest area managed by local communities. Other respondent countries with large FSC-certified forests are: Canada, Austria, Finland, Germany, Poland and Switzerland.

41. Canada reported on how the adoption of voluntary certification standards supported the implementation of sustainable forest management practices with the underlying commitment to maintain biological diversity along with a host of other forest values. Forest certification and related labeling remain a voluntary choice for companies, given that the federal government has no direct role concerning the decision by forest companies to become certified or the development of certification systems. In any case, certification of Canada's forests continues at an impressive pace, also due to the commitment made by the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) regarding certification. In January 2002, FPAC became the first industry association to require all its member companies to submit their practices to the scrutiny of independent, third party audits. FPAC represents 30 of the country's largest producers of pulp, paper and wood products who manage over 75 per cent of the working forests in Canada. It is estimated that by 2006, at least 75 per cent of Canada's forests will be certified to one of the forestry-specific standards available in Canada.

42. Similarly, the Austrian Government's general position on certification is that, while it is strongly in favor of certification, it does not promote any individual scheme. Under the leadership of WWF Austria, within the WWF Wood Group, many Austrian companies and firms have committed themselves to use timber and timber products coming from forests that are certified under the FSC scheme. In Finland, a working group was founded for the implementation of the FSC certification and a draft standard proposal was compiled. So far, only small forest experimental areas have been certified under the FSC.

43. An ongoing upward trend of forest certification can also be observed in Germany. Yet, the expenditure involved in verifying the chain of custody only allows a comparatively minor percentage of certified finished products to enter the market. Great efforts are therefore being made to shape the chain of custody system to be more practical. Overall, 6.3 million hectares, almost 61 per cent of the forest area in Germany have now been certified according to the FSC certification scheme (4% or about. 400,000 hectares) and the Pan-European Forest Certification (PEFC) (57% or 6.1 million hectares). The Federal Länder are following various policies concerning the certification of state forests, with some promoting the PEFC while others prefer to promote the FSC scheme.

44. In Switzerland, two certification systems are known: the certification scheme of the FSC and the Swiss Q-Label scheme. The latter is based on ISO standards and has been incorporated in the PEFC scheme. Switzerland reported that both certification systems have become so well established in Switzerland that they will operate in tandem in future. A benchmark is provided by the "National Standards for the Certification of Forestry in Switzerland". These standards define what forest management requirements should be stipulated when forestry certificates are issued.

45. The Pan-European Forest Certification is based on the Helsinki criteria and indicators, but its implementation in different European countries might follow quite distinct standards and procedures. For instance, the Finnish Forest Certification System (FFCS) had developed its standards before the PEFC became operational, although it did not have a label or chain of custody at that time. The FFCS is based on regional group certification, and it exploits the Pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. The FFCS covers all the dimensions of forest certification: standards, chain of custody certification, and accreditation and quality of external auditing. In Finland, 95 per cent of forests (totalling 21.9 million hectares) have been certified under the FFCS. Among other countries using PEFC certification are: Austria (2002), the Czech Republic (2001), Estonia, Germany and Finland (see table 1).

46. In June 2001, the PEFC agreed that the Czech system fulfils all the international criteria. Forest products, certified on the basis of the Czech system, can be labeled with the international logo PEFC. Since 2002, one hundred percent of Austrian forests have been PEFC-certified and approximately 3,400 hectares (0.08 per cent) are certified according to the FSC scheme. In Estonia, forest management and

forest product certification is encouraged by a variety of involved parties, including the government, NGOs and forest owners. Certification forms include the PEFC, the FSC and the ISO 14001 standards.

47. In Belarus, forest certification is under development and a learning-information ecological centre has been established. Sudan is also encouraging the implementation of voluntary forest certification schemes, but no measures or mechanisms are in place to implement them. In Samoa the debate on certification has just started and a training workshop was conducted by the SPC/GTZ agencies at the beginning of this year. The main objective of the workshop was to establish a national certification working group that will involve all forestry related stakeholders and to consider whether Samoa should have certified forest products and identify preferable certification standards.

Table 1. Certification systems in respondent countries

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	*Pan-European Forest Certification (PEFC)*	*Other certification systems*	*Countries with no specific measures or under development*
Argentina	Austria	Canada (CSA)	Belarus
Austria	Czech Republic	Canada (SFI)	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Bolivia	Estonia	Estonia	Ireland
Canada	Finland (FFSC)	Switzerland (Swiss Q-Label Scheme)	Mauritius
Colombia	Germany		Nigeria
Czech Republic	Poland		Oman
Ecuador			Republic of Moldova
Estonia			Samoa
Finland			Sudan
Germany			Tajikistan
Guatemala			The former Yugoslav Republic ov Macedonia
Poland			
Switzerland			

VI. SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES

48. In the past few decades cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable management of forests has gained increasing importance at the regional level. For instance, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) became a permanent forum for cooperation between the ministers in charge of forestry in 40 European States.

49. Another example of European initiative is “Natura 2000”, which defines a coherent network of protected areas throughout the region. Germany, as one of its members, has established further cooperation between adjacent domestic protected areas and neighbouring countries. Examples of transboundary cooperation of management practices in protected areas are the Bavarian Forest National Park and the Bohemian Forest National Park (both between Czech Republic and Germany) and the Palatinate Forest/Northern Vosges (Germany/France) transboundary biosphere reserve in the framework of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme.

50. The larger part of the German development assistance is bilateral; thereby, Germany generally supports and promotes the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and national forest programmes (NFPs) as a policy framework to address the underlying causes of

deforestation in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner. Support to developing countries regarding forest conservation and related aspects is also part of Germany's development cooperation programme with over 310 projects in 66 countries.

51. The Baltic countries have also been active in initiating several cooperation projects. In 1998, for example, the Council of the Baltic Sea States adopted the Baltic 21 Action Programme for Sustainable Development, a joint programme emphasizing regional development and focusing on seven economic sectors, including forests, spatial planning and education. Cooperation projects between Baltic countries and Finland as well have been implemented under the Baltic 21 Action Programme on Forests.

52. Assistance to developing countries has also been provided by Canada, which remains one of the world's principal aid donors in international forestry. In this context, Canada reported on an increase in foreign aid by at least 8 per cent per year for each of the coming years. Moreover, Canada was an early supporter of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and pledged $500 million toward an Africa Action Plan agreed to at the G-8 Summit in Canada in June 2002. Assistance is directed towards meeting the subsistence requirements of poorer segments of the population and alleviating some of the most serious environmental problems facing the developing world today, such as desertification and soil erosion.

53. Another example of international cooperation is Canada's involvement in the International Model Forest Network. Model forests are managed through a partnership of stakeholders in the area, demonstrate the integrated management of key resources and utilize state-of-the-art technology and ecologically sound forestry practices. A central theme of the international model forest programme is the development of specific links between some individual model forests and others under development. Through a process of "twinning", selected personnel in an established model forest play the role of mentors in assisting the model forest in the development, planning, operations, training and technology transfer activities within the network. At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Canada made a commitment to extend the concept of model forests internationally. The international model forests sites established or in development (in Canada, the United States, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Chile, Argentina, Japan and Malaysia) are designed to translate the Forest Principles agreed upon as part of the Earth Summit into reality. Each model forest is established as a working-scale model aimed at effecting a transition from conventional forest management to management for sustainable forest production and environmental conservation. In addition to providing development assistance, Canada also reported on promoting sustainable forest management by transferring forest technology to other countries. For example, Canada is disseminating interactive fire maps over the Internet on a daily basis through "FireM3", the first fully automated system to monitor, map, and model large forest fires on a national scale. This prototype technology was transferred to Mexico, the United States and South-east Asia.

54. From Latin America some examples of cooperation activities reported by the Government of Guatemala are:

(a) The Meso-American biological corridor,

(b) The Central American forests and climatic change project;

(c) The Central American Commission for the Environment and Development (CCAD); and

(d) The Central American Commission of Forests and Protected Areas (CCAB-AP).

55. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has been one the major forums for cooperation in Africa. Among its objectives is the sustainable utilization of natural resources and effective environmental protection. SADC strives to ensure that poverty alleviation is addressed in all its activities

and programmes so that crosscutting solutions are found. Since joining the organization in 1995, Mauritius has had two projects approved within the SADC portfolio. The first project was aimed at strengthening and improving "forestry colleges" in the SADC region. Approximately 120 forest officers were trained on forestry issues with a component on conservation of biodiversity at the University of Mauritius. The second project—the SADC Tree Centre Network—provided for the production of good quality seeds to be used in reafforestation programmes and for the participation of twenty-eight officers in a course on forest genetic resources, management and ecological surveys.

56. The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), which mission is "to promote cooperation in the South Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations", promotes the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources through its Action Strategy for Nature Conservation. Samoa is one of its member countries that have reported on this initiative.

VII. LESSONS LEARNED

57. Parties were consulted and asked to provide comments on lessons learned at the country level on the sustainable management of forest biodiversity. From the replies received, a consensus appears to be emerging on the importance of: (i) public awareness, education and communication programmes to promote sustainable practices; (ii) research and monitoring of forest biodiversity; (iii) the establishment of participatory mechanisms and capacity building; and (iv) multifunctional forestry and adaptive management.

58. The Czech Republic has identified public education to be one of the main concerns for sustainable forest management. This issue has been high on the agenda since the State Forestry Policy of 1995, encouraging, *inter alia*, professional training of staff. The Government of the Republic of Moldova reports that it has placed great emphasis on educational programmes and staff training in the field of biodiversity and landscape protection and has initiated several courses to this end. Poland and Finland identified the involvement of relevant stakeholders in educational and information campaigns as a necessary requirement to achieve sustainable management. In addition to their involvement, Cyprus and Samoa highlighted that more efforts, resources and commitment in the long term are needed in order for the programmes to effectively benefit local communities.

59. Argentina reported that it considers the achievement of sustainable management to be a slow and costly process, requiring major research efforts, in order to systematically gather relevant information and increase capacity and awareness of local communities. Indeed, the need for further research and monitoring of biodiversity and the sharing of information also emerged as a priority for many countries. One of the major concerns of the Government of Estonia, for example, is the lack of information and communication among different organizations dealing with the sustainable management and use of biodiversity. In Sudan, there is a lack of regular monitoring of biodiversity components, which affects biodiversity management. Finland recognized that forest biodiversity monitoring systems need to be improved in order, for example, to provide more detailed information on the socio-economic impacts of forest conservation. For Guatemala, the availability of information to all stakeholders is crucial, hence the need to develop a monitoring system at the national and regional scale to compile and share information on lessons learned and relevant experiences is becoming a priority.

60. Consultation with local communities and capacity building are also other two priorities identified by a number of countries as means to improve the sustainable management of forests. Canada indicated that the country's key to success in sustainable forest management relates to broad consultation: ongoing public and private sector consultations have resulted in all-encompassing sustainable forest principles and

commitments. For instance, the fourth national forest strategy (1998-2003) was developed with input from interested individuals and organizations. Nigeria's experience also recognizes the need to center the management of protected forest on people and their community and promote equity in the sharing of the benefits arising from the use of biodiversity components. A number of countries realized that poor management is often the result of lack of resources and capacity. In Oman, for example, national agencies responsible for range, forestry and natural resources are usually understaffed and lack funds. Samoa shares the same concern on the lack of human and financial resources. Colombia stressed that also more assistance should be provided to local communities, in terms of appropriate technologies for the management and transformation of forest products.

61. As far as methodological approaches are concerned, there seems to be a common understanding of the importance of sustainable forest management as a suitable framework for linking conservation and development objectives. Multifunctional forest management can be an instrument for integrating the conservation with sustainable uses of forests. Adaptive management processes as well as ecosystem management paradigms are effective means that need further exploration. To this end, the German Government reported that it has studied and documented the linkages between sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach.

Annex I

ELEMENT 1, GOAL 4, OBJECTIVE 1 OF THE EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

GOAL 4: **To promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity**

Objective 1**: **Promote sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity

Activities:

4.1.1 Support activities of indigenous and local communities involving the use of traditional forest-related knowledge in biodiversity management.

4.1.2 Develop, support and promote programmes and initiatives that address the sustainable use of timber and non-timber forest products.

4.1.3 Support regional cooperation and work on sustainable use of timber and non-timber forest products and services, including through technology transfer and capacity-building within and between regions.

4.1.4 Improve forest management and planning practices that incorporate socio-economic and cultural values to support and facilitate sustainable use.

4.1.5 Promote cooperative work on the sustainable use of forest products and services and its relation to biodiversity conservation with the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

4.1.6 Encourage implementation of voluntary third-party credible forest certification schemes that take into consideration relevant forest biodiversity criteria and that would be audited, taking into consideration indigenous and local community rights and interests.

4.1.7 Set up demonstration sites that would illustrate forest conservation and on-ground delivery of goods and services through sustainable forest management, which are also representative of various types of forest, themes and regional needs, through case-studies.

4.1.8 Facilitate and support a responsible private sector committed to sustainable harvesting practices and compliance with domestic laws through effective development and enforcement of laws on sustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber resources.

Annex II

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Policy and planning

1.1 Has your country undertaken or is it planning structural changes (new legislation, creation of new institutions, etc.) to promote the sustainable management and use of forest biological diversity and benefit-sharing?

1.2 How does your country/organization take into consideration the needs of future generations while planning for the sustainable management and use of forest biological resources and benefit-sharing?

1.3 Which policies and/or programmes has your country/organization implemented to promote the sustainable management and use of forest biological resources and the sharing of benefits arising from their utilization? (Please provide examples)

1.4 Do your Government/organization's planning practices for the sustainable use of forest resources incorporate socio-economic and cultural values? How? (Please provide examples)

2. Indigenous and local communities

2.1. Have these programmes, developed to promote sustainable management and use of forest biological resources, addressed the specific needs of indigenous and local communities, including supporting activities of indigenous and local communities involving the use of traditional forest-related knowledge in biodiversity management? (Please provide examples)

3. Tools and criteria

3.1 Does your country assess/calculate the economic value of forest biodiversity goods and services? If yes, what are the tools/methods/criteria and reporting mechanisms used?

3.2 Which planning and modelling tools is your country/organization promoting for the sustainable management and use of forest biological diversity?

3.3 Which criteria and indicators is your country/organization using to monitor the sustainable use of forest biodiversity and assess progress in the implementation of sustainable management policies?

3.4 Does your country promote the use and sustainable management of non-timber forest resources (NTFR)? If yes, please provide information on modalities and tools of NTFR management and use.

3.5 Does your country/organization monitor unsustainable uses of forest biodiversity? If yes, what are the tools/methods/criteria and reporting mechanisms utilized?

4. Certification schemes

4.1 Is your country encouraging the implementation of voluntary independent forest certification schemes that take into consideration relevant forest biodiversity criteria, indigenous and local communities rights and NTFR management?

5. Cooperation

5.1. Is your country/organization supporting/contributing to regional cooperation initiatives and work on sustainable use of forest products and services, including through technology transfer and capacity-building programmes? If yes, please provide examples.

6. Lessons learned and recommendations

6.1 What are the lessons learned in your country/organization as it concerns the sustainable management and use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing? And what are your country/organization's specific concerns regarding these issues?

6.2. Please provide your views and recommendations, based on your country/organization's experience, for the sustainable management and use of forest biological resources and benefit-sharing.
