

A. REPORTING PARTY

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Information on the preparation of the report

Box I.

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

Information from different stakeholders was compiled during the process of preparing this report. Stakeholders included experts from government ministries – specifically the Ministry of the Environment, Israel Nature and Parks Authority, Ministry of Science, and Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, experts from various academic institutions in Israel were consulted, most specifically the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University. Information on forest biological diversity was received from scientists at the Nature and Parks Authority and from the Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael/Jewish National Fund (KKK-JNF), the organization responsible for afforestation and forest management in Israel. Information on genetic conservation was obtained from the Israel Gene Bank for Agricultural Crops, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Science and the Ministry of Agriculture. Information on inland waters and marine and coastal areas was obtained from the Ministry of the Environment, Nature

and Parks Authority and Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research.

For the purpose of filling out the questionnaire, interviews were conducted with different members of these and other organizations and, where possible, supplementary material was examined. Careful examination was also made of the documents prepared for Israel's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.

Following collection and compilation of all the material (written and oral), the questionnaire was filled in and reviewed prior to submission to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

B. PRIORITY SETTING, TARGETS AND OBSTACLES

Box II.

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

In juxtaposition to its small land area, a wide range of physical conditions and a rich variety of flora and fauna characterize Israel. The country's geographic location at the junction of three continents and at the crossroads of climatic and botanic regions endows the country with a wealth of plant and animal life including some 2,400 plant species, 7 amphibian, 100 reptile, 530 bird, over 100 mammal species and 32 fish species in rivers and lakes.

Furthermore, Israel's location in the Middle East heartland of genetic diversity of many major agricultural crops, coupled with its geographical and climatic diversity, has helped create a particularly rich collection of habitats and corresponding local varieties. Israel is one of the world's richest areas in progenitors and relatives of domesticated species.

Yet this biological diversity – of genes, species and ecosystems – is endangered largely as a result of accelerated development and population growth. While about 20 percent of Israel's land area is preserved within declared nature reserves, most of them are located in the desert area in the south of the country. Only about 3 percent of the Mediterranean region is currently protected in nature reserves.

The main problems facing nature conservation in the Mediterranean region is habitat fragmentation and ecosystem degradation. Protection of many populations (e.g., bats, sand dwelling reptiles, large predators like wolves, and other mammals such as gazelles) is impossible to achieve within the reserve system, while outside the reserves, development, habitat degradation and conflicts with agriculture and other human activities, make it difficult to preserve the small Israeli populations. Additional threats to the country's biodiversity include introduction and spread of alien species, intensive use of fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture, diversion and drying up of wetlands and environmental pollution.

Although nature conservation is well developed in Israel, as manifested in legislation and the establishment of institutions that address themselves to the subject, the country has not accorded high priority to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity until recent years. Financial constraints have also impeded adequate progress in implementing the Convention.

Over the past few years, growing realization of the importance of preserving Israel's biodiversity has led to several initiatives including a major struggle on behalf of the preservation of open spaces by both governmental and non-governmental bodies, the introduction of new management practices for nature reserves, the creation of an interdisciplinary committee on alien species, and, most importantly, the preparation of a national strategy for biological diversity in Israel. The aim of the plan is to define objectives and targets, tools and procedures for implementation in the short, medium and long terms.

The Israel Ministry of the Environment is coordinating the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategic Plan. To advance the process, a wide variety of activities has been launched including the appointment of expert teams on such subjects as education and public awareness, monitoring and research, threats and conservation measures, legislative and institutional frameworks and international aspects of biodiversity. The task force of experts hail from government ministries and public bodies – including the Nature and Parks Authority, the Ministries of Environment, Education, Science and Agriculture, and representatives of academic institutions and NGOs, including the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and the Jewish National Fund.

Following are some initiatives:

- Initiation of work on Israel's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.
- Declaration of new nature reserves and national parks.
- Expansion of the list of endangered species included in Israel's regulations on "protected natural assets."
- Publication of a Red Data Book on Israel's vertebrates. According to the Red Book, some 35% of the country's vertebrates are endangered, although the rate ranges between 20% for nesting birds to 83% for amphibians. More than half of the 34 vertebrates, which are listed as extinct, are wetland dependent species.

- Near completion of a Red Data Book on Israel's wild plants. Current information relates to 2,383 plant species, of which 148 are endemic and 405 are Red.
- Preparation of inventories on invasive fauna and flora in terrestrial and fresh water habitats and creation of a steering committee on invasive species.
- Establishment of a Long-Term Ecological Research network to investigate trends in ecosystem dynamics along Israel's rainfall gradient.
- Decision by the government to allocate 50 million cubic meters of water for nature and preparation of a policy proposal on *The Right of Nature to Water – Water Demands for Water Bodies and Wetlands* which surveys the water demands of Israel's wetlands and assesses the quantity of water required to preserve these sites including nature reserves.
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on a monitoring and data management program in the Gulf of Aqaba between Israel and Jordan (December 2003). The agreement aims to promote the long-term sustainable use and conservation of shared marine resources.
- Promulgation of an amendment to the Water Law (2004) which adds another purpose to the five already enumerated, namely: allocation of water for nature and landscapes assets, i.e., for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural assets and landscapes including rivers, springs and wetlands.
- Enactment of the Law for the Protection of the Coastal Environment Law (2004). The law aims at protecting, preserving and restoring the Mediterranean coastal environment and its natural assets, preventing damage to the coastal environment and preserving the coast and its sand resources for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.
- Continuation of reintroduction project for animals present in Biblical times, with two breeding cores in the south and north of the country, which breed animals suitable for release.
- Preparation of a document on biodiversity within the framework of preliminary documents on a sustainable development strategy for Israel.
- Efforts to conserve open spaces throughout the country based on sensitivity maps.
- Efforts to conserve urban and agricultural ecology.
- Publication of an ecological corridor policy document.
- Publication of a policy document on animal passages in roads.
- Continuation of a river restoration program.
- Establishment of new and upgraded wastewater treatment plants to stop the discharge of sewage into rivers and stringent enforcement against polluters.
- Plans to expand and upgrade the Israel Gene Bank on Agricultural Crops.
- Provision of online information about Israel's plant species including a "Plant of the Week" and a "Hike of the Week" on the Environment Ministry's website to increase public awareness.
- Increased public awareness through educational programs at all levels of the educational system, including universities, and organization of an annual "Week of Love for Nature, Water and the Environment."

Priority Setting

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

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

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

Challenges and Obstacles to Implementation

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

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

institutional weakness																		
f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	1	2	2	1	na	Na	1	Na	3	1	Na	Na	Na	Na	1	1	Na	Na
g) Loss of traditional knowledge	na	na	na	na	na	Na	1	Na	3	Na								
h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	1	1	1	1	1	Na	1	Na	3	1	2	1	1	Na	1	1	Na	Na
i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	1	1	1	1	1	Na	1	Na	3	1	1	1	1	Na	1	1	Na	Na
j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	1	2	3	2	3	Na	1	Na	3	2	3	2	2	Na	1	1	Na	Na
k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	1	1	1	2	2	Na	Na	Na	3	1	2	2	2	Na	1	1	Na	Na
l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	1	1	1	2	2	Na	Na	Na	3	Na	2	2	2	Na	1	1	Na	Na
m) Lack of financial, human,	2	2	3	3	3	Na	2	Na	3	3	3	2	2	Na	3	2	Na	Na

technical resources																		
n) Lack of economic incentive measures	3	2	3	3	3	N a	2	N a	3	3	3	3	2	N a	3	3	N a	N a
o) Lack of benefit-sharing	na	na	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a
p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	na	na	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	3	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a
q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	na	na	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a
r) Lack of effective partnerships	na	na	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a
s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	1	1	2	na	1	N a	1	N a	3	1	1	1	1	N a	1	1	N a	N a
t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	3	2	3	1	2	N a	2	N a	3	2	3	1	2	N a	2	3	N a	N a
u) Poverty	na	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a
v) Population pressure	na	N a	N a	2	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a
w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	na	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a
x) Lack of capacities for local communities	na	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a	N a
y) Lack of knowledge and practice of	na	N a	N a	N a	2	N a	2	N a	3	1	2	2	2	N a	2	N a	N a	N a

ecosystem-based approaches to management																		
z) Weak law enforcement capacity	na	Na	Na	1	2	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	2	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na
aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	na	Na	Na	3	na	Na	Na	Na	Na	2	Na	2	2	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na
bb) Others (please specify)																		

2010 Target

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

Box III.

Goal 1	Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes.
Target 1.1	At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved
National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
No	
Yes, the same as the global target	x
Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	
Please provide details below.	
<p>In a country as small as Israel, with a high rate of industrialization and urbanization, nature reserves are important to help secure the biodiversity of the natural environment. Israeli law defines a nature reserve as an area containing unique and characteristic animal, plant and mineral forms which must be protected from any undesirable changes in their appearance, biological composition or evolution. Israel's nature reserves vary in size, character and use but together they represent the entire spectrum of Israel's ecosystems, including Mediterranean forests, marine landscapes, sand dunes, freshwater landscapes, desert and crater landscapes and oases.</p> <p>Nevertheless, while about 22% of Israel's land area is preserved within declared nature reserves, most of them are located in the desert area of Israel (the Negev) and only about 3% of the Mediterranean region is currently protected in nature reserves.</p> <p>Declarations of new protected areas are expected to meet the representation of the various ecosystems in Israel</p>	

I) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water	x		Plans to increase protected areas and for management
c) Marine and coastal	x		Plans to increase protected areas and for management
d) Dry and subhumid land	x		Plans to increase protected areas and for management
e) Forest	x		The majority of Israel's forest lands fall under the jurisdiction of two agencies: the Keren Kayemeth Le'Israel (KKL) or Jewish National Fund (JNF) – an NGO responsible for all planted forests and a portion of natural forests, and the Nature and Parks Authority responsible for natural forests designated as nature reserves and/or national parks.
f) Mountain		X	Not relevant to Israel (however several mountain areas have been declared nature reserves)
II) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			x
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
<p>The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan is now in process. One of its main recommendations is to map all of Israel's remaining natural habitats, protect them, and, if necessary, restore them. All of Israel's ecosystems should then be classified and the level of their representation in protected areas should be assessed.</p> <p>In addition, Israel has a statutory National Master Plan for Nature Reserves and National Parks (Plan # 8) and a statutory National Master Plan for Forests and Forestry (Plan #22).</p>			
III) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>Israel's protected areas constitute some 22% of Israel's land area.</p> <p>By 2004, 160 nature reserves and 65 national parks were statutorily declared and established out of a total of 380 nature reserves and 115 national parks which are currently in various stages of planning and approval. In all, Israel's nature reserves (existing and planned) span an area of 6,130 thousand square kilometers and its national parks span an area of 370,000 square kilometers.</p> <p>Natural and planted forest lands are defined, designated, mapped and protected through National Master Plan 22. The current inventory is 160,000 hectares, approximately 7% of Israel's land area.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>For planning purposes, Israel's open space areas were classified and characterized according to sensitivity and value criteria. These criteria included vulnerability (based on such features as landscape, nature, flora and fauna), continuity (based on the ability of large and continuous areas to support ecosystems) and national planning and social considerations (based on the ability of open areas to serve as buffers between urban areas and to provide social services such as leisure and recreation). The integration of vulnerability, continuity and functionality provided a basis for open space sensitivity maps which delineate the "value" of open spaces throughout the country.</p>			

Landscape surveys, aerial photographs and observations are undertaken in different ecosystems throughout the country, including the arid area (Negev) and the coastal sand.

The forest area is monitored on an annual basis through aerial photography with a GIS.

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

The greatest challenge facing the conservation of the biodiversity of ecosystems, habitats and forest lands are development pressures for new and expanding communities and infrastructure.

In the Mediterranean region, the main problem is habitat fragmentation. Moreover, the small size of most of the reserves in this area makes them vulnerable to impacts from their surroundings.

VI) Please provide any other relevant information.

To respond to land-use conflicts, new approaches to open space protection have been devised and integrated into a non-statutory strategic master plan for the 21st century (Israel 2020) and into the newest (although not yet approved by the government) Integrated Master Plan on Building Development and Conservation (Plan #35).

Over the past decade and more, environmental and green organizations in Israel (both governmental and NGOs) have banded together in a campaign to preserve Israel's open spaces in the face of mounting development pressures. As part of the campaign, countrywide studies and surveys were undertaken to assess the importance of open spaces in terms of their characteristics and intrinsic potential for a variety of functions.

The Ministry of the Environment has prepared open space sensitivity maps based on data also provided by the Nature and Parks Authority, Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and Israel Lands Authority. The maps classify and characterize open spaces according to sensitivity and value criteria.

Box IV.

Target 1.2	Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X
Please provide details below.	
<p>Areas of particular importance to biodiversity are protected in nature reserves in accordance with the National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites Law and in accordance with the master plans on nature reserves and national parks and forests.</p>	
<p>Largely in order to overcome the problem of habitat fragmentation, an ecosystem assessment of open natural landscapes was undertaken by the Nature and Parks Authority and the Jewish National Fund which included an evaluation of each area based on such criteria as unique or rare elements, biodiversity in terms of species and communities, and potential for sustainability based on size and connectivity to other areas. Recommendations were subsequently made for the protection of ecological corridors in open spaces in order to conserve biodiversity of both ecosystems and species.</p>	
<p>The survey highlighted the importance of giving protection to two rare and threatened ecosystems: aquatic ecosystems and sand and kurkar rocks along the Mediterranean coast. In addition, four major axes were recommended for protection as ecological corridors: the Syrian-African Rift Valley, the Mediterranean-desert corridor which connects three biogeographical zones in Israel, a broken axis along the Mediterranean coastline to conserve the ecosystems which were identified as both rare and threatened and a desert axis to preserve the Negev desert.</p>	
<p>Protection of arid and coastal ecosystems: A background document on conservation and development of the Negev area was prepared; a policy document on the preservation of coastal sand landscapes and on the sustainable development of the country's remaining sand areas was prepared.</p>	

Wetland ecosystems: A policy and planning principles document on river restoration was prepared. Planning principles relate to the hydrological, ecological and social aspects of river restoration.

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

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water	X		A river restoration program has been prepared and is implemented. Government decisions and a 2004 amendment to the Water Law relate to the allocation of water for nature and landscapes assets, i.e., for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural assets and landscapes including rivers, springs and wetlands.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Plans for marine and coastal nature reserves and national parks are being implemented. A Protection of the Coastal Environment Law was enacted in 2004. Marine and coastal pollution prevention is a top priority in accordance with the provisions of the Barcelona Convention.
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	All of Israel is characterized as dryland.
e) Forest		X	See details below.
f) Mountain		X	N/A

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

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

Please provide details below.

The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan is now in preparation. One of its main recommendations is to map all of Israel's remaining natural habitats, protect them, and, if necessary, restore them. All of Israel's ecosystems should then be classified and the level of their representation in protected areas should be assessed.

Israel has a statutory National Master Plan for Nature Reserves and National Parks (Plan #8) and a statutory National Master Plan for Forests and Forestry (Plan #22).

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

Forests: Sites within forests identified as important habitat for plants and animals are protected from development.

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

Forests: Degree of forest patchiness

Negev desert: The classification of landscape units was based, *inter alia*, on umbrella species – *Capra ibex nubiana* as the "umbrella species" for the rocky and cliff areas and *Gazella dorcas* for the valleys and plains.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
The greatest challenges facing the protection of areas for conservation are development pressures for new and expanding communities and infrastructure.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box V.

Goal 2	Promote the conservation of species diversity		
Target 2.1	Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Ongoing implementation of conservation plans and reintroduction and reinforcement plans of populations of selected species.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	The Israel Gene Bank has targeted 200 wild relatives of crop plants for <i>ex-situ</i> conservation.
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	
f) Mountain		x	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			x
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is in preparation and the target is incorporated into it. Recommendations call for formulating detailed conservation plans, establishing priorities, and			

upgrading scientific censuses for selected populations of flora and fauna.

Israel is developing and implementing action plans for the conservation of different species of fauna, foremost among which are raptors, invertebrates, insectivorous bats and amphibians. The action plan for the country's raptors, for example, includes such components as protection of habitats as nesting sites and establishment of feeding stations, captive breeding for purposes of reinforcing endangered species and vulnerable populations, and reintroduction.

The Israel Marine Mammal Research & Assistance Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and conservation of cetacean populations that inhabit the Eastern Mediterranean and the Gulf of Eilat/Aqaba.

The Israeli Sea Turtle Rehabilitation and Research Center, run by the Nature and Parks Authority, aims to rescue and treat injured turtles washed up on the beach and to establish a core breeding group. Turtle nesting surveys take place in Israel each year and programs have been set up to discover nests along the coast, translocate the eggs to hatcheries and then release the hatchling to the sea in order to help recover the country's marine turtle population.

A Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation of Fish in the Mediterranean Sea and a Strategic Action Plan for the conservation of Shore Birds have been prepared by academics at Israel's universities but have not yet been implemented.

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

Vertebrates: To follow up on vertebrate populations censuses are undertaken at least once a year for a variety of species, the main ones including: Nubian ibex, mountain gazelle, Dorcas gazelle, Arabian gazelle, fallow deer, otter, insectivorous bats and other bats, northern jackal, wolves, marine turtles, freshwater fish, houbara, waterfowl, Griffon vulture, raptor nests, chukar, Great Cormorant and Pygmy Cormorant. The goal is to use these data to determine trends and draw conclusions with regard to conservation and management plans.

Endangered species: A Rare Data Book on Vertebrates in Israel has been completed and published and a Red Data Book on plants, based on a field survey of rare and endangered plant species, is currently being completed for publication.

Forests: Sites within forests identified as important habitats for plants and animals are protected from development; mixed species planting are undertaken to increase species richness; understory vegetation is preserved and encouraged.

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

Animals: Annual censuses of selected animal species including waterbirds, gazelles, raptors, etc. (see III above).

Forests: Level of forest vegetation complexity and structural diversity.

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

The greatest danger to species diversity lies in the accelerated development and urbanization of the country's already limited open space landscapes leading to the disappearance or disruption of habitats.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box VI .

Target 2.2		Status of threatened species improved	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target		X	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>Within the framework of the National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites Law, new regulations were promulgated in 2005 for the protection of many additional species of plants and animals. Outside nature reserves, hundreds of plants and animals species have been declared "protected natural assets." The law prohibits the taking, destroying, possessing or trading of these protected natural assets.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	N/A
f) Mountain		x	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		X	
Please provide details below.			
<p>The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which is in preparation, relates to this target. Conservation plans have been formulated and implemented for different species including raptors and gazelles. Plans include reinforcement and reintroduction schemes.</p> <p>A Rare Data Book on Vertebrates in Israel has been completed and published and a Red Data Book on plants, based on a field survey of rare and endangered plant species, is currently being completed for publication.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>Israel's recently published Red Book of Vertebrates, which is based on the criteria formulated by the IUCN, provides information on changes that have taken place in Israel's fauna in the near and distant past, with specific chapters on mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and freshwater fish in Israel. The Red Data Book includes information about the level of risk facing Israel's vertebrates and the</p>			

steps that should be taken in order to prevent their extinction. Such measures include, among others, better ecosystem management, conservation of critical habitats, prevention of the introduction of alien species, increased enforcement, declaration of new nature reserves, reduction of hunting and of poison use, and reintroduction of animals.

According to the Red Data Book on vertebrates, some 35% of the country's vertebrates are endangered, although the rate ranges between 20% for nesting birds to 83% for amphibians. The information on each species includes: level of global and regional risk, existing distribution, past distribution, habitats, risk assessment, population size, fragmentation between populations, changes in population size, actions necessary to preserve the species, and summary tables on regional and global risk levels.

Initiatives are currently being taken to improve the status of endangered species in such forms as restoration of the country's rivers and wetland habitats, more stringent control over the introduction of alien species, and reinforcement and reintroduction of species. For example, out of the 15 birds listed as extinct (11 of which are extinct as nesting birds), one is already undergoing reintroduction – the White-tailed Eagle. Other species, including the Griffon vulture and Lanner falcon, are being reinforced and returned to the Carmel region.

Israel launched a reintroduction project for animals present in Biblical times in the 1960s. Two breeding cores, Hai-Bar Carmel in the north of Israel and Hai-Bar Yotvata in the south, breed animals suitable for release. Five species were chosen for reintroduction: ostrich, roe deer, onager (Asian wild ass), Persian fallow deer and white oryx (Arabian oryx). Of these, all except the roe deer are globally endangered. The total herd of Persian fallow deer in the wild has reached more than a hundred, the largest concentration in the world.

Plants: Israel's flora comprises 2,383 species of which 405 have been identified as Red.

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

Endangered plant species have been identified by Rotem, the Israel Plant Information Center, according to five major factors: rarity (number of sites where the species is present), extinction rate and habitat vulnerability (decreasing rate in number of sites and destruction probability of the habitat), attractivity (probability of picking or exploiting the plant), endemism (species which are endemic to Israel) and peripherality (plants which are on the edge of their distribution).

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

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box VII.

Goal 3	Promote the conservation of genetic diversity		
Target 3.1	Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			x
Please provide details below.			
<p>Genetic diversity of crops is largely conserved in the Israel Gene Bank for Agricultural Crops. The aim of the Gene Bank is <i>ex-situ</i> and <i>in-situ</i> conservation of wild relatives of crop plants with an economic-agricultural and social-cultural potential for future generations.</p> <p>The genetic diversity of other species is in planning.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	The Israel Gene Bank has targeted 200 wild relatives of crop plants for <i>ex-situ</i> conservation.
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	
f) Mountain		x	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
<p>Forests: Local seed sources of native tree species are collected for propagation and used at planting sites close to the seed source.</p> <p>The Israel Gene Bank is responsible for implementing a strategy for national genetic resource conservation. Its responsibilities include, among others, the search for plants potentially suitable for extraction of beneficial substances, collection, preservation, documentation and evaluation of genetic resources of crop plants and their relatives, including landraces and primitive cultivars, and development of <i>in-situ</i> and <i>ex-situ</i> conservation techniques.</p> <p>The Israel Gene Bank has pioneered the concept of dynamic gene preservation, based on replacing static seed libraries with wild, interacting populations. The evolution of the plants continues, but the genes themselves are preserved as long as the overall system stays in a roughly steady-state equilibrium. Landmark studies on dynamic <i>in-situ</i> conservation in wild wheat populations are</p>			

undertaken at Ammiad in the eastern Galilee.

Plant species conserved at the Israel Gene Bank include:

- Domesticated plants' genepool: direct ancestors, landraces or wild relatives.
- Forage, forest and ornamental plants which can be used as source material for breeding
- Untapped potential for food related, pharmacology and chemical industries.
- Land conservation species

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

The Israel Gene Bank conserves genetic resources of crops for the benefit of agriculture. It has identified 200 species as target species which have been collected and investigated over the past seven years. In the past, most of the collections were made in selected areas in which the vegetation is most endangered. At present, organized collection of chosen species which warrant broad representation in the Gene Bank is also undertaken according to the distribution areas of different plants for assessment purposes.

The Gene Bank is compiling a database for each target species, including data on distribution, reproductive biology, growth requirements and uses in breeding. In the database for individual collections, the Gene Bank uses the FAO/IPGRI Multi-crop Passport descriptors along with data on methods of sampling and fuller data on the provenance of each collection, such as the physical and phenotypic structure of the source population, other species associated with that population and data on topography and soil.

Plans are currently being initiated to significantly expand and modernize the Israel Gene Bank, to improve the infrastructure and the database.

In addition, botanical gardens are used for *ex-situ* conservation.

In Ramat Hanadiv, a nature spot northeast of Caesaria, extensive monitoring and research have been undertaken since 1993 to determine how best to preserve biological diversity.

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

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

Israel is characterized by a wide range of agro-climatic conditions, which account for the country's rich biodiversity. It is the meeting point of three major phytogeographical regions: the Mediterranean, the Irano-Turanian and Saharo-Arabian. Ten percent of these species are related to Old World crop plants or are in folk use as medicinal or spice plants. Yet housing projects, road construction, industrial parks and intensive farming threaten this highly valuable plant genetic resource.

Rescue by *ex-situ* conservation should be expanded and should include additional plant species which are not only agricultural crops. The Israel Gene Bank has drafted plans for the expansion of the collections designated for collection, maintenance, conservation and research and for improved and expanded documentation in a database. However, financial constraints have slowed progress in this direction.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box VIII.

Goal 4	Promote sustainable use and consumption.		
Target 4.1	Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	See details below.
f) Mountain		x	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
<p>Israel's forests are primarily managed for their societal/cultural values with the production of forest based resources occupying a small part of overall forest management activities.</p> <p>Similarly, nature reserves and national parks are primarily managed for the protection of nature and promotion of societal values as recreation and leisure areas.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

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

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box IX.

Target 4.2	Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	
f) Mountain		x	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			

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

Box X.

Target 4.3	No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
All CITES species have been declared protected by law, under Israeli legislation. Commercial use of local species is prohibited by law.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	
f) Mountain		x	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			

b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	x
Please provide details below.	
Enforcement measures are implemented in cooperation with other sectors and offices.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
Further cooperation is needed as well as resources for enforcement.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XI .

Goal 5	Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.		
Target 5.1	Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			x
Please provide details below.			
This goal is incorporated in the national planning system.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	

d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	
f) Mountain		x	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		x	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		x	
Please provide details below.			
<p>The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, which is in preparation, relates to this target. Protection of lands from uncontrolled and detrimental development is a top management priority. A strategy of sustainable development of Israel's protected areas and forest resources includes preservation, protection and the possibility for intelligent development of these areas.</p> <p>The National Planning and Building Board, at the top level of planning in Israel, includes a statutory Committee for Protection of Agricultural Lands and Open Spaces, responsible for protecting lands of agricultural value and open spaces.</p> <p>The recently enacted Protection of the Coastal Environment Law (2004) establishes principles and limitations for the sustainable management, development and use of the coastal environment. The law calls for the entire area extending from Israel's territorial waters to 300 meters inland to be protected from damage. The law establishes a Protection of the Coastal Environment Committee, which is responsible for decisions on coastal development plans, taking into account such considerations as preventing damage to the coastal environment, preserving the coast for public benefit, assuring public access to the coast and conserving nature, landscape and heritage values.</p> <p>Israel's Integrated National Master Plan for Planning, Building and Conservation (Plan # 35), which has been approved by the National Planning and Building Board but not yet by the government, endeavors to institutionalize sustainable development principles. Although not yet approved as a statutory document, its principles are well established among planning agencies. Based on the recommendations of landscape sensitivity mapping, the master plan sets out rules to prevent urban sprawl and distinguishes between regions which will remain rural and areas with a potential for urban development. It proposes open spaces along watercourses, buffer zones between urban areas and protection of the urban shoreline as public open space. It identifies areas worthy of preservation and sets the principle of protecting agricultural and landscape open space.</p> <p>Efforts have been made to reduce unsustainable water use in recent years and to promote water conservation. A river restoration program was inaugurated in 1993 which, among others, relates to restoration of rivers and their environs for purposes of nature protection, recreation, tourism, education and research.</p> <p>Major efforts have been made to reduce the pollution of the country's water sources, to upgrade the quality of wastewater, to conserve water and to prosecute offenders.</p> <p>A "Transitional Master Plan for Water Sector Development in the years 2002-2010" has been prepared by the Water Commission. It relates to policy, institutional and operational changes required to improve Israel's water balance and its water quality. Among its major principles: legitimizing environmental needs through water allocations to sustain wetlands and rivers for nature conservation and recreational purposes and rehabilitating natural water sources and maintaining their quality to enable them to serve both as the sources and the main regulating reservoirs for the water.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			

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

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
Pressures for development continue and conflicts often result from competing land uses.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.
Conservation and wise use of the Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret) continues with cooperative and integrated efforts by such bodies as the Kinneret Authority and the Yigal Allon Kinneret Limnological Laboratory.
A National Master Plan on Rivers and Drainage was initiated in 2004. It aims at assuring the functions of rivers as drainage channels for flood control while, at the same time, assuring the continued existence and functioning of rivers and their environs for both rehabilitation, restoration and development of landscape values, ecology and culture and for leisure and recreation purposes.

Box XII.

Goal 6	Control threats from invasive alien species.		
Target 6.1	Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
A strategy was planned and is being implemented.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	x		Reduce import of potential invasives
b) Inland water	x		Reduce import of potential invasives
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land	x		Reduce import of potential invasives
e) Forest	x		Reduce import of potential invasives
f) Mountain		x	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			

b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	x
Please provide details below.	
<p>A program to reduce the risk from invasive species and control existing ones was designed and is being implemented.</p> <p>Israel's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, now in preparation, specifically relates to the subject of invasive species. Initial recommendations call for creating professional and administrative forums to determine priorities and measures for controlling and eradicating invasive species, preventing the introduction of alien species into the country and defining means for reducing the size of invasive species populations in Israel.</p>	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
<p>An Introduction Committee within the Ministry of Agriculture coordinates agricultural and horticultural introductions all over the country. New species are checked in experimental gardens. If found to be invasive, they are eradicated and their introduction is prohibited.</p> <p>The Nature and Parks Authority has developed a risk assessment model to limit the import of potentially harmful wildlife into the country. Import of some species is prevented and controlled in the country's seaports and airports.</p> <p>Surveys of alien species are conducted in nature reserves and management activities aim to eliminate these species from the reserves and their surroundings.</p> <p>Forests: Measures include the cessation of planting known and potential invasive tree species; treatment of invasive species populations within the forest; funding of research on the control of invasive species.</p>	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
Lack of resources.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XIII.

Target 6.2	Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			x
Please provide details below.			
Specific management plans were designed for some of the species.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	
f) Mountain		x	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			x
Please provide details below.			
Israel's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan specifically relates to threats from alien species.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Some plans to reduce the impact of alien species are already implemented along with research programs, workshops and outreach activities.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
Insufficient resources.			

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

A study by a student in Tel Aviv University has developed an updated inventory of invasive fauna in terrestrial and fresh water habitats.

A policy document on "Alien Plant Species in Protected and Open Areas in the Central District" was published by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment. The study proposes principles and practical measures that may be incorporated in an environmental policy targeted at eradicating and controlling alien species.

A research study is being undertaken by Ben-Gurion University, with the participation of researchers from the Hebrew University and the Volcani Institute, on management tools for suppressing the spread of invasive species through a combination of methods, with an emphasis on the suppression of the gene bank.

Box XIV.

Goal 7	Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.		
Target 7.1	Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Not yet incorporated in national planning.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			

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

Israel's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan relates to the impact of climatic changes on biodiversity.

Current global change models predict drastic changes in precipitation in Mediterranean and semiarid areas of the Middle East. Changes in these areas are likely to affect natural communities, leading to important changes in ecosystem functioning and land-use patterns. There is almost no information based on experimental approaches which allows predicting the impacts of these changes on natural plant and animal communities and ecosystem functioning.

Israel is participating in the GLOWA-JR project which is an interdisciplinary project, financed by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research in cooperation with the Israel Ministry of Science. The project studies the potential impacts of global change and global warming on the availability of water sources in Israel. Special emphasis is placed on the impact on the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee. The research involves 16 research groups from most of Israel's academic institutions which relate to such aspects as: climate change, agriculture, ecosystems, socio-economic impacts, water pollution, etc. The aims of the project are to understand the effects of global climate change on soil, run-off, populations, communities and ecosystem properties in Mediterranean to arid ecosystems in Israel. The specific goals of the GLOWA Jordan River Project are to provide empirical data for modeling and predicting ecosystem responses to climate change in an environmentally sensitive area, serving as a model system for other dry lands in the world, and to obtain knowledge of the factors that control ecosystem composition, structure and functioning in the face of global climate change.

Israel's National Report on Climate Change (2000) includes information on the vulnerability of biodiversity to climate change.

Assessments made during Israel's recent drought years (1999-2002) relate to the vulnerability of wetland ecosystems to change in ecological character and to the impacts of climate change which include potential for reduced rainfall.

Peripheral populations: Studies undertaken by researchers in academic institutes in Israel suggest that the prospective loss of biodiversity due to global warming may be mitigated by an exploitation of the genetic diversity of species living in the semiarid ecosystems of Israel. It has been hypothesized that peripheral populations may persist under conditions of climate change and may be used to rehabilitate the core areas of distribution of their species. These semiarid regions, which constitute climatic transition areas between arid and dry subhumid regions, constitute a repository of unique within-species biodiversity, with great evolutionary potential for rehabilitation purposes. Thus the conservation of habitats in the semiarid region constitutes a potential climate change mitigation strategy. In Israel, the semiarid region is the one richest with peripheral populations. It was found, for example, by Kark S., Alkon P.U., Safriel U.N. and Randi E., that the genetic variability, as expressed in allozyme diversity, increased in the Israeli chukar partridge *Alectoris chukar*, from the core to the periphery. Therefore, it has been recommended that higher conservation priority be assigned to the Mediterranean-Negev ecotone area.

Forests: Activities include the planting and planning of mixed species forests; the use of a wide variety of provenances to insure resilience to climatic fluctuations.

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

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

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

In March 1997, an Expert Meeting on Synergies among the Conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change, Combating Desertification and the Forest Principles took place at the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research at the Sede Boqer campus of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

Box XV.

Target 7.2		Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X	
Please provide details below.			
<p>The Ministry of the Environment is charged with preventing pollution from all sources. Several laws and regulations deal with the prevention of pollution and its impacts on biodiversity.</p> <p>Israel's Water Law of 1959 specifically relates to the prevention of water pollution which may harm, <i>inter alia</i>, animal or plant life.</p> <p>Israel's marine pollution prevention laws, which relate to oil spills, dumping, and land-based sources, prohibit the pollution of the sea.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water	X		Pollution prevention programs in Israel's rivers, the Sea of Galilee and the Gulf of Eilat have been instituted to reach a variety of goals, including preservation and rehabilitation of ecosystems and biodiversity.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Pollution prevention and river restoration programs have been instituted in Israel's coastal streams. Marine pollution protection is ensured through the stringent implementation and enforcement of laws.
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest	X		The cessation of slash burning in all forests from 1 May 2005.
f) Mountain		x	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		X	
Please provide details below.			
<p>Pollution prevention is an integral part of Israel's river restoration program and its marine and coastal protection programs.</p> <p>A "Clean Coast" project has been introduced by the Ministry of the Environment, with the cooperation of local authorities and volunteers, to clean up the coast.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Pollution prevention for the purpose, <i>inter alia</i> , of biodiversity conservation is largely aimed at cleaning up Israel's water sources and wetlands and protecting its coastal and marine areas,			

although activities to reduce air and soil pollution and promote sustainable agriculture through the minimization of pesticide use, promotion of organic agriculture, etc. are being promoted as well. The Ministry of the Environment has placed river restoration high on its list of priorities. To date, 14 local administrations for river restoration have been set up and tens of millions of dollars have been invested in restoring the country's ailing rivers. In parallel, new and upgraded wastewater treatment plants have helped stop the discharge of sewage into rivers and stringent enforcement against polluters has been carried out.

In 2004, the Law for the Protection of the Coastal Environment Law came into force in Israel. The law aims at protecting, preserving and restoring the Mediterranean coastal environment and its natural assets, preventing damage to the coastal environment and preserving the coast and its sand resources for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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

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

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XVI .

Goal 8	Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods.		
Target 8.1	Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
On the one hand, the subject of ecosystem capacity to support livelihoods is less relevant to Israel. On the other hand, as a country defined as a dryland, the most important ecosystem services relate to water – water collection, flood control, natural treatment of wastewater, and potential for leisure and recreation activities.			
Efforts to preserve and restore ecosystems such as the coastal ecosystem or wetlands are aimed, <i>inter alia</i> , at providing open spaces for public recreation and leisure and separating open space and built-up space.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	River restoration programs aim at promoting the ability of rivers to serve as drainage channels for flood control and developing the environs of rivers for purposes of biodiversity conservation, recreation, tourism, education

			and research.
c) Marine and coastal		x	The coastal master plan and the recently enacted Protection of the Coastal Environment Law relate to sustainable protection and development of the coastal ecosystem for the benefit of present and future generations.
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	The JNF has adopted a strategy of sustainable development to ensure a balanced approach to development and preservation of Israel's forest resources.
f) Mountain		x	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			
<p>Within the framework of the preparation of initial documents on sustainable development in Israel, a target group on biodiversity prepared a document which relates, <i>inter alia</i>, to ecosystem "goods" and "services" and lists the goods and services of different ecosystems in Israel, along with risks and threats to them and proposals for their sustainable development.</p>			

Box XVII.

Target 8.2	Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Not relevant to Israel.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	
f) Mountain		x	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XVIII.

Goal 9	Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities.		
Target 9.1	Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Not relevant to Israel.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	
f) Mountain		x	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

A few centers of activities based in academic institutions, agricultural research organizations and experimental farms, deal with the development and application of traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities.

One of these centers, the Regional Research and Development Center of the Galilee Society, sponsored a project on the medicinal properties of plants used in traditional healing. As part of the project, dozens of species used in traditional Arab folk medicine were grown in a greenhouse to the point where their medicinal properties could be tested in modern laboratories. The project involved scientists and researchers in door-to-door survey of all traditional Arab healers, both for the purpose of preserving the medicinal power of the plants as well as to keep the tradition alive. The medicinal plants project documents and collects plants used in traditional Arab healing and extracts bioactive compounds from the plants and tests them for efficacy in treating diseases such as liver cancer, diabetes and skin diseases.

Palevitch and Yaniv, in a 1991 Hebrew publication, mention over 400 wild species used for medicinal purposes. A multi-volume encyclopedia (in Hebrew) of medicinal plants and spices has been published in Israel.

Box XIX.

Target 9.2	Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Not relevant.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		x	
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest		x	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and			

strategies?	
a) No	x
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XX.

Goal 10	Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.		
Target 10.1	All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, which is in preparation, relates to genetic resources. The Israel Gene Bank operates in accordance with these agreements.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	The Israel Gene Bank acts in accordance with these

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

Box XXI .

Target 10.2	Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			x
Please provide details below.			
The Israel Gene Bank utilizes genetic resources for collection and research purposes.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	The Israel Gene Bank for Agricultural Crops works in accordance with a Letter of Commitment to this effect
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Persons or companies requesting plant material from the Israel Gene Bank are obliged to sign a Letter of Commitment undertaking to comply with the CBD, CITES and the laws and regulations which govern the release of genetic material in their country.			
If the material is to be used for commercial purposes, prior consent and a separate agreement with the owner/country of origin is required. In such a case, benefits are to be shared with the owner/country of origin as per the agreement.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

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

Box XXII.

Goal 11	Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention.		
Target 11.1	New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
Financial resources are very limited.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XXIII.

Target 11.2	Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			x
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
There is an international assistance project to help developing countries that takes place in Israel. The MASHAV (Center for International Cooperation) program in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides agricultural training to developing country Parties, including courses on crops for arid and semiarid zones.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	x		International courses
b) Inland water		x	
c) Marine and coastal		x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	
e) Forest	x		The KKL is member of the International Arid Lands Consortium supporting research and technology transfer for arid land management.
f) Mountain		x	N/A
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			x
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			

c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
Resources are very limited for this goal.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)

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

Box XXIV.

Target 1. A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
A checklist of plants in Israel and neighboring countries was prepared and published in 1999 – "Checklist and Ecological Data -Base of the Flora of Israel and its Surroundings."	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
The goal of compiling data on the status of Israel's biodiversity, including all known plant species, is included in Israel's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, now in preparation.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	

Rotem, the Israel Plant Information Center, in cooperation with the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, has developed a comprehensive database of Israel's wild plants which is based on over 650,000 observations by people throughout the country who report on the location and blooming times of different plants. Access to listings of 2,383 plant species, including endemic, rare and endangered species, is available on the Ministry of the Environment's website.

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

Rotem, the Israel Plant Information Center, continues to undertake research on the geographic distribution, biology and phenology of wild plants in Israel.

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

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXV.

Target 2. A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.

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

a) Yes

x

b) No

Please specify

The conservation status of each plant species was evaluated and a list of endangered species was established.

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

a) Yes

x

b) No

Please specify

A Red Data Book for plants is in preparation.

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

According to Rotem, the Israel Plant Information Center, Israel's flora comprises 2,383 species, of which 405 are Red. The Red List includes all of Israel's endangered plants species.

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

A new list of plants to be protected under new regulations on protected natural assets.

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

Rotem, the Israel Plant Information Center, has identified Israel's endangered plants based on five major factors: rarity (number of sites where the species is present), extinction rate and habitat vulnerability (decreasing rate in number of sites and destruction probability of the habitat), attractivity (probability of picking or exploiting the plant), endemism and peripherality (plants which are at the edge of their distribution).

A map has been prepared which identifies Israel's botanic hotspots and makes information on Israel's rare and "red plants" and their geographic distribution available for the purpose of setting priorities for the conservation and development policies in Israel. The information will be incorporated in the Red Data Book of wild plant species.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXVI.

Target 3. Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.

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

a) Yes

b) No

x

Please specify

There are some conservation programs for plant populations, not yet related to the GISP.

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

a) Yes

b) No

x

Please specify

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

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

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

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXVII.

Target 4. At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
Plans for the establishment of protected areas for conservation are being implemented. Over 20% of the country's land area is designated for protection as nature reserves or national parks.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Protected areas are planned to incorporate all types of ecosystems.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
22% of Israel is declared as protected areas.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Declaration efforts are ongoing.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
There is a yearly increase in protected areas.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Limited lands and competition for their uses.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXVIII.

Target 5. Protection of fifty percent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
Strategic planning is not yet established for this target.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXIX.

Target 6. At least thirty percent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
Not relevant to Israel's situation.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXX.

Target 7. Sixty percent of the world's threatened species conserved <i>In-situ</i>.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>Conservation plans are aimed at protecting most plant species of Israel.</p> <p>Israel's Gene Bank for Agricultural Crops includes <i>in-situ</i> conservation methods, in which wild species and relatives of domesticated crops are preserved in their natural habitat. A notable example is a study of the genetic diversity and population dynamics of wild emmer wheat on a hilly slope near Ammiad in the Eastern Galilee.</p>	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>Management plans are also targeted at plant protection.</p>	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>Most endangered species are protected by law (National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites Law (Protected Natural Assets), which was amended in 2005 to include additional species.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p>Promulgation of regulations to protect endangered species.</p>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
<p></p>	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
<p></p>	
VII) Any other relevant information	
<p></p>	

Box XXXI.

Target 8. Sixty percent of threatened plant species in accessible <i>Ex-situ</i> collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 percent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
Target has been incorporated into plans by the Israel Gene Bank for Agricultural Crops (see below).	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<i>Ex-situ</i> conservation is practiced in botanical gardens in various locations in Israel.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
The Israel Gene Bank for Agricultural Crops plans to increase its activities to include conservation of non-agricultural threatened plant species.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Financial constraints.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXII.

Target 9. Seventy percent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Gene banks are maintained and developed.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Target incorporated in the currently prepared National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan. Target is incorporated in the work plan of the Israel Gene Bank for Agricultural Crops.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>In the 1990s, a list of some 200 plant species, considered to be main candidates for <i>ex-situ</i> conservation, was compiled by botanists in Israel's universities. Since then, many of these species have been collected annually and deposited in the Israel Gene Bank for Agricultural Crops. Emphasis is placed on garnering a maximum of genetic variation. Until recently, most of the collections were made in selected areas in which the vegetation is most endangered. More recently, a few chosen species that warrant broad representation in the Gene Bank are systematically collected throughout their distribution area in the country.</p> <p><i>Ex situ</i> conservation includes the collection of seeds or cuttings of land races and/or primitive cultivars of field and garden crops, forage crops and fruit trees from different regions of Israel and their storage either at low temperature (seeds) or in parks (trees). For species such as <i>Allium sativum</i>, vegetative conservation in the field is practiced. Tissue culture methods serve for conservation of various fruit trees.</p> <p>Israel has one of the largest and most accessible collections of wild wheat, barley, oats, and legumes in the world, as well as a wealth of wild fruits and other important crops such as <i>Alliums</i>. Israel's <i>ex-situ</i> collections include over 100 species-specific accessions in universities throughout Israel which form part of the decentralized Israel Gene Bank.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Financial constraints.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIII.

Target 10. Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
A program has been developed to deal with alien species.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, now in preparation, relates to management plans for major alien species.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan is in preparation. Meanwhile, an interdisciplinary committee has been formed to advance the subject on the national level.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
Universities in Israel have prepared inventories of invasive fauna in terrestrial and fresh water habitats and lists of alien vascular plant species. Studies have been initiated on management tools for suppressing the spread of invasive species through a combination of methods.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIV.

Target 11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please specify	
Target is incorporated into the currently prepared National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please specify	
All CITES species are protected by law in Israel.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Legislation follows enforcement needs.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Lack of resources.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXV.

Target 12. Thirty percent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
Not relevant.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVI.

Target 13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
Nor relevant.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVII .

Target 14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
Special emphasis is placed on communication, education and public awareness programs on plant diversity. New programs and publications are constantly being developed in addition to websites on the subject.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
Target incorporated in National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>There are workshops and publications on the subject.</p> <p>Rotem, the Israel Plant Information Center, and the Ministry of the Environment have cooperated in transforming different aspects of the Rotem database on Israel's flora into a user-friendly, internet-based guide to the wild plants of Israel. The electronic guide is accessible on the Environment Ministry's website and includes a lexicon of Israel's wild plants, with their names and synonyms in Hebrew, Arabic, Latin and English, immediate access to photographs of Israel's wild plants, a distribution map for each plant with information on blooming periods and plant characteristics, a description of plant uses and folklore. As of December 2004, the website includes weekly online information about a blossoming plant and where it can be found – a "Plant of the Week" accompanied by a "Hike of the Week."</p> <p>The Society for the Protection of Nature and the Nature and Parks Authority organize guided tours to different parts of the country, with the aim of acquainting the public with Israel's plant heritage.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Publications, websites, tours, organization of nature protection week. For the past two years, Israel has organized a Week of Love for Nature, Water and the Environment with emphasis on biodiversity of wetlands.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Lack of resources.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVIII.

Target 15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
No resources or facilities.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
No allocation of resources.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Inadequate resources.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIX.

Target 16. Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
Observational databases developed and available.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
The target has been integrated in the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan which is in preparation.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>There are partnerships with BioCASE, a biodiversity collection access service for Europe, and other international information facilities.</p> <p>The Hebrew University of Jerusalem operates BioGIS, a Geographical Information System established to create a national database of Israel's flora and fauna. The BioGIS database compiles records of plant and animal species from herbaria and museum collections and from surveys carried out by academic institutions, individual scientists, government authorities and non-governmental organizations in Israel. The Internet-based biodiversity information system (www.biogis.huji.ac.il) is available online.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Further development of information systems.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Lack of resources.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XL.

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

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

- a. **Checklist of all plants.**
- b. **List of threatened and endangered plants.**
- c. **Development of management plans.**
- d. **Implementation of management plans and increase in protected areas.**
- e. **Better knowledge on the state of conservation.**
- f. **Lack of resources for research and implementation.**

Ecosystem Approach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. ? Has your country promoted regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) Yes, informal cooperation (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, formal cooperation (please provide details below)	x
Further comments on regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders.	
In December 2003, Israel and Jordan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a monitoring and data management program in the Gulf of Aqaba. The agreement recognizes the importance of transboundary coordination and cooperation between the national monitoring programs of both countries to promote the long term sustainable use and conservation of their shared marine resources.	

7. Is your country facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach? (decisions VI/12 and VII/11)	
a) No	x
b) No, some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach.	

8. Is your country creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach, including through development of appropriate institutional frameworks? (decision VII/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant policies and programmes are under development	x
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

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

Israel is involved in such programs as bridging the rift within the framework of the World Heritage Convention and others. The Great Rift Valley is a crossroads for biodiversity and is the major corridor for migrating birds. Efforts are concentrating on developing a strategy for identifying the Great Rift Valley as an outstanding, unique system with significant natural values on a global scale.

Friends of the Earth Middle East (an NGO) has prepared a concept document and organized an international workshop on "Crossing the Jordan", to map out a strategy to rehabilitate the Jordan River. Ecological rehabilitation of the river is a commitment agreed to by the governments of Jordan and Israel under Environment Annex IV of their 1994 Peace Treaty. According to this Annex, the parties are to cooperate on the ecological rehabilitation of the Jordan River, on the establishment of nature reserves and protected areas and on the promotion of tourism and historic heritage.

C. ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

Article 5 – Cooperation

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

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

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

Israel is cooperating with other Parties within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, the Mediterranean Center of IUCN, the Ramsar Convention and other multilateral and regional activities.

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

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

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

Israel is involved in programs like BioCASE, networking to facilitate the exchange of biodiversity information within Europe, INTERREG, a protected areas networking for Mediterranean countries, and others.

Within the framework of the Short and Medium-Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) of the Barcelona Initiative, one of the projects in which Israel and six other countries are participating, relates to a "regional project for development of marine and coastal protected areas in the Mediterranean region." The project includes the elaboration of management plans for the marine areas of the countries.

A three-year Binational Red Sea Marine Peace Park project between Israel and Jordan, funded by the Middle East Cooperation Program (MERC) of the U.S. Agency for International Development, was implemented. In the aftermath of the project, in December 2003, Israel and Jordan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a monitoring and data management program in the Gulf of Aqaba. The agreement recognizes the importance of transboundary coordination and cooperation between the national monitoring programs of both countries to promote the long term sustainable use and conservation of their shared marine resources.

Plans have also been proposed, by both governmental and non-governmental organizations, for the wise use and development of the Dead Sea area in terms of tourism, recreation and development. Programs have been prepared for declaring biosphere reserves in the Dead Sea and Negev Mountain areas.

MASHAV, the Center for International Cooperation of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, conducts training and consultancies in Israel and abroad. Agricultural research, water management, environmental conservation and education are important priorities in these cooperatives projects.

The Society for the Protection of Nature (Israel's largest environmental NGO) and Tel Aviv University have set up an International Center for the Study of Bird Migration in Latrun, midway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, at the center of the western migration route through Israel. Several research studies, which bring together researchers from the Middle East, Europe and West Asia and Africa, are carried out at this and at other centers in Israel. In addition, a unique Internet site was developed in Israel, which links schoolchildren from all over the world in tracking migrating birds. The project is known as "Migrating Birds Know No Boundaries" and can be accessed at: <http://www.birds.org.il>.

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

a) No	
b) No, but steps are under consideration	x
c) Yes, some steps are being taken (please specify below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive steps are being taken (please specify below)	
Further comments on the harmonization of policies and programmes at the national level.	
All considerations are within the framework of existing conventions and agreements.	

Box XLI.

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

Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use

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

a) No	
b) No, but relevant strategies, plans and programmes are under development	x
c) Yes, some strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the strategies, plans and programmes for implementing the three objectives of the Convention.	
The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan is under development. At present, implementation of different articles of the Biodiversity Convention is carried out within the framework of national, academic and non-governmental institutions, on a piecemeal basis.	

13. ? Has your country set measurable targets within its national strategies and action plans?

(decisions II/7 and III/9)	
a) No	
b) No, measurable targets are still in early stages of development	x
c) No, but measurable targets are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, relevant targets are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, reports on implementation of relevant targets available (please provide details below)	
Further comments on targets set within national biodiversity strategies and action plans.	
These will be incorporated within the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.	

14. Has your country identified priority actions in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan? (decision VI/27 A)	
a) No	
b) No, but priority actions are being identified	x
c) Yes, priority actions identified (please provide details below)	
Further comments on priority actions identified in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	
The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan calls for priority actions in several areas, including: setting up a computerized national database on biodiversity; establishing a central natural history museum, mapping and classification of all of Israel's natural habitats and assessing the level of their representation in protected areas; addressing the threat to biodiversity from invasive species; formulating detailed conservation plans for endangered species and upgrading scientific censuses of selected populations of flora and fauna.	

15. Has your country integrated the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as benefit sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision VI/27 A)	
a) No	x
b) Yes, in some sectors (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, in major sectors (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, in all sectors (please provide details below)	
Further information on integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	
This was not considered yet.	
However, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for the benefit of the public is incorporated into Israel's master plan on nature reserves and national parks and the master plan on forests. Israel's river restoration program takes account of the social and aesthetic aspects of biodiversity.	

16. Are migratory species and their habitats addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan (NBSAP)? (decision VI/20)	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
I) If YES, please briefly describe the extent to which it addresses	
(a) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species	Migratory species are protected by law and their habitats are protected.
(b) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats, including protected areas	Programs exist for restoration of habitats and declaration of protected areas. Restoration of migratory bird habitats is ongoing.
(c) Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration	This is considered in Environmental Impact Assessments.
(d) Research and monitoring for migratory species	There are censuses and research on ADC of migratory species. Annual censuses of waterbird populations are carried out by professionals and the general public. An International Center for the Study of Bird Migration was established in Latrun, at the center of the western migration route through Israel. The center is dedicated to research and education about migrating birds.
(e) Transboundary movement	Within the context of research and conservation of migrating bird species, a website on Migrating Birds Know No Boundaries, www.birds.org.il , provides information on bird migration, with real-time information on birds fitted with satellite transmitters.
II) If NO, please briefly indicate below	
(a) The extent to which your country addresses migratory species at national level	
(b) Cooperation with other Range States since 2000	

Biodiversity and Climate Change

17. Has your country implemented projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	X
b) No, but some projects or programs are under development	
c) Yes, some projects have been implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.	
<p>Awareness is only beginning.</p> <p>Close to 100,000 hectares of forests were planted over the past 100 years in Israel.</p> <p>Israel's national report on climate change (2000) includes a chapter on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change that relates to biodiversity as well.</p> <p>A Long-Term Ecological Research network has been initiated which aims at understanding long-term trends in ecosystem dynamics along Israel's rainfall gradient.</p>	

18. Has your country facilitated coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	x
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, relevant mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the UNFCCC and the UNCCD.	
<p>Initial ideas were discussed during an Expert Meeting on Synergies among the conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change, Combating Desertification and the Forest Principles, which took place at the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research at the Sede Boqer campus of Ben Gurion University of the Negev in 1997.</p>	

Box XLII .

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Better conservation of migratory species. b) Better protection of biodiversity. c) Some contribution. d) Part of the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan that is in progress. e) No contribution so far. f) Lack of knowledge and resources.

Article 7 - Identification and monitoring

19. ? On Article 7(a), does your country have an ongoing programme to identify components of biological diversity at the genetic, species, ecosystem level?	
a) No	
b) Yes, selected/partial programmes at the genetic, species and/or ecosystem level only (please specify and provide details below)	X
c) Yes, complete programmes at ecosystem level and selected/partial inventories at the genetic and/or species level (please specify and provide details below)	
Further comments on ongoing programmes to identify components of biodiversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.	
<p>The Israel Gene Bank has a program for identifying components of biological diversity at the genetic level while the Nature and Parks Authority and academic institutions are involved in identifying components of biodiversity at species and ecosystem levels. A national ongoing program for this purpose is planned for the future.</p> <p>A Long-Term Ecological Research network operates in Israel, one of whose goals is to investigate the structure, function and long-term dynamics of ecological systems and their impact on biodiversity in specific sites along Israel's rainfall gradient.</p>	

20. ? On Article 7(b), which components of biological diversity identified in accordance with Annex I of the Convention, have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes?	
a) at ecosystem level (please provide percentage based on area covered)	10% of protected areas
b) at species level (please provide number of species per taxonomic group and percentage of total known number of species in each group)	<p>Aves – all raptors, all waterbirds (annual waterfowl census), passerine birds are monitored by mist nets.</p> <p>Mammals – 7 species + all bat species (based on vocal identification) counts.</p> <p>Fish: 2 species</p> <p>Reptiles: 1 species</p> <p>Amphibians: all species (6)</p>
c) at genetic level (please indicate number and focus of monitoring programmes)	Based on specific needs only, on a single species basis only.
Further comments on ongoing monitoring programmes at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.	
Monitoring focuses on endangered or problematic species.	

21. ? On Article 7(c), does your country have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes on any of the following key threats to biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) Yes, invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, climate change (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, pollution/eutrophication (please provide details below)	x
e) Yes, land use change/land degradation (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, overexploitation or unsustainable use (please provide details below)	
Further comments on monitoring programmes on key threats to biodiversity.	
<p>Surveillance and sporadic monitoring has begun for invasive species. Ongoing monitoring of air quality is undertaken. Water quality is monitored in most of Israel's rivers. A National Monitoring Program operates in the Gulf of Eilat (Red Sea) in which pollution, eutrophication and other biotic and a-biotic factors are measured. A monitoring program operates in the Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret). A National Monitoring Program operates in the Mediterranean Sea. Monitoring of water in aquifers relates to water levels, water extraction, and chloride and nitrate concentrations.</p>	

22. ? On Article 7 (d), does your country have a mechanism to maintain and organize data derived from inventories and monitoring programmes and coordinate information collection and management at the national level?	
a) No	
b) No, but some mechanisms or systems are being considered	
c) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are being established	x
d) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are in place (please provide details below)	x
e) Yes, a relatively complete system is in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the coordination of data and information collection and management.	
<p>Some information sources have been developed, such as ww2.bgbm.org/natureinfo, within the framework of the BioCASE program, which is an observational database on species in Israel. A GIS based mechanism (BioGIS) operates at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Information on air quality monitoring is available online on the website of the Ministry of the Environment – www.environment.gov.il. The Water Commission's Hydrological Service publishes the results of its groundwater monitoring on an annual basis.</p>	

23. ? Does your country use indicators for national-level monitoring of biodiversity? (decision III/10)	
a) No	x
b) No, but identification of potential indicators is under way (please describe)	
c) Yes, some indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
d) Yes, a relatively complete set of indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
Further comments on the indicators identified and in use.	
No national program has been developed yet. However, the Ministry of the Environment, the Israel Bureau of Statistics and the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies have initiated the preparation of a list of proposed environmental and sustainability indicators.	

Box XLIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation. 	
The use of indicators and implementation of monitoring is very limited and planning is in early stages.	

Decisions on Taxonomy

24. ? Has your country developed a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	
b) No, but a plan is under development	x
c) Yes, a plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, reports on implementation available (please provide details below)	
Further information on a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1.	
<p>This is part of the development of the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.</p> <p>Israel has extensive natural history collections and the collections that exist in Israel's universities have regional significance. These natural history collections serve as centers for taxonomic expertise and biodiversity research. The collections in Tel Aviv University and in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem are viewed as a National Museum of Natural History in the making. However, until recently, recommendations relating to the creation of a central system for biological collections, and financial support of the project were not implemented. At present, there is some hope that a museum of the national collections of natural history will be established within the framework of Tel</p>	

Aviv University.

In addition to the collections in Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, collections exist in Haifa University, Bar-Ilan University, the Institute of Evolution of Haifa University and the Israel Gene Bank for Agricultural Crops.

25.? Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections? (decision IV/1)

a) No

x

b) Yes (please provide details below)

Further information on investment on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections.

The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan recommends the establishment of an appropriate central infrastructure for Israel's national taxonomic collections. Efforts are currently invested in this direction.

26.? Does your country provide training programmes in taxonomy and work to increase its capacity of taxonomic research? (decision IV/1)

a) No

x

b) Yes (please provide details below)

Further information on training programmes in taxonomy and efforts to increase the capacity of taxonomic research.

27.? Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable? (decision IV/1)

a) No

x

b) No, but steps are being considered

c) Yes, for some institutions

d) Yes, for all major institutions

28.*² Is your country collaborating with the existing regional, subregional and global initiatives, partnerships and institutions in carrying out the programme of work, including assessing regional taxonomic needs and identifying regional-level priorities? (decision VI/8)

a) No

b) No, but collaborative programmes are under development

x

c) Yes, some collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs

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

assessments)	
d) Yes, comprehensive collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessment and priority identification)	
Further information on the collaboration your country is carrying out to implement the programme of work for the GTI, including regional needs assessment and priority identification.	

29. * Has your country made an assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities at the national level for the implementation of the Convention? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	x
b) Yes, basic assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
c) Yes, thorough assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
Further comments on national assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities.	

30. * Is your country working on regional or global capacity building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) Yes, relevant programmes are under development	x
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
Further comments on regional or global capacity-building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties.	
<p>In order to make taxonomic information more widely available, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has launched BioGIS, a Geographical Information System established to create a national database of Israel's flora and fauna. The database is open to the public and provides tools for querying, analyzing, modeling and visualizing patterns of species distribution in Israel. The BioGIS database compiles records of plant and animal species from herbaria and museum collections and from surveys carried out by academic institutions, individual scientists, government authorities and non-governmental organizations in Israel. The Internet-based biodiversity information system can be accessed at www.biogis.huji.ac.il.</p> <p>The Nature and Parks Authority has developed a computerized database of information on flora and fauna in Israel, within the framework of BioCASE, which presents its animal and plant observation database. The database provides tools for querying on observations of species in specific areas, inventories of species in specific areas, and observations of specific species in the entire area of Israel. It can be accessed at: ww2.bgbm.org/natureinfo.</p>	

31. * Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	x
b) Yes, for forest biodiversity (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for marine and coastal biodiversity (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for dry and sub-humid lands (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for inland waters biodiversity (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for mountain biodiversity (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for protected areas (please provide details below)	
h) Yes, for agricultural biodiversity (please provide details below)	
i) Yes, for island biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention.	

32. * Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8?	
a) No	x
b) Yes, for access and benefit-sharing (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for Article 8(j) (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for the ecosystem approach (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for impact assessment, monitoring and indicators (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for others (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention.	

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

33. ? On Article 8(i), has your country endeavored to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are being identified	
c) Yes, some measures undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details below)	x
Further comments on the measures taken to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.	
The country's commitment to protect its biodiversity finds expression in legal instruments and national master plans. Conservation is assured through the declaration of protected areas and legal protection of species.	

34. ? On Article 8(k), has your country developed or maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations?	
a) No	
b) No, but legislation is being developed	
c) Yes, legislation or other measures are in place (please provide details below)	x
Further information on the legislation and/or regulations for the protection of threatened species and populations.	
The necessary legislation and enforcement are in place.	

35. ? On Article 8(l), does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant processes and categories of activities being identified	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the regulation or management of the processes and categories of activities identified by Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biodiversity.	
Regulation by permits and Environmental Impact Assessment are used to manage activities that have adverse effects.	

Box XLIV.

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

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

Nature reserves and national parks have been declared and appropriate legislation has been enacted. A National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan is in preparation.

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

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

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

Further comments on targets and indicators for protected areas.

The process of declaration of protected areas is ongoing in concordance with the Convention goals.

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

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

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

The work is in progress.

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

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

below)	
Further comments on actions taken to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas.	
There is a process of declaration of many more protected areas, including wetlands of all sorts.	

39. Has your country identified and implemented practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on practical steps for improving integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures.	
The Nature and Parks Authority developed a policy for ecological connectivity between protected or natural areas. These ecological corridors provide conduits for the passage of animals and plants in fragmented landscapes and allow for the exchange of genetic material.	
The Nature and Parks Authority and the Ministry of the Environment published a policy document on animal passages in roads, with recommendations on animal crossings as a means of mitigating the effects of habitat fragmentation by roads.	

40. Is your country applying environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant EIA guidelines are under development	
c) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to some projects or plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to all relevant projects or plans (please provide details below)	
Further comments on application of environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas.	
Under Israel's Planning and Building Law, EIAs are required for development projects which may, inter alia, adversely impact on biodiversity.	

41. Has your country identified legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes, some gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below))	
d) Yes, many gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	
Further comments on identification of legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas.	
Competition for land uses, conflict with development plans.	

42. Has your country undertaken national protected-area capacity needs assessments and established capacity building programmes? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, a basic assessment undertaken and some programmes established (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, a thorough assessment undertaken and comprehensive programmes established (please provide details below)	
Further comments on protected-area capacity needs assessment and establishment of capacity building programmes.	
Some management programs were developed and needs assessments were made for protected areas.	

43. Is your country implementing country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant plan is under development	x
c) Yes, relevant plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant plan is being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on implementation of country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas.	
The financing of protected areas is under the finance law of the government, and so is influenced by the entire budgetary system of the State.	

44. Is your country implementing appropriate methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant methods, standards, criteria and indicators are under development	
c) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use and some international methods, standards, criteria and indicators in use (please provide details below)	
Further comments on methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance.	
There are some guidelines for management, development and use of protected areas.	

Box XLV.

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 8(h) - Alien species

45. Has your country identified alien species introduced into its territory and established a system for tracking the introduction of alien species?	
a) No	
b) Yes, some alien species identified but a tracking system not yet established	
c) Yes, some alien species identified and tracking system in place	
d) Yes, alien species of major concern identified and tracking system in place	x

46. ? Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) No	
b) Yes, but only for some alien species of concern (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for most alien species (please provide details below)	x
Further information on the assessment of the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species.	
<p>Action plans were developed for some plants and animals.</p> <p>The Nature and Parks Authority conducts risk assessments before allowing the import of vertebrates to be sold as pets.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture conducts risk assessments for live fresh water fishes, for live invertebrates, and for some live plants</p>	

47. ? Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate, those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under consideration	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.	
<p>Enforcement and prevention: All imports of live organisms are inspected at border crossings and ports. Enforcement has been improved.</p> <p>Control: Some control measures are in place to prevent further spread of some invasive plants and birds.</p> <p>Eradication: Eradication measures have been attempted for very few cases of small groups of exotic birds and mammals that have become established in the wild.</p> <p>Coordination: A national steering committee, composed of representatives of governmental and non-governmental bodies, is in the process of organizing a new national action plan for prevention, control and eradication.</p>	

48. ? In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed, or involved itself in, mechanisms for international cooperation, including the exchange of best practices? (decision V/8)	
a) No	x
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation	
c) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation	
d) Yes, multilateral cooperation	

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

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

x

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

Before a species can be imported for the first time, a risk assessment must be conducted. Due to the precautionary principle, all others are not permitted until a risk assessment is done.

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

a) No

b) No, but needs and priorities are being identified

x

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

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

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

a) No

b) No, but mechanisms are under development

x

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

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

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

a) No

b) No, but review under way

x

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

d) Yes, adjustment and development ongoing

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

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

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

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

Further comments on cooperation between various sectors.

A new national committee on invasive species has been set up. The various sections are in the process of establishing new cooperation mechanisms

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

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

Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighboring countries.

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

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

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

Risk assessments are conducted before allowing the import of live vertebrates to be sold as pets, and before the import of freshwater fish for the aquaculture trade.

56. Has your country developed financial measures and other policies and tools to promote activities to reduce the threats of invasive species? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures and policies are under development	
c) Yes, some measures, policies and tools are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures and tools are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of financial measures and other policies and tools for the promotion of activities to reduce the threats of invasive species.	
The Nature and Parks Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture have established policies. Both agencies require better financing for implementation.	

Box XLVI.

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.
The subject of invasive species has been upgraded in the country's agenda.

Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions

GURTS

57. Has your country created and developed capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) No	x
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to GURTS.	
Not relevant to Israel.	

Status and Trends

58. Has your country supported indigenous and local communities in undertaking field studies to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)	
a) No	x
b) No, but support to relevant studies is being considered	
c) Yes (please provide information on the studies undertaken)	
Further information on the studies undertaken to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and priority actions identified.	
Not relevant to Israel.	

Akwé:Kon Guidelines

59. Has your country initiated a legal and institutional review of matters related to cultural, environmental and social impact assessment, with a view to incorporating the Akwé:Kon Guidelines into national legislation, policies, and procedures?	
a) No	x
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, a review undertaken (please provide details on the review)	
Further information on the review.	
Not relevant to Israel.	

60. Has your country used the Akwé:Kon Guidelines in any project proposed to take place on sacred sites and/or land and waters traditionally occupied by indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)	
a) No	x
b) No, but a review of the Akwé: Kon guidelines is under way	
c) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the projects where the Akwé:Kon Guidelines are applied.	
Not relevant to Israel.	

Capacity Building and Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities

61. Has your country undertaken any measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities to be effectively involved in decision-making related to the use of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/16)	
a) No	x
b) No, but some programmes being developed	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	

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

Not relevant.

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

a) No

x

b) No, but relevant mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are under development

c) Yes, some mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are in place (please provide details below)

Further information on the mechanisms, guidelines and legislation developed.

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

a) No

x

b) No, but relevant mechanisms are being developed

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

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

Not relevant.

Support to implementation

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

a) No

x

b) No, but relevant work is under way

c) Yes

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

a) No

x

b) Yes (please provide details about the outcome of meetings)

Further information on the outcome of regional meetings.

66. Has your country supported, financially and otherwise, indigenous and local communities in

formulating their own community development and biodiversity conservation plans that will enable such communities to adopt a culturally appropriate strategic, integrated and phased approach to their development needs in line with community goals and objectives?	
a) No	x
b) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the support provided.	

Box XLVII.

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 9 - Ex-situ conservation

67. ? On Article 9(a) and (b), has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity native to your country and originating outside your country?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures adopted for the <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of components of biodiversity native to your country and originating outside your country.	
<p><i>Ex-situ</i> conservation largely relates to genetic conservation. It includes the collection of seeds or cuttings of land races and/or primitive cultivars of field and garden crops, forage crops and fruit trees from different regions of Israel and their storage either at low temperature (seeds) or in parks (trees). For species such as <i>Allium sativum</i>, vegetative conservation in the field is practiced. Tissue culture methods serve for conservation of various fruit trees.</p>	

68. ? On Article 9(c), has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions?

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

Further comments on the measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions.

Breeding cores have been established for raptors for the purpose of reintroducing them into their natural habitats.

Reintroduction schemes have been instituted for populations of animals present in historic times but no longer found in modern Israel. Two breeding cores, Hai-Bar Carmel in the north of the country and Hai-Bar Yotvata in the south, were established to breed animals suitable for release: the former for Mediterranean species and the latter for desert species. Five species were chosen for reintroduction: ostrich, roe deer, onager, Persian fallow and white oryx.

Reintroduction procedures follow the guidelines of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

69. ? On Article 9(d), has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex-situ* conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and *in-situ* populations of species?

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

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

Box XLVIII .

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

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

Conservation of genetic resources promoted and reintroduction and reinforcement of species advanced.

Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

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

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

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

This subject is not generally relevant to Israel. However, Israel's sustainable development strategy, which is currently being advanced, will call for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in general.

The Protection of the Coastal Environment Law specifically relates to principles for the sustainable management, development and use of the coastal environment.

The government has decided to allocate 50 million cubic meters for the conservation of nature.

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

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

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

The Protection of the Coastal Environment Law calls the establishment of a Protection of the Coastal Environment Committee, which will be responsible for decisions on Mediterranean coastal development plans, taking account of such considerations as preventing damage to the coastal environment, preserving the coast for public benefit, assuring public access to the coast and conserving nature, landscape and heritage values.

The Nature and Parks Authority restricts scuba and snorkeling activities in sensitive areas in the Gulf

of Eilat and has increased diver education to prevent damage to coral reefs.

Some fish have been declared “protected natural assets” and restrictions on certain types of fishing have been instituted by law.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

75. ? Has your country implemented sustainable use practices, programmes and policies for the sustainable use of biological diversity, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation? (decision V/24)	
a) No	x
b) No, but potential practices, programmes and policies are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on sustainable use programmes and policies.	
Not relevant.	

76. ? Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)	
a) No	x
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please describe below)	
Further comments on the development of mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity.	

77. Has your country initiated a process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)	
a) No	x
b) No, but the principles and guidelines are under review	
c) Yes, a process is being planned	
d) Yes, a process has been initiated (please provide detailed information)	
Further information on the process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.	

78. Has your country taken any initiative or action to develop and transfer technologies and provide financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)	
a) No	x
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some technologies developed and transferred and limited financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many technologies developed and transferred and significant financial resources provided (please provide details below)	

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

Biodiversity and Tourism

79. ? Has your country established mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please specify below)	x
d) Yes, existing mechanisms are under review	
Further comments on the establishment of mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity.	
<p>Israel has, to a large extent, based its tourism policies and programs on ecological principles. In light of Israel's scant land resources, the National Master Plan for Tourism recognizes the importance of maintaining sufficient land reserves for tourist accommodation and services, in the face of development pressures, and takes account of ecological aspects.</p> <p>Israel's preliminary documents on sustainable development set down concepts and tools for promoting sustainable tourism and assessing the carrying capacity of sites and tourist regions in Israel. Carrying capacity is meant to maintain the balance between conservation and development.</p> <p>The Ministry of Tourism strives to promote tourism according to sustainability principles, taking account of carrying capacity of sites and development of tourist infrastructure within urban areas or adjacent to them so as not to disrupt the natural landscape.</p> <p>Management of tourism in protected areas is based the prevention of damage to ecosystems and species.</p> <p>The recently enacted Protection of the Coastal Environment Law calls for the protection of the coastal environment and its natural assets and for the prevention and reduction, as far as possible, of any damage to them for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, for present and future generations.</p> <p>The National Master Plan for the Coastline calls for preserving the coastline for tourism and recreation purposes.</p>	

80. ? Has your country provided educational and training programmes to the tourism operators so as to increase their awareness of the impacts of tourism on biodiversity and upgrade the technical capacity at the local level to minimize the impacts? (decision V/25)	
a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please describe below)	x
Further comments on educational and training programmes provided to tourism operators.	
<p>The Ministry of Tourism works in conjunction with the Nature and Parks Authority. Tourism operators are aware of rules and regulations regarding tourism in nature reserves and national parks which are meant to conserve biodiversity.</p>	

81. Does your country provide indigenous and local communities with capacity-building and financial resources to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management? (decision VII/14)	
a) No	x
b) No, but relevant programmes are being considered	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments in the capacity-building and financial resources provided to indigenous and local communities to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management.	

82. Has your country integrated the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development in the development or review of national strategies and plans for tourism development, national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, and other related sectoral strategies? (decision VII/14)	
a) No, but the guidelines are under review	x
b) No, but a plan is under consideration to integrate some principles of the guidelines into relevant strategies	
c) Yes, a few principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	
d) Yes, many principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	
Further information on the sectors where the principles of the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development are integrated.	

Box XLIX.

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 11 - Incentive measures

83. ? Has your country established programmes to identify and adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) No	x
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the programmes to identify and adopt incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
<p>A research study on the economic value of open spaces has been prepared, and studies and seminars have been conducted on means of raising awareness of the value of open spaces, including rivers.</p> <p>A policy document on tools and measures for managing open spaces was prepared by the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of the Interior, Nature and Parks Authority, Jewish National Fund and Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (an NGO). Economic and social tools are included among the incentives which are proposed.</p>	

84. ? Has your country developed the mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas? (decisions III/18 and IV/10)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	x
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, review of impact of mechanisms available (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanism or approaches to incorporate market and non-market values of biodiversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes.	
<p>A policy document on tools and measures for managing open spaces was prepared by the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of the Interior, Nature and Parks Authority, Jewish National Fund and Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (an NGO). The project is preparing a number of partial regional master plans. At the same time, it has issued policy papers that bring together the economic, research, legislative, social, and other tools necessary for the protection of essential open spaces.</p>	

85. ? Has your country developed training and capacity-building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives? (decision III/18)	
a) No	x
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place	
d) Yes, many programmes are in place	

86. Does your country take into consideration the proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures as contained in Annex I to decision VI/15 when designing and implementing incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision VI/15)	
a) No	x
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the proposals considered when designing and implementing the incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of bio diversity.	

87. Has your country made any progress in removing or mitigating policies or practices that generate perverse incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (decision VII/18)	
a) No	x
b) No, but identification of such policies and practices is under way	
c) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified but not entirely removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified and removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
Further information on perverse incentives identified and/or removed or mitigated.	

Box L.

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.
<p>The use of incentive measures is still in its infancy in Israel but policy papers on the use of economic and social incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity have been prepared.</p>

Article 12 - Research and training

88. ? On Article 12(a), has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components?	
a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	x
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the programmes for scientific and technical education and training in the measures for identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
<p>Rangers are trained by the Nature and Parks Authority.</p> <p>Land managers are trained at Tel Aviv University and zoological museum.</p> <p>There are intensive courses for birdwatching and ringing by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (an NGO).</p> <p>Research programs are currently under development within the framework of the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.</p> <p>At present biodiversity research is carried out within the framework of the following universities: Haifa University, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Weizmann Institute of Science, and Ben-Gurion University.</p>	

89. ? On Article 12(b), does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	x
Further information on the research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
<p>The Ministry of the Environment issued a call for proposals for research on biodiversity in recent years. As a result several research studies on biodiversity were conducted and funded in recent years. Additional organizations that promote and encourage biodiversity research include the Israel Science Foundation and some private foundations.</p> <p>Researchers from the Nature and Parks Authority and three different universities are engaged in research to develop active and adaptive management across the rainfall gradient (100-900 mm per year). The goals of Israel's Long-Term Ecological Research network include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To investigate the structure, function and long-term dynamics of ecological systems and their impact on biodiversity in specific sites along Israel's rainfall gradient. • To use this knowledge to develop ecological management methods for preserving and rehabilitating biodiversity. • To integrate the sites and data in environmental education programs which emphasize the importance of biodiversity for the functioning of the biological system and its services to man. <p>Ongoing research has led to the identification of endangered flora and fauna species and to the publication of a Red Data Book on vertebrates and the near completion of a Red Data Book on plants. Research on the biota of the so-called "Evolution Canyon" on Mt.Carmel (HAI) , resulted in publications on many taxa of terrestrial invertebrates, including insects, that were never studied before in Israel.</p> <p>Scientists from the National Oceanographic Institute and from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem are actively involved in monitoring the lessepsian migration and participated as authors in the "Atlases of Exotic Species in the Mediterranean Sea" published recently by CIESM.</p>	

90. ? On Article 12(c), does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources?	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further information on the use of scientific advances in biodiversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
There is good cooperation between scientists in the conservation authorities and the academic world both in and out of Israel. There is collaboration with Jordanian scientists in protecting the Gulf of Aqaba.	

Box LI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article specifically focusing on:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.
Research studies are increasing the understanding of the different components of biodiversity in Israel but additional research is needed.

Article 13 - Public education and awareness

91. Is your country implementing a communication, education and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation in support of the Convention? (Goal 4.1 of the Strategic Plan)	
a) No	
b) No, but a CEPA strategy is under development	x
c) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a limited extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the implementation of a CEPA strategy and the promotion of public participation in support of the Convention.	
Education and public awareness are components of the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan which is now under development.	
To date, educational and public awareness programs on the protection of nature and the protection of species, in both formal and informal educational frameworks, have been implemented. Efforts are currently focusing on adding programs on the sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable consumption, invasive species, and others.	

92. Is your country undertaking any activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness as contained in the annex to decision VI/19? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on CEPA.	
<p>Education and public awareness are components in the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan which is now under development. The draft documents relate to a series of recommendations.</p> <p>Two seminars on the subject of biodiversity have been organized in recent years with the participation of scientists, environmentalists and educators and two seminars on invasive species have been organized. A series of posters on biodiversity was published by Nature Campus of Tel Aviv University raise awareness in Israel's schools (available as a PDF file on Nature Campus website) and a brochure on biodiversity was prepared by the Ministry of the Environment (also available on the website of the Ministry) to raise awareness among the general public. Different components of biodiversity are included in the formal school system and courses relating to biodiversity are taught at university level.</p> <p>Efforts are currently being taken to introduce specific courses on biodiversity at all levels of education.</p>	

93. Is your country strongly and effectively promoting biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the promotion of biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level.	
<p>Issues relating to biodiversity have been covered by the press in relation to residential development in open spaces that threatens species and ecosystems, road planning which threatens species, degradation of the coral reef in the Gulf of Eilat due to pollution and the operation of floating fish cages, establishment of national parks and more.</p> <p>A Week of Love for Nature, Water and the Environment has been organized by the Ministry of the Environment, the Nature and Parks Authority and the Water Commission for the past two years which included guided tours to the country's nature reserves. Nature Protection Weeks have traditionally been held in Israel.</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment's website includes biodiversity-related information. Websites of the Nature and Parks Authority and of non-governmental organizations also include biodiversity information.</p> <p>Additional information may be found on the website of Nature Campus of Tel Aviv University – www.campusteva.tau.ac.il and on Israel's website on open spaces - www.ios.org.il/site/english.asp.</p>	

94. Does your country promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further information on the efforts to promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level.	
<p>Environmental units and environmental education centers in municipalities throughout Israel promote the subject on the local level. Non-governmental organizations and schools on the local level adopt parks, sections of rivers or coastal strips for purposes of rehabilitation as part of an "Adopt a Site" project. Several grassroots organizations have been formed to promote biodiversity at the local level.</p> <p>A list of NGOs at all levels can be found at www.ecowave.org.il/irgunim1.php (in Hebrew) and on the website of the Ministry of the Environment.</p>	

95. Is your country supporting national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities supported (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many activities supported (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the support of national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness.	
<p>The English website of the Ministry of the Environment includes a section on "biodiversity."</p> <p>Israel is a participant in the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) project.</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment has established Environmental Education Centers within the framework of municipal environmental units.</p> <p>A network of schools committed to a new vision of environmental education, known as the "Green Network" was established in Israel. The network links schools and community groups across Israel by engaging them in environmental learning and supporting action in their local community. Activities include adoption of natural and disturbed areas.</p> <p>The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Education have initiated a "Green School" project in cooperation with Israel's green organizations. Its aim is to encourage schools, with the cooperation of administration, students, parents and community, to act sustainably, conserve resources and advance eco-efficiency.</p> <p>A multi-disciplinary program on migratory birds is being implemented in schools in Israel and abroad. It is supported by an Internet site (www.birds.org.il). As part of the project, students around the world can track migrating birds with attached satellite transmitters through the Internet in real time.</p>	

96. Has your country developed adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness?	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication,	

education and public awareness.

Teacher training programs are undertaken on a regular basis. In-service and pre-service programs have been implemented for guides of the Israel Society for the Protection of Nature, rangers of the Nature and Parks Authority, and green organizations.

Tel Aviv University established "Nature Campus" to advance public understanding of science, nature and the environment and to serve as a bridge between academic research and the general public. The 6-hectare areas includes natural history collections, a zoological research garden and botanic gardens. Guides are graduate students engaged in biodiversity research.

Israel's universities conduct courses on different aspects of conservation biology and plans for diploma studies in the biodiversity of sustainable development are being promoted.

97. Does your country promote cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness at the national, regional and international levels? (decisions IV /10 and VI/19)

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

Further comments on the promotion of cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness, at the national, regional and international levels.

Programs include the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) project, the Migrating Birds Know No Boundaries Internet-based program (www.birds.org.il) and the Multinational Education Project on Marine Bio-Invasions in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea (MEAL) which involved high school students from Israel, Greece and Cyprus.

98. Is your country undertaking some CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention?

a) No (please specify reasons below)	
b) Yes, some activities undertaken for some issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	x
c) Yes, many activities undertaken for most issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for all issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention.

Environmental initiatives relate to the ecology of forests, desertification, water for nature, and coastal cleanups and new curriculum programs are planned for issues such as invasive species.

Nature Campus at Tel Aviv University has translated five booklets of the Ecological Society of America known as Issues in Ecology for the benefit of the general public: Nitrogen Cycle, Water in a Changing World, Ecosystem Services, Ecosystem Function, and Biotic Invasions.

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

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

Further comments on the initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biodiversity conservation in their practice and education programmes as well as their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

Israel's non-governmental organizations organize campaigns on behalf of nature protection and the preservation of open space in Israel. Foremost among these is the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, Israel's veteran nature conservation organization. For more than 50 years, the organization has spearheaded campaigns against the destruction of unique ecosystem as a result of unwise development. As Israel's largest member environmental organization, it is dedicated to educating Israelis of all ages to protect their natural heritage.

Similarly, the Nature and Parks Authority is actively involved in education and public awareness, largely through visitor centers in different nature reserves throughout the country, through publications and through its website.

In recent years, its public campaigns have largely focused on preserving open spaces and coastlines and protecting the Sea of Galilee and the Gulf of Eilat. A special website on the subject of open spaces, which includes policy documents and professional literature - is available - www.ios.org.il/site/english.asp.

A website entitled Migratory Birds Know No Boundaries operates to link children worldwide in tracking migratory birds and learning about their conservation - www.birds.org.il.

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

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	x
c) Yes, some programmes developed and activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes developed and many activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the communication of the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and the establishment of linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan is now in preparation.

Box LII .

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

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

In recent years, concepts such as biodiversity, sustainable development and ecological footprint have begun to be introduced in Israel. Curriculum programs on some of the components of biodiversity have been integrated into educational programs at different levels.

Israel's draft National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan has identified some of the gaps and recommends a wide range of actions on different levels by different groups – communities, municipalities, green organizations, youth groups, industry, agriculture, the formal education system, the academic community, government organizations and others.

Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

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

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

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

Israel has a statutory environmental impact assessment system that relates to biodiversity. The assessment system requires species and ecosystem surveys, reviews of potential impacts on biodiversity and recommendations on measures to prevent or remedy damages. In cases where adverse impact is anticipated, resources are invested to conserve biodiversity.

New regulations on environmental impact assessment (EIA), which replace the previous 1982 regulations, came into force in 2003. They are aimed at upgrading the EIA system in Israel, helping to introduce environmental considerations in earlier stages of the planning and decision making processes, and incorporating sustainable development principles in EIAs. The regulations broaden the possibilities of requiring EIAs in environmentally sensitive areas, such as coasts and riverbanks. An essential element in all EIAs is the impact of the plan or project on natural resources and biodiversity.

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

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of	

development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the mechanisms developed to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity.	
<p>In addition to requirements for EIAs, environmental representatives in national, regional and local planning committees ensure that the environmental consequences of national programs that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity are taken into account.</p> <p>The Israel Knesset (Parliament) has a strong environmental lobby that makes its voice heard when national programs and policies are expected to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity.</p> <p>The Knesset Committee on the Interior and the Environment ensures that environmental consequences are addressed and non-governmental environmental organizations regularly take part in Knesset committee discussions on environmental matters.</p> <p>Plans for the preservation of open spaces are being promoted. Protected areas are included in the National Master Plan on Forests and Forestation and the National Master Plan on Nature Reserves and National Parks. In addition, Israel's comprehensive Integrated National Plan on Building, Development and Conservation (approved by the National Planning and Building Board but not yet by the government) takes account of areas of environmental sensitivity for conservation.</p>	

103. ? On Article 14.1(c), is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction?	
a) No	
b) No, but assessment of options is in progress	
c) Yes, some completed, others in progress (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biodiversity outside your country's jurisdiction.	
<p>Israel and Jordan are implementing a joint monitoring program in the Gulf of Eilat and have a joint program for oil spill control in the Gulf.</p> <p>An initiative to declare the Great Rift Valley a heritage site has been initiated which includes 22 countries including Israel.</p>	

104. ? On Article 14.1(d), has your country put mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your territory to biological diversity in the territory of other Parties or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction?	
a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place based on current scientific knowledge	X

105. ? On Article 14.1(e), has your country established national mechanisms for emergency	
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response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	X
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on national mechanisms for emergency response to the activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biodiversity.	
<p>A national contingency program for preparedness and response to combating marine oil pollution has been drafted for the Gulf of Eilat and in the Mediterranean Sea and is awaiting approval by the government.</p> <p>At present, marine and coastal pollution is addressed in a manner which is designed to prevent danger to biological diversity.</p> <p>Eilat's marine pollution prevention station is located north of the coral reserve, between the reef reserve and the oil terminal. It is manned on a 24-hour-a-day basis by professional marine pollution and includes a wide variety of pollution abatement equipment including an oil combat vessel to provide a swift and efficient response during pollution events along the coasts and at any point within the heart of the Gulf.</p> <p>The Keren Kayemeth Leisrael/Jewish National Fund operates an effective fire-fighting system in the country's forests, which includes manned watchtowers, alert squads and fire-fighting engines.</p>	

106. Is your country applying the Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environment-Impact-Assessment Legislation or Processes and in Strategic Impact Assessment as contained in the annex to decision VI/7 in the context of the implementation of paragraph 1 of Article 14? (decision VI/7)	
a) No	
b) No, but application of the guidelines under consideration	X
c) Yes, some aspects being applied (please specify below)	
d) Yes, major aspects being applied (please specify below)	
Further comments on application of the guidelines.	

107. On Article 14 (2), has your country put in place national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity? (decision VI/11)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please specify the measures)	x
Further comments on national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity.	
<p>There are fines and penalties for harm to coral reefs, marine and water quality.</p> <p>Israel's marine pollution prevention laws establish liability for cleanup costs.</p> <p>Israel's Water Law establishes personal liability and empowers the courts to impose cleanup expenses on polluters or to undertake cleanups.</p> <p>Under the Maintenance of Cleanliness Law, the Minister of the Environment is authorized to issue Cleanup Orders to offenders and to require disposal of the waste and restoration of the damaged area.</p>	

108. Has your country put in place any measures to prevent damage to biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being developed	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures in place to prevent damage to biological diversity.	
<p>Damage is largely prevented through regulations on behavior in nature reserves and national parks and through pollution prevention, especially prohibitions on the discharge of wastewater to the environment.</p>	

109. Is your country cooperating with other Parties to strengthen capacities at the national level for the prevention of damage to biodiversity, establishment and implementation of national legislative regimes, policy and administrative measures on liability and redress? (decision VI/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but cooperation is under consideration	
c) No, but cooperative programmes are under development	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, comprehensive cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on cooperation with other Parties to strengthen capacities for the prevention of damage to biodiversity.	
<p>Such cooperation is largely within the framework of marine pollution prevention.</p>	

Box LIII.

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

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

Israel's Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations relate to biodiversity, among other subjects. Among recommendations incorporated in EIAs in recent years are: transfer and replanting of endangered plant species in sheltered habitats; maintaining corridors of undeveloped habitat to allow for animal crossing; restrictions on development and human access in sensitive habitats; erection of artificial pools which can become habitats for waterfowl; destruction of invading plant species; fencing to allow restoration of plant communities; reserving strands of beaches as turtle sanctuaries; restrictions on use of all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorcycles; and monitoring to discover potential adverse impacts on biodiversity following project implementation.

Article 15 - Access to genetic resources

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

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

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

The Israel Gene Bank has formulated an agreement which must be signed by other Parties prior to the transfer of genetic resources. According to the Letter of Commitment, the Gene Bank will only agree to deliver plant material to applicants on condition that the applicant acts according to the Biodiversity Convention and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Furthermore, the applicant is required to sign a declaration attesting to the fact that the plant material is intended only for scientific matters, study and education. In case of intention to use the material for commercial purposes, prior consent is required as well as a separate agreement with the owner/country of the plant material and readiness to share the benefits with the owner/country.

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

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

Further information on the measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Contracting Parties.

The rights and benefits of Contracting Parties who contribute genetic resources are generally expressed within the contractual agreements signed by the various parties.

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

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

Further information on the type of measures taken.

The rights and benefits of Contracting Parties who contribute genetic resources are generally expressed within the contractual agreements signed by the various parties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

a) No	x
b) No, but potential policies or measures have been identified (please specify below)	
c) No, but relevant policies or measures are under development (please specify below)	
d) Yes, some policies or measures are in place (please specify below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive policies or measures adopted (please specify below)	
Further information on policies or measures that address the role of IPR in access and benefit-sharing arrangements.	

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

a) Yes (please provide details below)	
b) No	x
Please provide further information on capacity-building activities (your involvement as donor or recipient, key actors involved, target audience, time period, goals and objectives of the capacity-building activities, main capacity-building areas covered, nature of activities). Please also specify whether these activities took into account the Action Plan on capacity-building for access and benefit-sharing adopted at COP VII and available in annex to decision VII/19F.	

Box LIV.

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

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

The Israel Gene Bank acts in accordance with an agreement which requires applicants to abide by the conditions of the Biodiversity Convention.

Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology

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

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

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

The Israel Gene Bank has formulated an agreement which must be signed by other Parties prior to the transfer of genetic resources. The applicant is required to sign a declaration attesting to the fact that the plant material is intended only for scientific matters, study and education. In case of intention of using the material for commercial purposes, prior consent is required as well as a separate agreement with the owner/country of the plant material and readiness to share the benefits with the owner/country.

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

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

place	
g) Not applicable	

119. ? On Article 16(4), has your country taken measures so that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of Government institutions and the private sector of developing countries?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	x
c) Yes, some policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	
Further information on the measures taken.	

Box LV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article specifically focusing on:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation. 	

Programme of Work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation

120. Has your country provided financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation? (decision VII/29)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the provision of financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation.	
MASHAV– the Center for International Cooperation of Israel’s Foreign Ministry – has trained thousands of participants from dozens of countries in such areas as semi- and arid-zone agriculture,	

combat of desertification, irrigation and water management and high-yield agriculture. Over the past 46 years, over 200,000 people from more than 130 countries have participated in MASHAV training programs in Israel and abroad. Further information is available on the MAHAV website – www.mashav.mfa.gov.il.

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

a) No	x
b) No, but some measures being considered	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation.	

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

a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, basic assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, thorough assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building.	
<p>A position paper prepared by the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology’s Samuel Neaman Institute for Advanced Studies in Research and Technology and the Israel Export Institute , entitled “Global Environmental Market – Business Opportunities for Israel,” has been published. Based on the preliminary findings, Israel has the professional capacity and the expertise necessary to become integrated in this global environmental market, based on its know-how in such realms as water, agriculture, combating desertification and alternative energy.</p> <p>Based on the results, a second position paper was published in 2004, entitled “The Global Environmental Market – An Economic Opportunity in Israel,” which assesses the costs and benefits of government investment in the field of environmental technologies.</p>	

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

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

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

Israeli studies, especially those prepared by the S. Neaman Institute, relate to the potential benefits of the introduction of new environmental technologies.

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

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

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

The Israel Export & International Cooperation Institute operates an Environmental Technologies Department. Information is available on its website (www.export.gov/english.)

Three International Exhibitions for Environmental Technologies were held in Israel in recent years with the aim of advancing sustainable development by fostering cooperation and partnership between the industrial and technological sectors in Israel and worldwide.

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

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

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

Box LVI.

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

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

MASHAV, the Center for International Cooperation, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has organized training sessions for participants from countries worldwide in Israel and abroad on sustainable agriculture technologies.

The Israel Export Institute is encouraging cooperation between Israel and countries worldwide.

International exhibitions for environmental technologies have been held in Israel in recent years which draw tens of thousands of visitors.

Article 17 - Exchange of information

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

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

The following question (127) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

127. ? On Article 17(1), do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries and include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?

a) No	
b) Yes, but they do not include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	x
c) Yes, and they include categories of information listed in Article 17 (2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	

Box LVII .

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

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

Websites are being developed by different organizations including the Ministry of the Environment, the Nature and Parks Authority, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations.

Exchange of information takes place during professional conferences.

MASHAV in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organizes training courses on matters relating to agriculture and combating desertification which are targeted at developing countries.

Article 18 - Technical and scientific cooperation

128. ? On Article 18(1), has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

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

Further information on the measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation.

Exchange of information takes place within the framework of professional conferences.

Israeli scientists belong to international professional associations.

The "Israel Journal of Zoology" and the "Israel Journal of Plant Sciences" publish journals on an annual basis and include contributions from the region, including Israel, Greece, Turkey and Jordan.

Research on Lessepsian migration is undertaken by scientists from the National Oceanographic Institute and from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Israel scientists participated as authors in the "Atlases of Exotic Species in the Mediterranean Sea" published by CIESM ("Mediterranean Research Council" in Monaco).

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

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

130. ? On Article 18(5), has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention?	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide some examples below)	x
Examples for the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention.	
Joint research programs are undertaken within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and in conjunction with partners in the European Union.	

131. Has your country established links to non-governmental organizations, private sector and other institutions holding important databases or undertaking significant work on biological diversity through the CHM? (decision V/14)	
a) No	X
b) No, but coordination with relevant NGOs, private sector and other institutions under way	
c) Yes, links established with relevant NGOs, private sector and institutions	

The following question (132) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

132. Has your country further developed the CHM to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation? (decision V/14)	
a) No	x
b) Yes, by using funding opportunities	
c) Yes, by means of access to, and transfer of technology	
d) Yes, by using research cooperation facilities	
e) Yes, by using repatriation of information	
f) Yes, by using training opportunities	
g) Yes, by using promotion of contacts with relevant institutions, organizations and the private sector	
h) Yes, by using other means (please specify below)	
Further comments on CHM developments to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation.	

133. Has your country used CHM to make information available more useful for researchers and decision-makers? (decision V/14)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant initiatives under consideration	x
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on development of relevant initiatives.	
Israel is a partner in the Biological Collection Access Service for Europe (BioCASE), an information service for biological collections, and is developing the BioCASE database.	

134. Has your country developed, provided and shared services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of the CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions? (decision V/14)	
a) No	x
b) Yes (please specify services and tools below)	
Further comments on services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions.	

Box LVIII.

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.
<p>Scientific cooperation generally takes place within the framework of international seminars and conferences. Israeli scientists publish their work in international and national journals related to biodiversity.</p>

Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

135. ? On Article 19(1), has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	x
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation are in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy and subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place	

136. ? On Article 19(2), has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access by Parties, on a fair and equitable basis, to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Parties?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	x
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	

Box LIX.

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 20 – Financial resources

Box LX.

Please describe for each of the following items the quantity of financial resources, both internal and external, that have been utilized, received or provided, as applicable, to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, on an annual basis, since your country became a Party to the Convention.	
a) Budgetary allocations by national and local Governments as well as different sectoral ministries	<p>Budgetary allocations are only by national government.</p> <p>The budget of the Nature and Parks Authority for biodiversity activities is about \$10 million.</p> <p>In 2004, the budget of the Ministry of the Environment for biodiversity activities was about \$16,500, about half of the previous year due to budgetary cuts. In addition, \$158,500 were allocated for dues to international conventions on biodiversity-related and nature conservation related subjects. Furthermore, over \$90,000 was allocated for research on biodiversity by the Office of the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of the Environment. Over the past two years, a significant part of the biodiversity budget of the Environment Ministry was earmarked for the development of the Israel National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.</p>
b) Extra-budgetary resources (identified by donor agencies)	
c) Bilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	
d) Regional channels (identified by donor agencies)	
e) Multilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	
f) Private sources (identified by donor agencies)	
g) Resources generated through financial instruments, such as charges for use of biodiversity	

Box LXI.

Please describe in detail below any major financing programmes, such as biodiversity trust funds or specific programmes that have been established in your country.

There are no financing programs of this type in Israel.

137. ? On Article 20(1), has your country provided financial support and incentives to those national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention?	
a) No	
b) Yes, incentives only (please provide a list of such incentives below)	
c) Yes, financial support only	X
d) Yes, financial support and incentives (please provide details below)	
Further comments on financial support and incentives provided.	
Some financial allocations for nature protection in nature reserves and to research on biodiversity.	

The next question (138) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

138. ? On Article 20(2), has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please indicate the amount, on an annual basis, of new and additional financial resources your country has provided)	
Further comments on new and additional financial resources provided.	
Inadequate financial resources.	

The next question (139) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

139. ? On Article 20(2), has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable it to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?	
a) No	
b) Yes	

140. ? Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector? (decision V/11)	
a) No	x
b) No, but procedures being established	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on processes to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector.	

141. ? Has your country considered any measures like tax exemptions in national taxation systems to encourage financial support to biodiversity? (decision V/11)	
a) No	x
b) No, but exemptions are under development (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, exemptions are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on tax exemptions for biodiversity-related donations.	

142. Has your country reviewed national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance allocated to biodiversity, with particular attention paid to positive incentives and their performance as well as perverse incentives and ways and means for their removal or mitigation? (decision VI/16)	
a) No	x
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes (please provide results of review below)	
Further comments on review of national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance.	

143. Is your country taking concrete actions to review and further integrate biodiversity considerations in the development and implementation of major international development initiatives, as well as in national sustainable development plans and relevant sectoral policies and plans? (decisions VI/16 and VII/21)	
a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, in some initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	
Further comments on review and integration of biodiversity considerations in relevant initiatives, policies and plans.	
Israel is taking action to integrate biodiversity considerations in its national sustainable development strategies and in the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.	

144. Is your country enhancing the integration of biological diversity into the sectoral development and assistance programmes? (decision VII/21)	
a) No	x
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, into some sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, into major sectoral development and assistance	

programmes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity into sectoral development and assistance programmes	

The next question (145) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

145. Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which area your country has provided financial support to developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.	
A r e a s	Support provided
a) Undertaking national or regional assessments within the framework of MEA (decision VI/8)	
b) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)	
c) Enhance national capacity to establish and maintain the mechanisms to protect traditional knowledge (decision VI/10)	
d) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation (decision V/26)	
e) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)	
f) Implementation of the Bonn Guidelines (decision VI/24)	
g) Implementation of programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (decision V/5)	
h) Preparation of first report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources (decision VI/17)	
i) Support to work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and development of regional and sub regional networks or processes (decision VI/27)	
j) Development of partnerships and other means to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the programme of work on dry and subhumid lands biological diversity (decision VII/2)	
k) Financial support for the operations of the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VII/9)	
l) Support to the implementation of the Action Plan on Capacity Building as contained in the annex to decision VII/19 (decision VII/19)	
m) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity (decision VII/27)	
n) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas (decision VII/28)	
o) Support to the development of national indicators (decision VII/30)	
p) Others (please specify)	
Further information on financial support provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.	

Financial support has not been granted due to budgetary constraints.

The next question (146) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

146. Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which areas your country has applied for funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), from developed countries and/or from other sources. The same area may have more than one source of financial support. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.

Areas	Applied for funds from		
	GEF	Bilatera l	Other
a) Preparation of national biodiversity strategies or action plans			
b) National capacity self-assessment for implementation of Convention (decision VI/27)			
c) Priority actions to implement the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision V/9)			
d) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)			
e) Development of national strategies or action plans to deal with alien species (decision VI/23)			
f) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation, establishment and maintenance of <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation facilities (decision V/26)			
g) Projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 (Education and Public Awareness) (decision VI/19)			
h) Preparation of national reports (decisions III/9, V/19 and VI/25)			
i) Projects for conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity (decision IV/4)			
j) Activities for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity (decision V/5)			
k) Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision VI/26)			
l) Implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative			
m) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity			
n) Others (please specify)			
Further information on application for financial support.			

Box LXII .

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

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

D. THEMATIC AREAS

147. Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the thematic programmes of work of the Convention (marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands and mountain biodiversity).

3 = High Challenge	1 = Low Challenge
2 = Medium Challenge	0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome
N/A = Not applicable	

Challenges	Programme of Work					
	Agricultural	Forest	Marine and coastal	Inland water ecosystem	Dry and subhumid lands	Mountain
(a) Lack of political will and support	2	2	2	2	1	1
(b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	2	2	2	2	2	2
(c) Lack of main-streaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	2	2	2	2	2	2
(d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	2	2	2	2	2	2

(e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	1	1	1	1	1	1
(f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	1	1	1	1	1	1
(g) Loss of traditional knowledge	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
(h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	1	1	1	1	1	1
(i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	1	1	1	1	1	1
(j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	2	2	2	2	2	2
(k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	1	1	1	1	1	1
(l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	2	2	2	2	2	2
(m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	2	2	2	2	2	2
(n) Lack of economic incentive measures	2	2	2	2	2	2
(o) Lack of benefit-sharing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
(p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	1	1	1	1	1	1

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

Inland water ecosystems

148. Has your country incorporated the objectives and relevant activities of the programme of work into the following and implemented them? (decision VII/4)				
Strategies, policies, plans and activities	No	Yes, partially, integrated but not implemented	Yes, fully integrated and implemented	N/A
a) Your biodiversity strategies and action plans	x			
b) Wetland policies and strategies	x			
c) Integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans being developed in line with paragraph 25 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development	x			
d) Enhanced coordination and cooperation between national actors responsible for inland water ecosystems and biological diversity	x			
Further comments on incorporation of the objectives and activities of the programme of work				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan is now in preparation and includes the objectives and activities of this program as an important element. • In 2000, the Israel government decided to allocate 50 million cubic meters of water to nature, to promote seawater and brackish water desalination projects, to advance wastewater treatment facilities, to import water and to promote water conservation and savings. • In 2003, a national policy proposal was drafted and published by the Nature and Parks Authority in conjunction with the Ministry of the Environment on <i>The Right of Nature to Water – Water Demands for Water Bodies and Wetlands</i>. The publication surveys the water demands 				

of Israel's wetlands and assesses the quantity of water required to preserve these sites including nature reserves.

- A rehabilitation program for some of the country's wetlands was initiated. The program is designated to assure water allocations to nature reserves also during drought periods, in the quantity and quality required, in order to preserve habitat and species diversity.
- The Ministry of the Environment has placed river restoration high on its list of priorities. To date, 14 local administrations for river restoration have been set up and tens of millions of dollars have been invested in restoring the country's ailing rivers. In parallel, new and upgraded wastewater treatment plants have helped stop the discharge of sewage into rivers and stringent enforcement against polluters has been carried out.
- In 2004, an amendment to paragraph 6 of the Water Law which adds another purpose to the five already enumerated came into force, namely: allocation of water for nature and landscapes assets, i.e., for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural assets and landscapes including rivers, springs and wetlands.
- In 2004, the Ministry of the Environment and the National River Administration published a Hebrew document ("The Rivers of Israel- Policy and Planning Principles") on policy and planning principles for the restoration of Israel's rivers. The purpose of the document is to formulate planning principles and a comprehensive national policy on river restoration, regulation and management. *Inter alia*, the document recommends that efforts should be focused on developing an awareness of rivers as legitimate consumers of water.
- Conservation and wise use of the Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret) continued with cooperative and integrated efforts by such bodies as the Kinneret Authority and The Yigal Allon Kinneret Limnological Laboratory. The Laboratory, which conducts limnological research and monitors environmental factors which may affect the state of the lake, has upgraded its monitoring capabilities with the help of an ecraft (acronym for "ecological monitoring raft") for the continuous monitoring of water quality using automated instrumentation and space for on-lake monitoring and research activities.
- A National Master Plan on Rivers and Drainage was initiated in 2004. It aims at assuring the functions of rivers as drainage channels for flood control while, at the same time, assuring the continued existence and functioning of rivers and their environs for both rehabilitation, restoration and development of landscape values, ecology and culture and for leisure and recreation purposes.
- A "Transitional Master Plan for Water Sector Development in the years 2002-2010" has been prepared by the Water Commission. It relates to policy, institutional and operational changes required to improve Israel's water balance and its water quality. Among its major principles: legitimizing environmental needs through water allocations to sustain wetlands and rivers for nature conservation and recreational purposes and rehabilitating water sources and maintaining their quality to enable them to serve both as the sources and the main regulating reservoirs for the water.

149. Has your country identified priorities for each activity in the programme of work, including timescales, in relation to outcome oriented targets? (decision VII/4)

a) No	
b) Outcome oriented targets developed but priority activities not developed	
c) Priority activities developed but not outcome oriented targets	x
d) Yes, comprehensive outcome oriented targets and priority activities developed	

Further comments on the adoption of outcome oriented targets and priorities for activities, including providing a list of targets (if developed).

Priorities relate to pollution prevention in inland waters and wise and sustainable use and management of the country's water sources.

150. Is your country promoting synergies between this programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level? (decision VII/4)

a) Not applicable (not Party to Ramsar Convention)	
b) No	
c) No, but potential measures were identified for synergy and joint implementation	
d) Yes, some measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	x

Further comments on the promotion of synergies between the programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level.

All of the activities that Israel is taking with respect to its inland water ecosystems are compatible with activities under the Ramsar Convention.

151. Has your country taken steps to improve national data on: (decision VII/4)

Issues	Yes	No	No, but development is under way
a) Goods and services provided by inland water ecosystems?			x
b) The uses and related socioeconomic variables of such goods and services?			x
c) Basic hydrological aspects of water supply as they relate to maintaining ecosystem function?	x		
d) Species and all taxonomic levels?			x
e) On threats to which inland water ecosystems are subjected?	x		

Further comments on the development of data sets, in particular a list of data sets developed in case you have replied "YES" above.

- a) Services provided by inland water ecosystems have been identified in Israel's preliminary documents on sustainable development. These include flood control and social services.
- b) Research on the socioeconomic valuation of wetlands has been initiated.
- c) Studies on water allocations to inland water ecosystems have determined the water allocations needed to maintain ecosystem function.
- d) Studies on inland water species are undertaken at universities throughout Israel.
- e) Threats to which inland water ecosystems are subjects, mainly from urban, industrial and agricultural wastes and development projects, have been identified.

Data on all of these is available in publications and on websites. However, additional data is required.

152. Has your country promoted the application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems? (decision VII/4)	
a) No, the guidelines have not been reviewed	X
b) No, the guidelines have been reviewed and found inappropriate	
c) Yes, the guidelines have been reviewed and application/promotion is pending	
d) Yes, the guidelines promoted and applied	
Further comments on the promotion and application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.	

Box LXIII.

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

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

The initiation of river restoration programs, in which pollution prevention ranks high, has helped implement this program of work. Monitoring of river water quality is conducted biannually. A comparison and assessment of data on pollution loads shows a 50%-80% reduction in pollution loads between 1994 and 2003. As a result of these and other activities, some life has returned to Israel's rivers.

The reflooding scheme for the Hula Valley, which was drained in the 1950s to increase the arable land area and to eradicate malaria, has helped minimize the flow of polluted water from the Hula Valley to the Sea of Galilee. Results show the return and reestablishment of many species to the site and the reintroduction of plant species that had become extinct following the drying of Lake Hula.

Rehabilitation plans are being implemented for Israel's two Ramsar sites – the Hula Nature Reserve and the Ein Afeq Nature Reserve – as well as for some other wetlands.

Marine and coastal biological diversity

General

153. Do your country's strategies and action plans include the following? Please use an "X" to indicate your response. (decisions II/10 and IV/15)	
a) Developing new marine and coastal protected areas	x
b) Improving the management of existing marine and coastal protected areas	x
c) Building capacity within the country for management of marine and coastal resources, including through educational programmes and targeted research initiatives (if yes, please elaborate on types of initiatives in the box below)	x
d) Instituting improved integrated marine and coastal area management (including catchments management) in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loads into the marine environment	x
e) Protection of areas important for reproduction, such as spawning and nursery areas	
f) Improving sewage and other waste treatment	x
g) Controlling excessive fishing and destructive fishing practices	x
h) Developing a comprehensive oceans policy (if yes, please indicate current stage of development in the box below)	x
i) Incorporation of local and traditional knowledge into management of marine and coastal resources (if yes, please elaborate on types of management arrangements in the box below)	
j) Others (please specify below)	
k) Not applicable	
Please elaborate on the above activities and list any other priority actions relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts are invested in declaring new marine and coastal protected areas and improving the management of existing ones. Israel is one of the countries involved in a project of the Barcelona Initiative's Short and Medium-Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) relating to the development of marine and coastal protected areas in the Mediterranean region which includes the elaboration of management plans and training. • High priority is given to improving sewage and other waste treatment. Under the Prevention of Sea Pollution from Land-Based Sources Law, discharge of industrial and municipal wastewater into the sea is prohibited or regulated by a strict permit system. Permits are not granted if there are waste treatment and disposal alternatives on land or reuse methods or appropriate low-waste technology alternatives. Plans call for the further improvement of wastewater quality to tertiary level. • Israel abides by all of the requirements of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and operates according to an integrated coastal management policy. It has completed contingency plans for large-scale oil spills which are awaiting approval by the government. National Monitoring Programs for the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf of Eilat are implemented in Israel. • Professional training courses for inspectors of the Marine and Coastal Environment Division of the Ministry of the Environment are carried out regularly both within the framework of REMPEC and independently. Regular intensive oil pollution exercises and drills are carried out for all skills, from technical operation of equipment to full-scale emergency exercises, including international exercises with the Jordanian authorities in the Gulf of Aqaba. Large national exercises are carried out a pproximately 1-2 times a year. 	

- Priority is focused on protecting endangered marine turtles, both loggerhead turtles and green turtles. As part of a national management program, the Mediterranean coast is surveyed during the nesting season of marine turtles by rangers of the Nature and Parks Authority. All nests discovered during the survey are excavated and eggs are translocated to hatcheries. Hatchlings are released immediately after emergence, preferably at the original nesting beach.
- Destructive fishing practices are prohibited by law and numerous species of fish have been declared "protected assets."

Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

154. Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?

a) No	
b) Early stages of development	
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	x
e) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management.

The Marine and Coastal Environment Division of the Ministry of the Environment is the national authority responsible for marine pollution control, with jurisdiction over the country's marine and coastal areas.

A Protection of the Coastal Environment Law was enacted in August 2004. The stated aims of the law are:

- To protect the coastal environment, its natural and heritage assets, to restore and preserve them as a resource of unique value, and to prevent and reduce as far as possible any damage to them;
- To preserve the coastal environment and the coastal sand for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, for this and future generations.
- To establish principles and limitations for the sustainable management, development and use of the coastal environment.

Under the law, a Protection of the Coastal Environment Committee was set up, which is responsible for decisions on coastal development plans, taking into account such considerations as preventing damage to the coastal environment, preserving the coast for public benefit, assuring public access to the coast and conserving nature, landscape and heritage values.

The National Master Plan for the Mediterranean Coast prevents development which is unrelated to the coast, protects large sections of the coastline as nature reserves, national parks and coastal reserves and allocates coastal areas for tourism and recreation activities.

155. Has your country implemented ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal resources, for example through integration of coastal management and watershed management, or through integrated multidisciplinary coastal and ocean management?

a) No	
b) Early stages of development	
c) Advanced stages of development	x
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of application of the ecosystem to management of marine and coastal resources.

In 1999, the Territorial Waters Committee, under the National Planning and Building Board, completed a policy document on integrated coastal zone management. Its overall target is: management of the coast and territorial waters as a primary national and public asset, integration of coastal management in comprehensive national planning objectives and policy and careful development of this approach according to the sustainability principle.

The policy document includes the following components:

- The comprehensive policy, its aims and principles;
- The spatial policy which guides designations on the beachfront and the breaker zone.
- Thematic policy on specific subjects: marine structures, sand reservoir, infrastructure, transport, tourism, natural assets and archaeology;
- Measures for integrated coastal zone management including organizational recommendations, assessment tools for reviewing initiatives and proposals on planning, enforcement, monitoring, databases, and more.
- Compilation of data.

In addition, the Protection of the Coastal Environment Law is based on integrated coastal management.

Israel's restoration program for coastal rivers is based on a watershed basin approach.

Marine and Coastal Living Resources

156. Has your country identified components of your marine and coastal ecosystems, which are critical for their functioning, as well as key threats to those ecosystems?

a) No	
b) Plans for a comprehensive assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
c) A comprehensive assessment is currently in progress	
d) Critical ecosystem components have been identified, and management plans for them are being developed (please provide details below)	
e) Management plans for important components of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of assessment, monitoring and research relating to marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as key threats to them

Israel has identified the importance of two rare and threatened ecosystems: aquatic ecosystems and the sand and kurkar rocks along the Mediterranean shoreline.

A policy document was prepared on the preservation of coastal sand landscapes and on the sustainable development of the country's remaining sand area.

One of the aims of Israel's marine management policy is to protect its unique vermetid reefs, a globally rare phenomena that occurs only on the eastern coasts of the Mediterranean.

Special attention is paid to the coral reef ecosystem in the Gulf of Eilat and numerous research studies have been initiated in recent years to discover and identify the key threats to this ecosystem.

157. Is your country undertaking the following activities to implement the Convention's work plan on coral reefs? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.

Activities	Not implemented nor a priority	Not implemented but a priority	Currently implemented	Not applicable
a) Ecological assessment and monitoring of reefs			x	
b) Socio-economic assessment and monitoring of communities and stakeholders				X
c) Management, particularly through application of integrated coastal management and marine and coastal protected areas in coral reef environments			x	
d) Identification and implementation of additional and alternative measures for securing livelihoods of people who directly depend on coral reef services				X
e) Stakeholder partnerships, community participation programmes and public education campaigns			x	
f) Provision of training and career opportunities for marine taxonomists and ecologists			x	
g) Development of early warning systems of coral bleaching				X
h) Development of a rapid response capability to document coral bleaching and mortality				x

i) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded coral reef habitats			x	
j) Others (please specify below)				
Please elaborate on ongoing activities.				
<p>Israel's National Monitoring Program for the Gulf of Eilat is implemented by the Interuniversity Institute in Eilat, with Ministry of the Environment funding. An annual report is published each year and monitoring takes account of the results of both present and past research studies in the Gulf waters.</p> <p>The objectives of the monitoring program are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Test and assess the state of the Gulf of Eilat ecosystem. 2. Define criteria for the "health" of the Gulf of Eilat ecosystem. 3. Determine the impact level of different pollution sources on the state of the ecosystem. 4. Issue alerts on potential dangers to the system. 5. Establish a computerized database of oceanographic data on the Gulf of Eilat. 6. Consolidate and propose recommendations for environmental <p>In recent years, major resources have been invested in the pollution prevention station in Eilat and oil spills in the area have decreased substantially, the Eilat municipality has stopped discharging its sewage into the Red Sea, a sewage and bilge water collection system operates in the municipal marina, technological measures were instituted to stop phosphate pollution, scuba and snorkeling activities in sensitive areas were restricted and diver education was increased, and fishing has been prohibited in coral reef areas. Efforts are currently invested in removing the floating fish farms from the Gulf waters.</p>				

Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

158. Which of the following statements can best describe the current status of marine and coastal protected areas in your country? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.	
a) Marine and coastal protected areas have been declared and gazetted (please indicate below how many)	X
b) Management plans for these marine and coastal protected areas have been developed with involvement of all stakeholders	
c) Effective management with enforcement and monitoring has been put in place	
d) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas is under development	x
e) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas has been put in place	
f) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas managed for purpose of sustainable use, which may allow extra ctive activities	
g) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes a reas which exclude extractive uses	
h) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas is surrounded by sustainable management practices over the wider marine and coastal environment.	x

i) Other (please describe below)	
j) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of marine and coastal protected areas.	
<p>Israel's protected marine areas include both proposed and declared nature reserves and national parks. However, even for those areas which are not yet declared as protected areas, restrictions and enforcement are applied to protect their natural assets.</p> <p>Following is a summary of protected areas in the Mediterranean and Gulf of Eilat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 marine nature reserves, both proposed and declared, on the Mediterranean Sea, spanning an area of 519 hectares. • 21 coastal reserves, both proposed and declared, on the Mediterranean coastline, spanning an area of 3715 hectares. • 19 national parks, both proposed and declared, along the Mediterranean coastline, spanning an area of 1558 hectares. • 2 islet reserves in the Mediterranean Sea, spanning an area of 33 hectares. • 2 marine protected belts along the Mediterranean Sea, spanning an area of 1190 hectares. • 4 nature reserves in the Gulf of Eilat, spanning an area of 180 hectares <p>In all, protected areas run along some 97 kilometers in the Mediterranean (about 49% of the coastal stretch) and some 4 kilometers in the Gulf of Eilat (about 36% of the coastal stretch).</p> <p>Israel's marine and coastal protected areas are governed by the Nature Reserves and National Parks Law for which the Nature and Parks Authority is the responsible implementing body. The law protects these areas from changes and makes any activity with potential impacts subject to a permit. In these areas, the law prevents any dumping or discharge, passage of ships, introduction of non-indigenous species, hunting and harvesting, or any activity likely to impair the natural or cultural characteristics of the site.</p>	

Mariculture

159. Is your country applying the following techniques aimed at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity? Please check all that apply.	
a) Application of environmental impact assessments for mariculture developments	x
b) Development and application of effective site selection methods in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management	
c) Development of effective methods for effluent and waste control	x
d) Development of appropriate genetic resource management plans at the hatchery level	
e) Development of controlled hatchery and genetically sound reproduction methods in order to avoid seed collection from nature.	
f) If seed collection from nature cannot be avoided, development of environmentally sound practices for spat collecting operations, including use of selective fishing gear to avoid by-catch	N/A
g) Use of native species and subspecies in mariculture	X (in the Mediterranean)
h) Implementation of effective measures to prevent the inadvertent release of mariculture species and fertile polypoids.	x
i) Use of proper methods of breeding and proper places of releasing in order to protect genetic diversity	N/A

j)	Minimizing the use of antibiotics through better husbandry techniques	x
k)	Use of selective methods in commercial fishing to avoid or minimize by-catch	x
l)	Considering traditional knowledge, where applicable, as a source to develop sustainable mariculture techniques	N/A
m)	Not applicable	
Further comments on techniques that aim at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.		

Alien Species and Genotypes

160. Has your country put in place mechanisms to control pathways of introduction of alien species in the marine and coastal environment? Please check all that apply and elaborate on types of measures in the space below.		
a)	No	
b)	Mechanisms to control potential invasions from ballast water have been put in place (please provide details below)	X
c)	Mechanisms to control potential invasions from hull fouling have been put in place (please provide details below)	
d)	Mechanisms to control potential invasions from aquaculture have been put in place (please provide details below)	X
e)	Mechanisms to control potential invasions from accidental releases, such as aquarium releases, have been put in place (please provide details below)	X
f)	Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of activities relating to prevention of introductions of alien species in the marine and coastal environment, as well as any eradication activities.		

Box LXIV.

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

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

Israel is implementing an effective program for the reduction of marine pollution and the integrated management of its coastline. The program is backed up by statutory master plans and legislation.

In addition, Israel accords priority to the establishment of marine and coastal protected areas along its shorelines on the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Eilat.

Constraints encountered in implementation generally relate to development pressures and land-use competition along the coastal areas.

Agricultural biological diversity

161. ? Has your country developed national strategies, programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components? (decisions III/11 and IV/6)

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

Further comments on agrobiodiversity components in national strategies, programmes and plans.

A policy paper on ecological corridors has been prepared and is implemented. It relates to agricultural areas as open spaces which may be used as ecological corridors to connected protected areas for the purpose of biodiversity conservation.

Measures have been initiated to mitigate the adverse effects of intensive agriculture including the promotion of less toxic and less residual pesticides, better management of agricultural waste including dairy farm wastes, organic agriculture and integrated pest management.

A policy document on the protection of open spaces which was drafted by the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of the Environment, Nature and Parks Authority, Jewish National Fund and the Society for the Protection of Nature relates to tools for open space management, including agricultural areas, in a manner which will ensure protection of natural values, landscapes, environmental function and heritage.

In recent years, the preservation of agricultural areas in Israel has been increasingly viewed in terms of its open space and landscape value as well as its contribution to the self-sufficiency of the country in terms of agricultural supply. The preservation of agricultural areas is considered to be an important component of policy on open space protection in a small and densely populated country.

162. ? Has your country identified ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>In-situ</i> and <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity? (decision V/5)	
a) No	x
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures identified (please provide details below)	
Further information on ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>In-situ</i> and <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.	

Annex to decision V/5 - Programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

Programme element 1 – Assessment	
163. Has your country undertaken specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity such as on plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are in progress (please specify components below)	x
c) Yes, assessments completed (please specify components and results of assessments below)	
Further comments on specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity.	
Sporadic field research has been undertaken in different locations in Israel, including studies on the impact of agricultural cultivation on vegetation in the immediate vicinity. Research in this area is largely undertaken in Israel's universities.	

164. Is your country undertaking assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity referred to in Annex I of the Convention (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance)?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are under way	X
c) Yes, some assessments completed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments completed (please provide details below)	
Further comments on assessment of biodiversity components (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance).	
Some local projects and ecological research are underway in Israel's universities.	

165. Has your country carried out an assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for food production and food security?	
a) No	x
b) Yes, assessment is under way	
c) Yes, assessment completed (please specify where information can be retrieved below)	
Further comments on assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities.	
Some studies have been undertaken by students in Israel's universities of the agricultural practices of the country's Bedouin population, for example research on sheep raising.	

166. Has your country been monitoring an overall degradation, status quo or restoration/rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity since 1993 when the Convention entered into force?	
a) No	x
b) Yes, no change found (status quo)	
c) Yes, overall degradation found (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below)	
Further comments on observations.	
Local and limited monitoring has only begun in recent years and results are not yet available.	

Programme element 2 - Adaptive management	
167. Has your country identified management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive, and mitigate the negative, impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, technologies and policies being identified	
c) Yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	
Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies.	
<p>In 1999, a reform package was initiated in the dairy sector with the aim, <i>inter alia</i>, of preventing pollution from dairy farm wastes. Within this framework, strict criteria were formulated for the environment friendly operation of dairy farms. Financial grants of 50% were granted for investments in infrastructure and systems designed to protect the environment from cowshed wastes and leachates.</p> <p>Biological pest control is implemented in several agricultural areas in Israel. Among others, beneficial natural enemies are introduced. In one project, barn owls are used to control rodent populations in farming areas.</p> <p>Efforts are targeted at reducing pesticide use and promoting the use of environment-friendly pesticides.</p>	

Programme element 3 - Capacity-building

168. Has your country increased the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainable agricultural biodiversity and to develop strategies and methodologies for *In-situ* conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biological diversity?

a) No	
b) Yes (please specify area/component and target groups with increased capacity)	x

Further comments on increased capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders.

The Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Agriculture has appointed a special team to deal with the subject of agricultural ecology to the level of the individual farmer.

The Ministry of the Environment's Agro-Ecology Division deals with the prevention of environmental degradation arising from improper agricultural practices and works with the Extension Service in the Ministry of agriculture to help reduce the negative impacts of agriculture on the environment while advancing sustainable agricultural development.

169. Has your country put in place operational mechanisms for participation by a wide range of stakeholder groups to develop genuine partnerships contributing to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but potential mechanisms being identified	
c) No, but mechanisms are under development	x
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place	

170. Has your country improved the policy environment, including benefit-sharing arrangements and incentive measures, to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some measures and arrangements being identified	x
c) No, but measures and arrangements are under development	
d) Yes, measures and arrangements are being implemented (please specify below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to improve the policy environment.

Policy documents on the preservation of open spaces, including agricultural areas, relate to incentive measures and financial mechanisms to support biodiversity.

Programme element 4 – Mainstreaming

171. Is your country mainstreaming or integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes?

a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	x
c) No, but potential frameworks and mechanisms are being identified	
d) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed and integrated into some sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed into major sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on mainstreaming and integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes.

A sustainable agriculture document was included in Israel's preliminary documents on sustainable development.

The 2003 government decision on sustainable development calls on the Minister for Agriculture to take steps to promote the wise and supervised use of chemicals for fertilization and pest control, to use means to encourage agriculture which conserves resources, to encourage organic agriculture and to grant incentives within water management reform for maintaining open space in order to preserve rural landscapes.

The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan relates to agricultural biodiversity.

Agricultural areas are considered part of Israel's open space system for purposes of planning.

172. Is your country supporting the institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans, and its integration into wider strategies and action plans for biodiversity?

a) No	
b) Yes, by supporting institutions in undertaking relevant assessments	
c) Yes, by developing policy and planning guidelines	X
d) Yes, by developing training material	X
e) Yes, by supporting capacity-building at policy, technical and local levels	X
f) Yes, by promoting synergy in the implementation of agreed plans of action and between ongoing assessment and intergovernmental processes.	

Further comments on support for institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms.

The Open Space Project which has been initiated by the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of the Environment, Nature and Parks Authority, Jewish National Fund and Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel has developed policy documents on the protection of open spaces, including agricultural areas, and incorporating them into plans. The goals of this projects include:

- To identify and plan open spaces worthy of conservation as assets of nature,

landscape, and heritage that will be utilized as recreation sites in nature.

- To ensure the continued existence of the environmental functions of open spaces.
- To create the tools and the means to bring open-space planning to fruition.
- To increase public awareness of the importance of open-space conservation.

Israel's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan relates to the subject of biodiversity in the agricultural sector.

173. In the case of centers of origin in your country, is your country promoting activities for the conservation, on farm, *In-situ*, and *Ex-situ*, of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including their wild relatives?

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

x

Further comments on of the conservation of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture in their center of origin.

Israel's location in the Mideast heartland of genetic diversity for many agricultural crops, coupled with its geographic and climatic diversity, have helped to create a rich collection of habitats and corresponding genetic diversity. Israel is one of the world's richest areas in progenitors and relatives of domesticated species.

The Israel Gene Bank for Agricultural Crops is responsible for implementing a strategy for national genetic resource conservation. Its responsibilities include, *inter alia*, the search for plants potentially suitable for extraction of beneficial substances, collection, preservation, documentation and evaluation of genetic resources of crop plants and their relatives, including landraces and primitive cultivars and development of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation techniques.

In-situ conservation in wild wheat populations at Ammiad (in the eastern Galilee) has been successfully undertaken. Efforts are now concentrating on declaring this area a nature reserve.

Box LXV.

Please provide information concerning the actions taken by your country to implement the Plan of Action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.

Box LXVI.

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

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

Actions are largely aimed at mitigating the effects of the intensive agriculture which is practiced in Israel. In recent years, documents have been prepared on sustainable agriculture and a National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, which relates, *inter alia*, to agricultural biodiversity is now in preparation. Efforts are largely focusing on the reduction of pesticide use, the switch to more environment friendly forms of pest control, and integrated pest management.

Efforts to promote agricultural biological diversity are still at an early stage and largely consist of local initiatives. Limited research is undertaken at university level.

In recent years, Yad Hanadiv (the Rothschild Foundation) initiated a Fund for the

Advancement of Landscape and Environmental Values in Israeli Agricultural Regions. A website in Hebrew – nekudat-hen.org.il – was created which features the results of research studies on agriculture, landscape, and ecology. Workshops and seminars take place regularly on the subject with the participation of members of the agricultural sector. Organizations such as the Heschel Center for Environmental Leadership (an NGO) have launched an internet forum on sustainable agriculture.

Israel's green bodies and planning agencies have waged a struggle to mitigate the damage caused to the Gulf of Eilat ecosystem from the floating fish cages.

Efforts are directed at the establishment of biosphere reserves in a few areas in Israel with the participation of local stakeholders.

Forest Biological Diversity

General

174. Has your country incorporated relevant parts of the work programme into your national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes?	
a) No	
b) Yes, please describe the process used	x
c) Yes, please describe constraints/obstacles encountered in the process	x
d) Yes, please describe lessons learned	x
e) Yes, please describe targets for priority actions in the programme of work	x
Further comments on the incorporation of relevant parts of the work programme into your NBSAP and forest programmes	
<p>The Israel National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, which is now being prepared, includes specific chapters, which address aspects which are relevant to forests and to other ecosystems in Israel, including management, monitoring, research and planning.</p> <p>In reviewing Israel's forest plants, it was found that there should be more centralization on the national level including priority setting and appropriate funding.</p> <p>Targets for priority action include spatial planning, alien invasive species control, monitoring and management, wild fire prevention.</p>	

Box LXVII.

Please indicate what recently applied tools (policy, planning, management, assessment and measurement) and measures, if any, your country is using to implement and assess the programme of work. Please indicate what tools and measures would assist the implementation.
<p>The Keren Kayemeth leIsrael (KKL), also known as the Jewish National Fund (JNF), prepares large scale regional plans which define various land use types – combining nature conservation with rangeland agriculture, tourists and leisure uses.</p> <p>Since the UN Rio Declaration of 1992 and its subsequent Agenda 21 on Sustainable Development, a policy of ecologically based afforestation, forest renewal and forest management has slowly evolved and been put into practice by the JNF Forest Department. The main features of this approach are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on comprehensive, ecological site surveys; • Localized, minimal impact site preparation techniques; • Localized use of and change to more environmentally friendly herbicides; • Mixed, conifer-broadleaf plantings;

- Use of native, Mediterranean broadleaf species;
- Increased use of local, genetically proven seed sources;
- Increased use of natural regeneration and seeding;
- Variable planting densities to diversify forest structure;
- Retention and nurturing of native tree and understory species;
- Retention of unplanted, protected patches within the forest;
- Identification and retention of rare floral and faunal habitats;
- Variable-retention cutting intensities to diversify forest structure;
- Transformation of single age-class forests to multiple age-class forests;
- Slash chipping and its use as on-site mulch.

An Invasive Species Control Program has been initiated by the Nature and Parks Authority. An interdisciplinary committee on the subject was created, which is divided into subcommittees covering different aspects including management, research, education, legislation, etc.

Management programs for all protected areas in Israel, in accordance with Israeli law, are implemented by the Nature and Parks Authority. Many of them relate to forest ecosystems. One of the main goals is biodiversity conservation on the national and local level. The programs implement an adaptive management concept – management supported by monitoring.

Israel's Long-Term Ecological Research Network (LTER), established by a common effort of several governmental and academic institutions, covers most of the aridity gradient represented in Israel. The main concern is biodiversity conservation, monitoring and developing suitable management tools. Most of the sites are located in Mediterranean forests and the main management tool applied is that of woody vegetation manipulation.

Box LXVIII .

Please indicate to what extent and how your country has involved indigenous and local communities, and respected their rights and interests, in implementing the programme of work.

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Box LXIX.

Please indicate what efforts your country has made towards capacity building in human and capital resources for the implementation of the programme of work.

JNF foresters have attended USFS sponsored study programs for the past 20 years, IUFRO conferences, UN conferences and international seminars.

Box LXX.

Please indicate how your country has collaborated and cooperated (e.g., south-south, north-south, south-north, north-north) with other governments, regional or international organizations in implementing the programme of work. Please also indicate what are the constraints and/or needs identified.

The JNF is a member of: The International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) supporting research and technology transfer for arid land management; Eurogen; Iufro; Silva Mediterranea.

There is a need for further Mediterranean collaboration and joint projects in the area of conservation, management and monitoring.

Expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity

Programme element 1 – Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing	
175. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?	
a) No (please provide reasons below)	
b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below)	x
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impact on forest management, constraints, needs, tools, and targets).	
<p>The issue of an ecosystem approach is addressed in Israel's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.</p> <p>At present the ecosystem approach is partly applied by the Nature and Parks Authority but a better classification of ecosystem types and habitats is needed.</p>	

176. Has your country undertaken measures to reduce the threats to, and mitigate its impacts on forest biodiversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	x	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 2px;">Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statutory protection of forest lands - Managing forests for high structural and species diversity - Developing a dialogue with other open space management agencies - developing joint management plans with other open space management agencies.
b) No		<div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 2px;">Please provide reasons below</div>
Further comments on measures to reduce threats to, and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
<p>The major threats to forest diversity include: 1. Habitat loss and fragmentation, 2. Alien and local species invasion, 3. Wild fires, 4. Growing coverage of dense maquis as a result of secondary succession.</p> <p>Several measures have been taken to address these problems but it is too early to assess their effectiveness since a systematic approach has only been initiated recently. With the exception of fire fighting, Israel is now in the stage of formulating goals and tools rather than actual application, monitoring and verification.</p>		

177. Is your country undertaking any measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localized, minimal impact site preparation techniques; • Localized use of and change to more environmentally friendly herbicides; • Mixed, conifer-broadleaf plantings; • Use of native, Mediterranean broadleaf species; • Increased use of local, genetically proven seed sources; • Increased use of natural regeneration and seeding; • Variable planting densities to diversify forest structure; • Retention and nurturing of native tree and understory species; • Retention of unplanted, protected patches within the forest; • Identification and retention of rare floral and faunal habitats; • Variable-retention cutting intensities to diversify forest structure; • Transformation of single age-class forests to multiple age-class forests; • Slash chipping and its use as on-site mulch <p>In addition, general measures that relate to protected areas are also relevant to forested areas. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The declaration of new nature reserves and the enlargement of existing ones; • The application of the ecological corridor approach in open spaces in order to conserve biodiversity of both ecosystems and species. These corridors provide conduits for the passage of animals and plants in a fragmented landscape and allow for the exchange of genetic material with neighboring populations; • The implementation of guidelines on animal passages in roads as a means of mitigating habitat fragmentation; • The management of nature reserves and national parks in a manner which preserves the landscape diversity and the mosaic of microhabitats; • The management of nature reserves and some planted forests in a manner that meets the requirements of rare and endemic species; • The reintroduction of large herbivores that had been extinct from forests including the roe deer in Ramat HaNadiv on Mount Carmel and the fallow deer in the Galilee and Judean Hills. <p>In addition, the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan proposes the inclusion of forest species in a National Gene Bank. A Management Program on Woody Vegetation on Mount Carmel, by Dr. Shoshana Ashkenazi, on behalf of both the Nature and Parks Authority and the JNF identifies as one of the main goals the conservation of genetic diversity of the unique national population of <i>Pinus halepensis</i> (Aleppo Pine).</p>
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).	
<p>The JNF has planted more than 220 million trees, with additional plantings each year.</p> <p>In 1995, the Israel government approved a National Master Plan for Forests and Forestry which designates 7% of the country's land area for this purpose.</p>	

178. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	x	<p>Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>The encouragement of forest based ecotourism.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>
Further comments on the promotion of the sustainable use of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
<p>Planted and natural woodlands are largely designated for the purpose of providing a green hinterland to the general public for leisure and recreation.</p> <p>Research on grazing has shown that traditional grazing, largely by goats and sheep is, if controlled, the best possible tool for woody vegetation management and for preserving the ecosystem mosaic. Grazing is widely used for management of nature reserves and national parks by the Nature and Parks Authority and for the management of forests by the JNF.</p> <p>Traditional methods of manual thinning are sometimes used by these two agencies especially in vulnerable areas (such as Mount Carmel after a major fire). They involve employment of local communities.</p>		

179. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes		<p>Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 5 and describe measures undertaken</p>
b) No	x	<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

Further comments on the promotion of access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources. (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets)

N/A

Programme element 2 – Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment

180. Is your country undertaking any measures to enhance the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the enhancement of the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

181. Is your country undertaking any measures to address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on review of socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

182. Is your country undertaking any measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>The JNF has developed some 500 picnic and recreation sites countrywide that welcome hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. In addition, tens of thousands of children and adults plants trees on Arbor Day every year. Scores of high school students attend seminars and courses each year in JNF Field and Forest Educational Centers. Thirty-five thousand families have joined JNF's "Green Way" friendship association in recent years. They, along with other members of the public, participate in dozens of educational and cultural activities in Israel's forests.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>
<p>Further comments on measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).</p>		

Programme element 3 – Knowledge, assessment and monitoring

183. Is your country undertaking any measures to characterize forest ecosystems at various scales in order to improve the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Forests are classified by types in the National Master Plan: planted forest, protected natural forest, natural forest for improvement, park forest, riparian forest & coastal forest.</p> <p>Planted forests are categorized on a national GIS by species type: pure conifer, mixed conifer, mixed conifer and broadleaf, mixed broadleaf.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>
<p>Further comments on characterization of forest ecosystems at various scales (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).</p>		
<p>Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network in Israel is designed to better understand the following processes and phenomena:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the diversity of ecosystems (including forests) along the climatic gradient on different time and spatial scales 		

2. the dynamics of ecosystems
3. the role of woody vegetation as a landscape modulator
4. the internal structure of ecosystems in relation to species richness, diversity and composition
5. the impact of various management practices on these processes and phenomena

Management and monitoring programs of protected areas include monitoring of various aspects of biodiversity

Widely accessible computerized and commonly shared data bases like BioGIS (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), or BioCASE (Nature and Parks Authority) improve the accessibility of data and supply (like BioGIS the tools to analyze them)

184. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve knowledge on, and methods for, the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	x	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities The use of ecological forest inventories
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on improvement of knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

The LTER Network, described above, is aimed at doing this.

185. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	x	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities Research is funded by the JNF to identify and quantify forest biodiversity
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the improvement of the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

The LTER Network aims at doing this.

186. Is your country undertaking any measures at national level to improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biodiversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities JNF manages a national level forestry GIS based on satellite and aerial imagery with ground based data collection.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the improvement of the infrastructure for data and information management (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
Widely accessible computerized and commonly shared databases such as BioGIS and BioCASE improve the accessibility of data and supply.		

Box LXXI.

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

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

Ninety years of JNF forestry has created a significant and integral part of Israel's open space resources. A diversifying system of forest cover plays an important role in the ecological and social spheres of Israeli society. Over this period forest structure and species composition increased in diversity and evolved into a "complex afforestation system" of 90,000 hectares in size. This forest system is connected to other types of open space across which numerous ecological activities, events and processes occur.

Israel's forests, both natural and planted, are perceived as multi-functional, ecological landscape systems which are managed for multiple services to the society and ecology of their surrounding regions. They're of high recreational value, supply a limited but integral part of needed raw materials to the wood-based sector of the economy, supplement existing pasturelands for livestock production, provide important ecological services such as wildlife habitat and rare species niches, protect against soil erosion and the deterioration of watershed catchment areas, serve as a basis for academic study and research, and give a certain sense of belonging and consciousness to the Israeli society as a whole.

Since the 1980s, planted forestlands underwent a transformation from monocultural, even-aged forests to a mosaic of mixed, uneven-aged, multiple-use forests with a greater degree of ecological stability, biological diversity and landscape aesthetic value. This process will continue as more and more stands are renewed and as new lands are added to the nation's forest inventory.

At present, sustainable development is being embraced by JNF as a new management paradigm. In 2002, JNF officially adopted a new set of ten strategic objectives including *"contributing to Israel's quality of life by protecting its open spaces and developing them"*. While this at first appears to be a contradictory objective, it embodies the JNF's aim of

simultaneously developing and protecting open space resources for society's benefit while attempting to strike a balance between the two.

Forestry and afforestation are at a critical juncture with respect to sustainable forest management principles. Currently, JNF's forest system is managed and marketed as an important asset in the nation's reserve of "green infrastructure elements". It is viewed as a public good and an integral part of the nation's open space network. Knowledge of how forests function and develop as ecosystems could make a significant contribution towards better managing them.

The specific objective of preserving forest biological diversity requires that the overall planning, scheduling and execution of silvicultural activities on the stand, forest and landscape levels be based upon detailed knowledge of important species, their lifecycles, their habitat requirements.

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

187. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work? (decisions V/23 and VII/2)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	x
Further comments on scientific, technical and financial support, at the national and regional levels, to the activities identified in the programme of work.	
The definition of the Biodiversity Convention of "dry and subhumid lands" fully overlaps with the definition of the Convention on Combating Desertification of "drylands". According to these definitions, all of Israel is dryland, or "dry and subhumid lands". Within it are embedded other systems, including inland water, coasts, agricultural lands, mountains and forests.	
Therefore, the responses included in other parts of this questionnaire are relevant to dry and sub-humid lands as well. Israel is mainly scientifically supporting the activities identified in the program of work.	

188. Has your country integrated actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	x
Further comments on actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands integrated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD.	
The National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan relates to the establishment of a Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) network in Israel which investigates the structure, function and long-term dynamics of ecological systems and their impact on biodiversity in specific sites along Israel's rainfall gradient. This knowledge will be used to develop ecological management methods for preserving and rehabilitating biodiversity in dry and subhumid lands throughout the country.	

189. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD process and other processes under related environmental conventions? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)

a) No	x
b) Yes, some linkages established (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, extensive linkages established (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures to ensure the synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD processes and other processes under related environmental conventions.

Programme Part A: Assessment

190. Has your country assessed and analyzed information on the state of dryland biological diversity and the pressures on it, disseminated existing knowledge and best practices, and filled knowledge gaps in order to determine adequate activities? (Decision V/23, Part A: Assessment, Operational objective, activities 1 to 6)

a) No	
b) No, but assessment is ongoing	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive assessment undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the relevant information on assessments of the status and trends and dissemination of existing knowledge and best practices.

This is an ongoing activity.

A Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) network was established in Israel which investigates the structure, function and long-term dynamics of ecological systems and their impact on biodiversity in specific sites along Israel's rainfall gradient. This knowledge will be used to develop ecological management methods for preserving and rehabilitating biodiversity in dry and subhumid lands throughout the country. At most of the sites (seven have been established), research is undertaken on the effects of woody vegetation as landscape modulators on biodiversity. In all of the sites, long-term data are collected on selected groups of plants and animals. These data will be made available to researchers, managers, educators and the general public.

Israel's universities assess and analyze information on the state of dryland biodiversity and the pressures on it.

Programme Part B: Targeted Actions

191. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences? (part B of annex I of decision V/23, activities 7 to 9)

a) No	
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	x
c) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences.

Nearly 20% of Israel's arid desert has been protected as nature reserves and national parks. Another 3% of the land is protected in Mediterranean ecosystems.

192. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work?

a) No	x
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, all identified capacity needs met (please provide details below)	

Further comments on measures taken to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work.

Box LXXII.

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

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

All of Israel is characterized as dryland. Therefore, the activities mentioned throughout this questionnaire relate to drylands as well.

Israel has a wide knowledge base on dryland agriculture, water resource development and afforestation.

Desertification research is carried out at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, particularly through its arm for desert research, the Blaustein Institute for Desert Research. The Albert Katz International School for Desert Studies operates within this framework. Other universities in Israel also participate in ecological research in the Israeli drylands.

Mountain Biodiversity

Programme Element 1. Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing	
193. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	x
b) No, but relevant measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity	
Since there are very few mountain ecosystems in Israel, a separate program of action has not been formulated for them.	

194. Has your country taken any measures to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity	

195. Has your country taken any measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems	

196. Has your country taken any measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources, including preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	

c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources	

Programme Element 2. Means of implementation for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing	
197. Has your country developed any legal, policy and institutional framework for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing this programme of work?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant frameworks are being developed	
c) Yes, some frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the legal, policy and institutional frameworks for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing the programme of work on mountain biodiversity.	
Since there are very few mountain ecosystems in Israel, a separate program of action has not been formulated for them.	

198. Has your country been involved in regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some cooperation frameworks are being considered	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity	

**Programme Element 3. Supporting actions for conservation,
sustainable use and benefit sharing**

199. Has your country taken any measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biological diversity?

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

Further comments on the measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biodiversity

Since there are very few mountain ecosystems in Israel, a separate program of action has not been formulated for them.

200. Has your country taken any measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

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

Further comments on the measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

201. Has your country taken any measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems?

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

Further comments on the measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems

Box LXXIII .

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

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

Since there are very few mountain ecosystems in Israel, a separate program of action has not been formulated for them.

E. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

202. Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention? (decision V/20)

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

Further comments on the regional and subregional activities in which your country has been involved.

203. Is your country strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, enhancing integration and promoting synergies with relevant regional and subregional processes? (decision VI/27 B)

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

Further comments on regional and subregional cooperation and processes.

The following question (204) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

204. Is your country supporting the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	x
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, included in existing cooperation frameworks (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities ongoing (please provide details below)	

Further comments on support for the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes.

205. Is your country working with other Parties to strengthen the existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No

x

b) Yes

206. Has your country contributed to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No

x

b) Yes (please provide details below)

Further comments on contribution to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms.

Box LXXIV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of the above decisions specifically focusing on:

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

F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT

Box LXXV.

Please provide below recommendations on how to improve this reporting format.

The 130-page report was cumbersome and repetitive and difficult to fill out. In many cases, due to the overlapping of questions or the very detailed components of each question, answers were difficult to formulate. Efforts should be made to simplify the format.

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