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**ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE SECOND NATIONAL
REPORTS CONCERNING THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF WORK UNDER THE
CONVENTION**

Note by the Executive Secretary

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* UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1 and Corr.1/Rev.1.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The objective of national reporting, as specified in the Article 26 of the Convention, is to present to the Conference of the Parties reports on measures which the Parties have taken for the implementation of the provisions of this Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of this Convention. The reporting process under the Convention is key to enabling the Conference of the Parties to assess the overall status of the implementation of the Convention.
2. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties considered and adopted the guidelines and the format for future national reporting that were developed by the Secretariat through a pilot project, carried out with the collaboration of a number of Parties.
3. Following the request made in Decision V/19, the Executive Secretary revised the format, by incorporating views from the Parties and decisions adopted at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and circulated the revised version to the Parties in September 2000. This version was then used by the Parties for their second national reports.
4. The Intersessional Meeting on Strategic Plan, National Reports and the Implementation of Convention, which was held in Montreal, Canada, from 19 to 21 November 2001, considered a preliminary synthesis of the second national reports prepared by the Secretariat, and requested the Executive Secretary to make a full assessment of the information contained therein, taking into consideration the progress in, and constraints to the implementation.
5. The information presented in this paper is based on the 62* second national reports received by the end of January 2002. The majority of Parties have used the format recommended by the Conference of the Parties in its decision V/19, with the revision circulated in September 2000.
6. From a statistical point of view, it should be noted that a number of constraints limit the scope of this first attempt at a full assessment of the contents of the second national reports. First of all, only 65 reports, out of a total of 182 Parties, were received by the Secretariat by the end of January 2002. It must also be underlined that, according to the request made by the MSP, only the second national reports are used in this assessment. Other sources of information were not included.
7. From a technical point of view, it should be noted that the number of the responses on which different assessments are based varies slightly due to the multiple options some Parties have selected or to the fact that some Parties did not respond to some questions for various reasons. In addition, in many instances, Parties answered questions that were not designed for them.
8. A searchable database and an electronic tool called the Second National Reports Analyzer have been developed by the Secretariat to post all the national and thematic reports on the website of the Convention (see <http://www.biodiv.org/reports/nr-02.asp>). This enables access to the information on the status of implementation by fields of inquiry (for example, by regions, subregions and programme of work). It should be noted that a few margins of error still exist in the database partly due to the inappropriate use of the format by some Parties.

* It is important to note that, although 66 second national reports were received by the end of January 2002, 62 second national reports are the subject of this assessment. As the Second National Reports Analyzer was used to extract the information contained in this report, a Word version of the report was required so that national data could be entered and processed by this database. In view of this, the data of the 4 Parties that had not submitted a Word version of their report at the time this assessment was being prepared is not reflected in this assessment.

9. Acronyms and references to issues by article numbers have been kept to a minimum for ease of use of this document. Please note that percentage figures between parentheses in the text relate the number of Parties that replied in a certain way to the overall number of Parties who replied to the same question, whose second national reports were received by the Secretariat up to the end of January 2002 (62 Parties); it does not refer to the total number of Parties to the Convention (182 Parties). Figures with decimals, although generally avoided, occur sometimes in the text and refer to questions in which Parties chose more than one option from the multiple choice offered to them.

II. ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION IN THE SECOND NATIONAL REPORTS CONCERNING THEMATIC PROGRAMMES OF WORK UNDER THE CONVENTION

A. *Marine and coastal biological diversity*

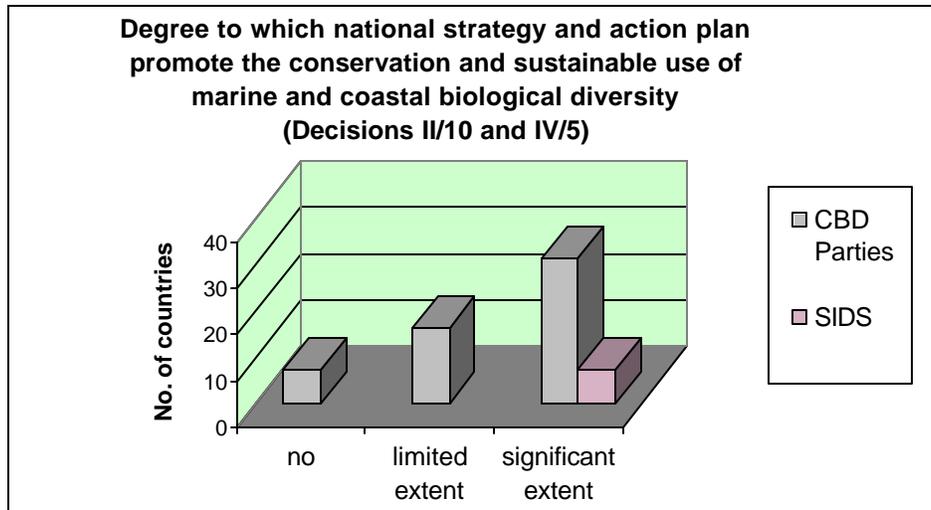
10. The Conference of the Parties adopted at its fourth meeting (Bratislava, May 1998) decision IV/5 on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, including a multi-year programme of work arising from decision II/10. The programme focuses on five main thematic issues, which reflect global priorities. These thematic issues are: integrated marine and coastal area management, sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, marine and coastal protected areas, mariculture, and alien species and genotypes. The decision also contains two sections specifically addressing the issue of coral reefs and the special needs and considerations of small island developing States in the implementation of the programme of work.

11. A more comprehensive review of the implementation of the programme of work in marine and coastal biological diversity, based on the first and second national reports, as well as the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, will be presented to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as an additional information document. The analysis presented here only focuses on information available in questions 320-328 of the 62 second national reports submitted to the Secretariat to date. Included in this number were 7 small island developing States.

Marine and coastal biological diversity in national action plans

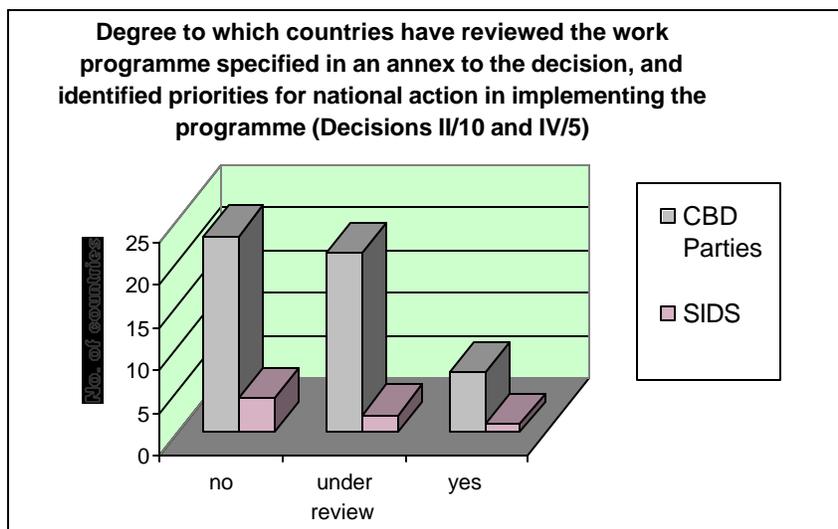
12. In question 320 of the second national report, countries were asked whether their national strategies and action plans promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. Of the 53 countries that responded to this question, 30 (57%) indicated that this was the case to a significant extent. All of the seven responding small island developing States (SIDS) fit into this category. 16 countries (30.2%) indicated that this was the case to a limited extent, while 7 countries (13.2%) indicated that the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity was not promoted in their national strategies. The results of these answers highlight the importance placed on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity in national planning processes.

Figure 1



13. In question 325, countries were further asked whether they had reviewed the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, as specified in the annex to decision IV/5, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme. 22 countries (44%, including 4 SIDS) of the total 50, who responded to this question, indicated that they had not done so. 21 countries (42%, including 2 SIDS) indicated that the programme of work was under review, while a minority (7 countries, including 1 SIDS, or 14% of the responses) indicated that they had reviewed the programme of work and used it in identifying priorities for national action. This suggests that although a high importance is placed on conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity in national planning processes, this has not necessarily been translated to a prioritized implementation of the programme of work as adopted in decision IV/5.

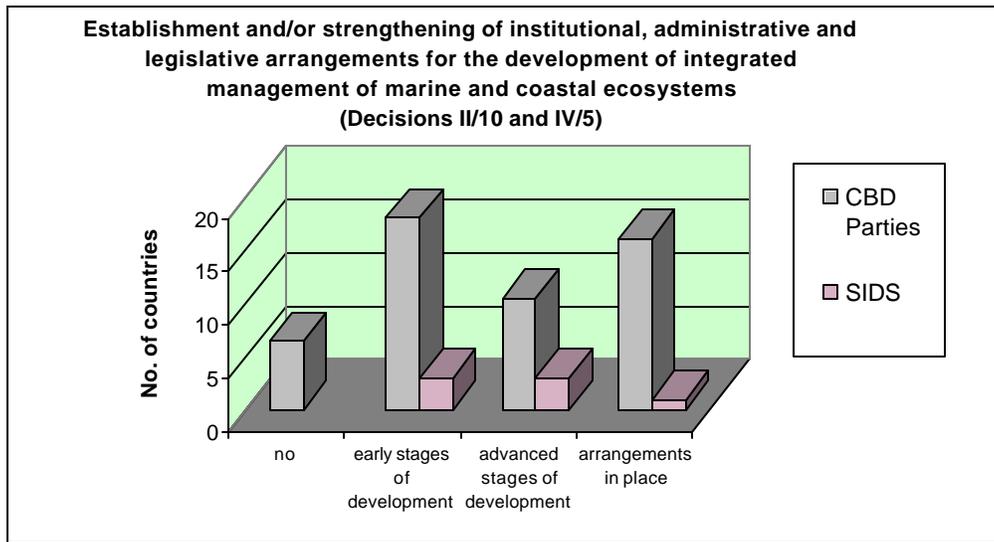
Figure 2



Integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems (IMCAM)

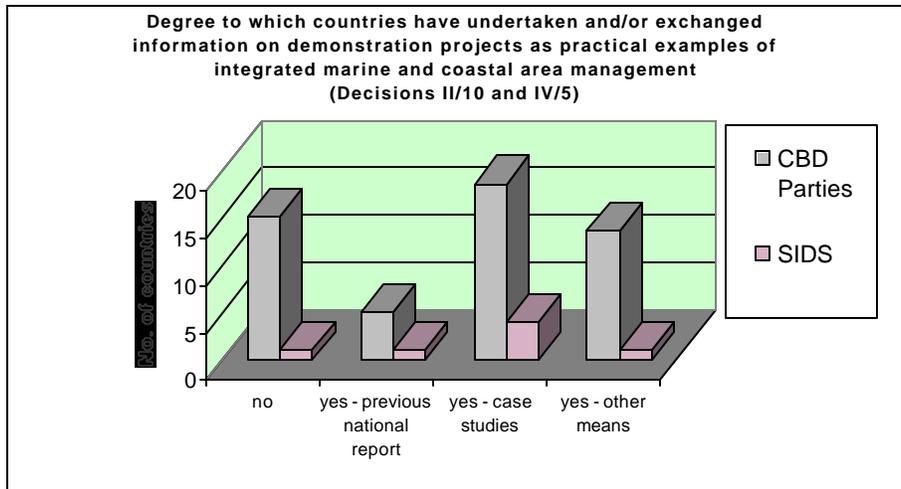
14. In question 321, countries were asked whether they had established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems. A total of 50 countries responded to this question. 16 of those responding (32% of the total) had such arrangements in place. This group included one SIDS. 9.5 responses indicated that these countries (19% including 3 SIDS) were at advanced stages of development of such arrangements, while an additional 18 (36% of the total, including 3 SIDS) were at early stages of development. 6.5 responses indicated that these countries (13%) had no arrangements in place. No SIDS were in this latter group. This indicates that a majority of countries either have institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements in place, or are in the process of developing them.

Figure 3



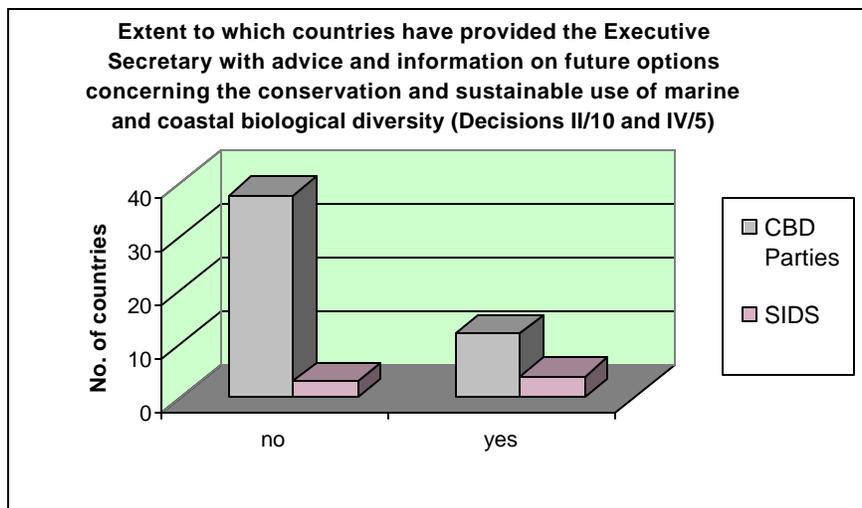
15. Question 323 also relates to integrated marine and coastal area management. In this question, countries were asked whether they had undertaken and/or exchanged information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management. Of the 51 responses to this question, 17.5 (34.3%, including 4 SIDS) had case studies of such IMCAM projects. 5 (10%, including 1 SIDS) had practical examples of IMCAM included in their first national reports, and 15 (29.4%, including 1 SIDS) had not undertaken such projects, or exchanged information about them. 13.5 (26.5%, including 1 SIDS) had exchanged information about projects undertaken through other means. These results highlight the availability of a wealth of case studies related to IMCAM.

Figure 4



16. Although question 322 does not directly mention IMCAM, it is somewhat related. In this question, countries were asked whether they had provided the Executive Secretary with advice and information on future options concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. A total of 49 countries responded to this question. 37 countries (76%, including 3 SIDS) indicated that they had not provided information, while 12 countries (24%, including 4 SIDS) had. Such information would be of great future value both in evaluating the implementation of the programme work, as well as any future revisions of, and adjustments to it.

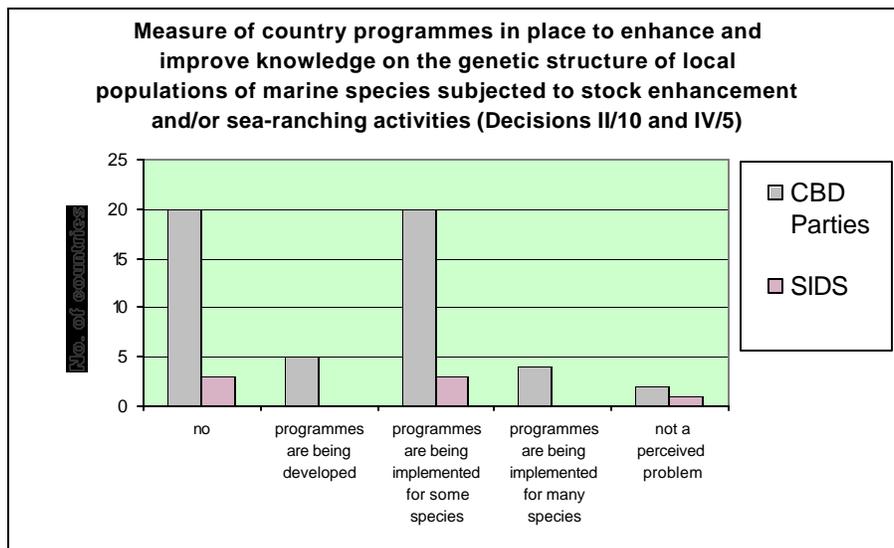
Figure 5



Mariculture, stock enhancement and genotypes

17. In question 324, countries were asked whether they had programmes in place to enhance and improve knowledge on the genetic structure of local populations of marine species subjected to stock enhancement and/or sea-ranching activities. A total of 50 countries responded to this question. The answers somewhat unevenly split between the various options. Almost one half of the responding countries (20 countries or 40% of the total, including 3 SIDS) had no such programmes. Roughly another half of the responding countries (19 countries or 38% of the total, including 3 SIDS) had programmes, which were implemented for some species. A small number of countries selected the other choices. 5 countries indicated that programmes were being developed, 4 reported that programmes were being implemented for many species, and a further 2 (including 1 SIDS) did not perceive this topic to be a problem.

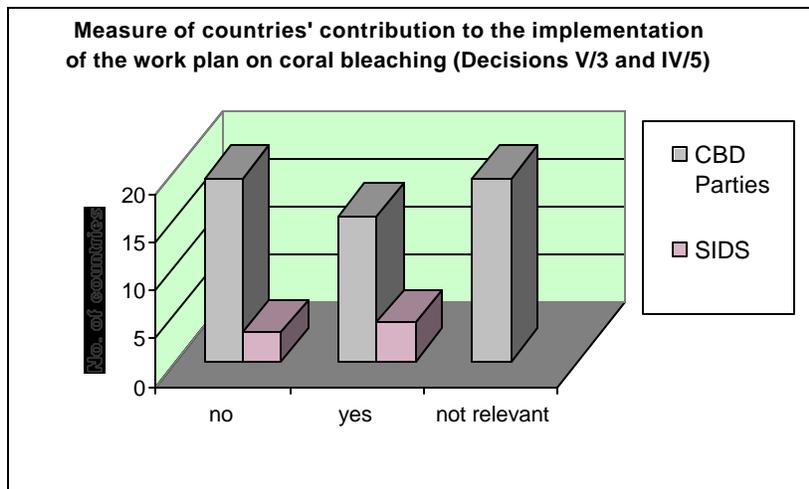
Figure 6



Coral reefs

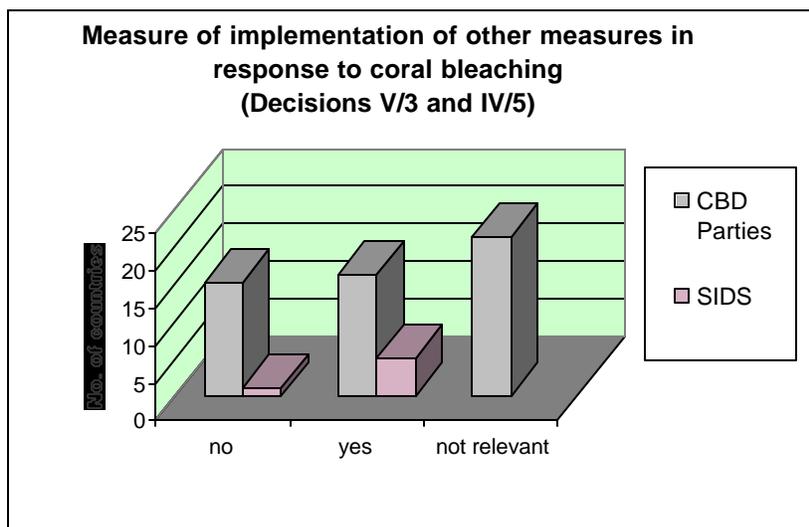
18. In question 326, countries are asked whether they are contributing to the implementation of the work plan on coral bleaching. 52 countries responded to this question, and out of those 34 countries indicated that it was relevant to them. The answers were relatively evenly split. 19 countries (55.9% of 34, including 3 SIDS) indicated that they were not contributing to the implementation of the work plan on coral bleaching, while 15 countries (44.1% of 34, including 4 SIDS) indicated that they were.

Figure 7

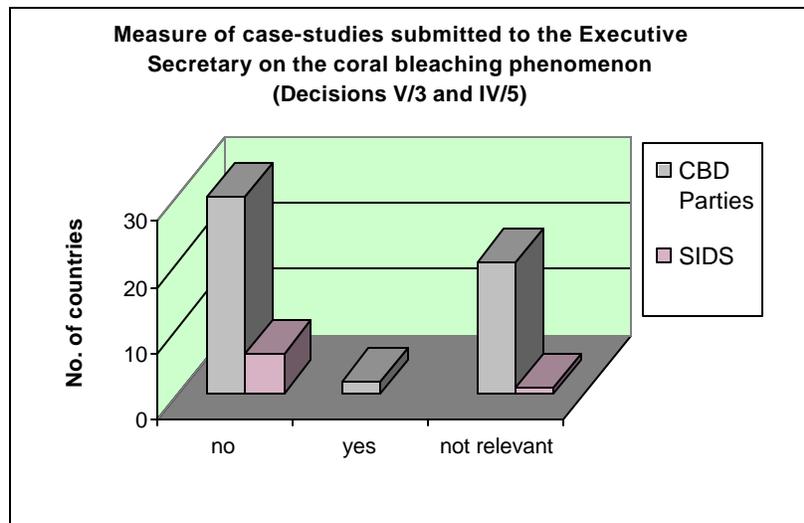


19. Question 327 followed up on question 326, and asked whether countries were implementing other measures in response to coral bleaching. A total of 51 countries responded to this question. Out of them, 31 indicated that the question was relevant to them. Again, the answers were split relatively evenly. 15 countries (48.4% of 31, including 1 SIDS) indicated that they were not implementing other measures. 16 countries (51.6% of 31, including 5 SIDS) indicated that they were.

Figure 8



20. Question 328 is also related. This question asked countries whether they had submitted case studies on the coral bleaching phenomenon to the Executive Secretary. Only 2 countries (6.3%) of the 32 to whom the question was relevant, had submitted case studies. No SIDS case studies had been submitted.

Figure 9

Conclusions

21. Although much cannot be said about the implementation of the entire marine and coastal programme of work based on the questions in the second national report, it is encouraging to note that a large number of countries promote conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity in their national strategies and action plans. However, only eight responding countries had reviewed the programme of work enabled by decision IV/5 and identified national priorities for implementation. Additionally, a little less than half of the responding countries were in the process of undertaking such a review. This could simply indicate that conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources have been a priority for most coastal countries well before the CBD work programme was established in 1998, and that a national review and prioritization of the work programme will serve mainly to update and possibly refocus activities that are already in progress.

22. That activities related to the work programme are being implemented at the national level is evidenced in the responses to the questions relating to IMCAM. Most countries are either in the process of developing, or have already developed, institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of IMCAM. However, the degree of implementation is likely to vary to a great extent depending on the programme element in question, and the second national reports did not contain questions relating to, for example, marine and coastal protected areas and alien species and genotypes.

23. As an example of the varying degrees of implementation inferred to above, only half of the responding countries indicated that they were implementing the coral bleaching work plan. This, however, is not surprising for two reasons. Firstly, the coral bleaching work plan is very new, and many countries may not have had a chance to review it. Secondly, it may not be immediately intuitive what particular measures, beyond those relating to assessment and monitoring, a country can undertake in response to coral bleaching. It is likely, however, that with increasing evidence regarding the seriousness of this problem, an increasing number of response measures will have to be considered.

24. Finally, it should be noted with caution that the sample size for this analysis was very small, as only approximately 50 countries had answered most of the relevant questions. Since 146 of the 182 Parties to the Convention have marine and coastal area, the responses here represent roughly a third of all the relevant Parties.

B. Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity

Introduction

25. Out of the 182 Parties to the Convention at the end of 2001, 62 Parties provided information on the state of implementation of forest biodiversity-related articles and COP decisions (19 were from the Western European and Others Group –WEOG, 15 were African countries, 11 were from Asia, 7 were from the Latin American and Caribbean Group -GRULAC, 10 were from the Central and Eastern European and Newly Independent Parties group –CEE/NIS). 32 Parties that submitted a report were developing countries (15 were least developing countries and 7 were small island developing States), 10 were countries with economies in transition, and 20 were industrialized countries.

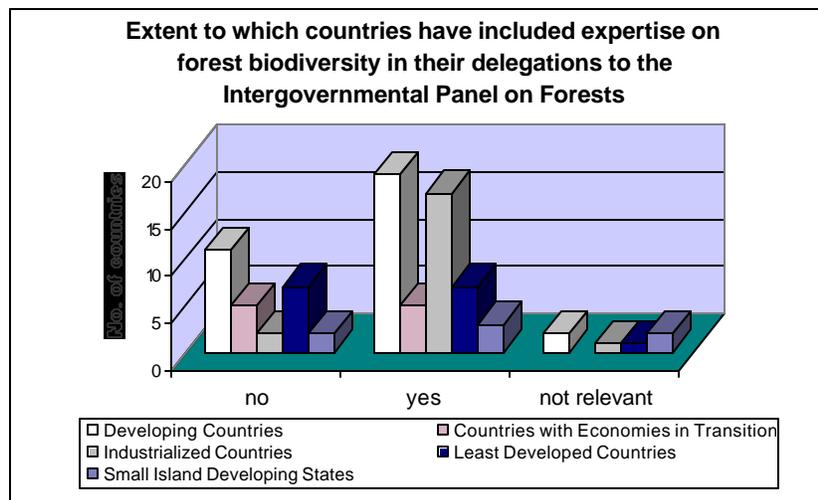
Implementation of decisions II/9 and IV/7

Inclusion of expertise on forestry in delegations to ipf

26. A majority of Parties (41, or 66%) included expertise on forest biodiversity in their delegations to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. Among those, 19 are developing countries, including 3 small island developing States, and 7 least developed countries (LDCs); 17 are industrialized countries, and 5 are countries with economies in transition.

27. Eighteen Parties (29%) did not include such expertise in their delegations to IPF. Out of those 18 Parties, 11 are developing countries, including 2 small island developing States, and 7 LDCs, 5 are countries with economies in transition and 2 are industrialized countries.

Figure 10



Review of the programme of work

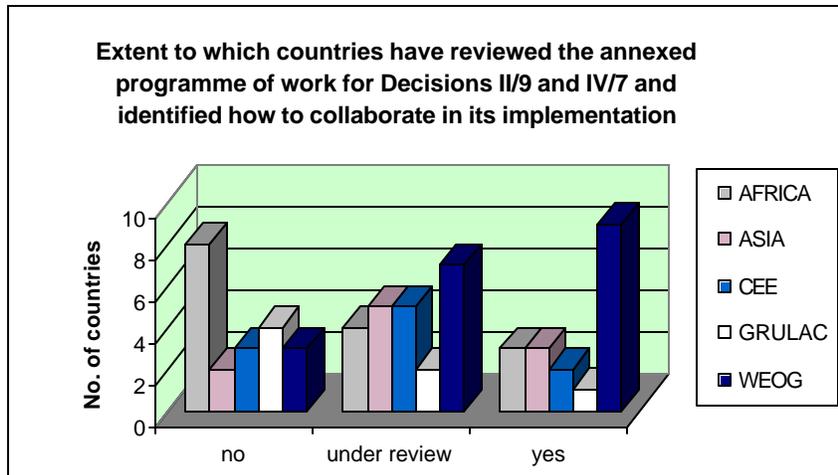
28. Concerning the review of the programme of work annexed to the decision and the identification of ways to collaborate in its implementation, the repartition is even between Parties.

29. Twenty Parties (32%) did not review the programme of work or identify any means for collaborating in its implementation. Among those, 14 are developing countries, including one small island developing State, and 7 LDCs, 3 are countries with economies in transition and 3 are industrialized countries.

30. Twenty-three Parties (37%) declared that the review was being carried out at the time of submission of the second national reports. Among these countries, 10 are developing countries, including three small island developing States and five LDCs, eight are industrialized countries, five are countries with economies in transition.

31. Eighteen Parties (29%) had already reviewed the programme of work and identified ways for collaborating in its implementation. A majority of those are industrialized countries (9), 8 are developing countries (including 2 small island developing States and 4 LDCs) and 2 are countries with economies in transition.

Figure 11

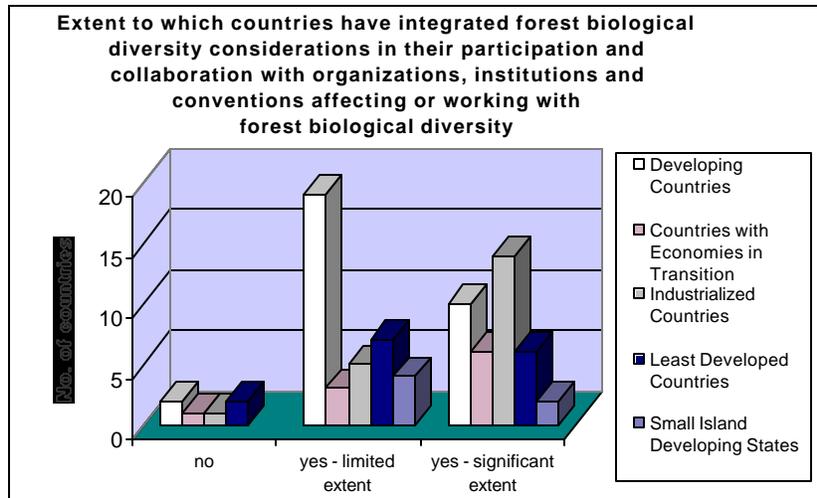


Integration of forest biological diversity considerations

32. Almost half of the Parties (30) have integrated forest biological diversity considerations **to a significant extent** in their participation and collaboration with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with forest biological diversity. A majority of those, i.e. 14, are industrialized countries, 10 are developing countries (including 2 small island developing States and 6 LDCs), and 6 are countries with economies in transition. This integration was done **to a limited extent** by 27 Parties (43%). Among these countries, 19 are developing countries (including 4 small island developing States and 7 LDCs), 5 are industrialized countries, and 3 are countries with economies in transition. 4 Parties did not act on the matter; 2 are developing countries (both LDCs), 1 is a country with economy in transition and 1 is an industrialized country.

33. Overall, whether this was done to a significant or limited extent, a majority of Parties integrated forest biodiversity concerns in their participation to various forest-related processes.

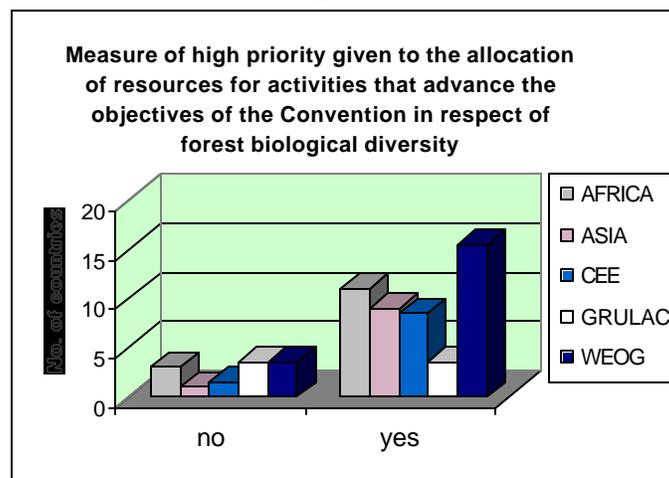
Figure 12



Priority in allocation of resources

34. High priority to allocation of resources to activities advancing the objectives of the Convention in respect of forest biological diversity has been declared by a majority of Parties (46 responses, or 74%). Among those, 23.5 responses are from developing countries (including 6 small island developing States and 12 LDCs), 15.5 are industrialized countries and 6.5 are countries with economies in transition. 12 (19%) responses indicate that high priority is not given to such activities, of which 6 are from developing countries (including 2 LDCs), 5 are from industrialized countries and 1 from countries with economy in transition.

Figure 13



Financial assistance requests

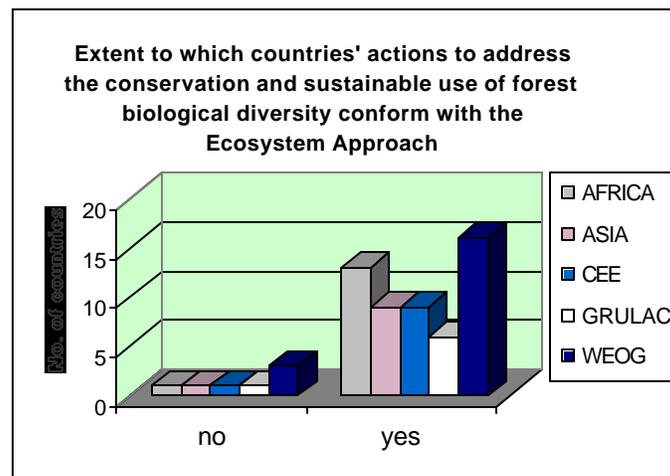
35. In relation to the requests for financial assistance from the GEF, 25 Parties (40%), either developing or countries with economies in transition, proposed projects promoting the implementation of the programme of work. 11 Parties declared that they had not proposed any such projects, including 5 LDCs.

Implementation of decision V/4

Conformity of measures with the ecosystem approach

36. In the majority of Parties (53 Parties in total, or 85%), the actions taken to address the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity conform to the ecosystem approach. 27 are developing countries (including 6 small island developing States and 13 LDCs), 17 are industrialised countries, and 9 are countries with economies in transition. Such actions do not conform to the ecosystem approach in 7 Parties (11%). 3 of those are developing countries (including one LDC), 3 are industrialized countries and 1 is a country with economy in transition.

Figure 14

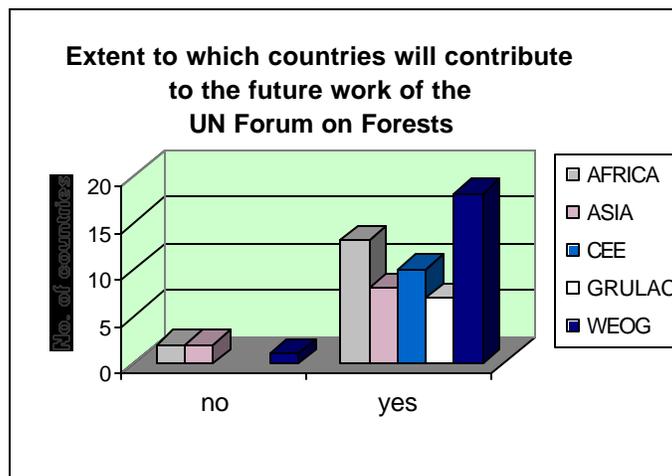


Consideration of the outcome of the fourth session of the IFF

37. A majority of Parties (47, or 75%) are taking actions to address the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity that take into consideration the outcome of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests. Among those, a majority are developing countries (21 in total, including 5 small island developing States and 10 LDCs), 17 are industrialized countries and 9 are countries with economies in transition. In 11 Parties (17%), actions taken do not take into consideration the outcome of the meeting. 8 Parties that responded negatively are developing countries (including 1 small island developing State and 3 LDCs), 2 are industrialized countries and 1 is a country with economy in transition.

Contribution to the future work of the UNFF

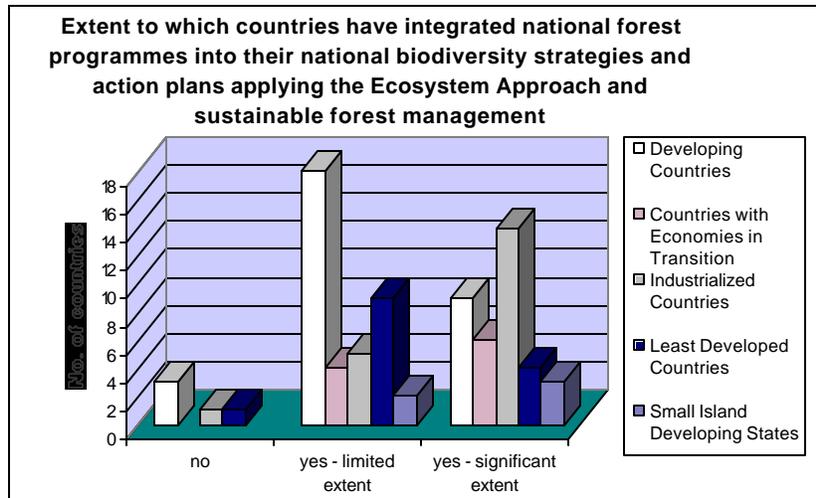
38. A vast majority of reporting Parties (56, or 90%) intend to contribute to the future work of the UN Forum on Forests as opposed to 5 that do not. Among the Parties intending to contribute, the majority are developing countries (including 6 small island developing States and 13 LDCs), 18 are industrialized countries and 10 are countries with economies in transition. Among those Parties that do not intend to contribute, 4 are developing countries and 1 is an industrialized country.

Figure 15*Information on the implementation of the work programme*

39. Almost a half of reporting Parties (29, or 46%) did not provide relevant information on the implementation of the forests work programme. Out of 29 countries, 21 are developing countries (including 5 small island developing States and 11 LDCs), 5 are industrialized countries and 3 are countries with economies in transition. Another half of reporting Parties (30, or 48%) have provided such information either in their thematic report or through case studies or other means. Among the Parties that provided information in one way or another, 14 are industrialized countries, 9 are developing countries (including one small island developing State and 3 LDCs) and 7 are countries with economies in transition. The lack of information may be explained by limited financial resources, a lack in trained personnel or simply a low level of priority.

Integration of national forest programmes into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)

40. Less than a half of reporting Parties (29, or 46%) have integrated national forest programmes **to a significant extent** into their national biodiversity strategies and in action plans applying the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management. Among those, 9 are developing countries (including 3 small island developing States and 4 LDCs), 6 are countries with economies in transition and 14, the majority, are industrialized countries. 27 Parties (43%) did so **to a limited extent**. 18 are developing countries (including 2 small island developing countries and 9 LDCs), 5 are industrialized countries and 4 are countries with economies in transition. 4 Parties (6%) did not integrate national forests programmes into their NBSAPs, including 3 developing countries and one industrialized country.

Figure 16

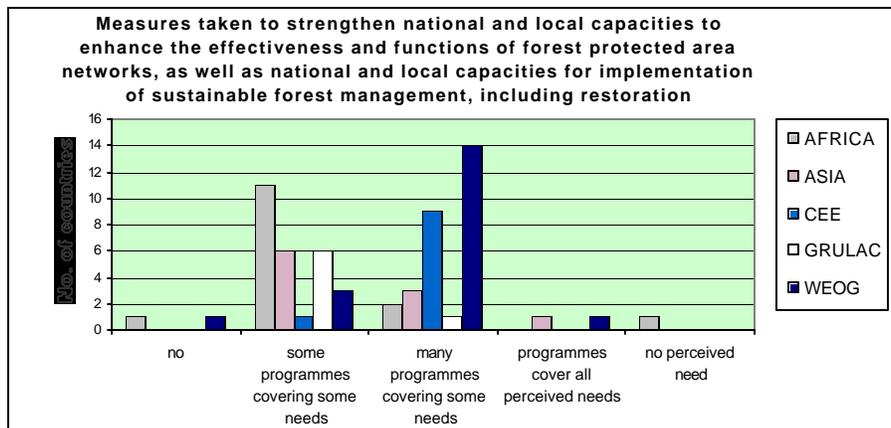
Measures for participation of stakeholders

41. A majority of Parties (54 Parties, or 87%) undertook measures to ensure stakeholders' participation. Of those, 36 (58%) responses indicated that measures were undertaken to ensure participation by **some** stakeholders in the implementation of the programme of work, while 18 (29%) responses indicated that measures were taken to involve **all** the stakeholders, i.e., forest sector, private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations. Among the Parties that adopted measures for stakeholders' participation (whether for all stakeholders participation or limited participation), 26 are developing countries (including 6 small island developing States and 12 LDCs), 18 are industrialized countries and 9 are countries with economies in transition.

42. 7 Parties (11%) did not undertake such measures, among which 5 are developing countries and 2 are industrialized countries.

Measures to strengthen national capacities

43. Almost a half of Parties (29 or 46%) declared that many measures had been adopted to cover some of the needs identified in respect of strengthening national capacities, including local capacities; to enhance the effectiveness and functions of forest protected area networks, as well as national and local capacities for implementation of sustainable forest management, including restoration. In 27 Parties, some measures were adopted to cover some needs. In two Parties, programmes covering all the needs were adopted. 2 Parties (3%) did not take any measures. 1 Party declared that there were no perceived needs in this respect.

Figure 17

Measures to implement proposals from the IPF and IFF

44. In 33 Parties (53%), the adoption of measures to implement the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on valuation of forest goods and services was under consideration. Measures have already been adopted in 12 Parties (19%). 6.5 responses are from industrialized countries, 5.5 responses are from developing countries (including one small island developing State and one LDC) and one response from a country with economy in transition.

45. No measures have been adopted in 14 Parties (22%), among which 10 are developing countries (3 are small island developing countries, 8 are LDCs), 2 are countries with economies in transition and 2 are industrialized countries.

Declared constraints to implementation

46. Concerning the main constraints to implementation, limited financial and human capacities as well as a lack of adequately trained personnel have been mentioned, mainly by developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Among the priority actions mentioned in order to carry out implementation of the Convention and related COP decisions, training programmes, establishment and/or extension of network of protected areas as well as inventories and monitoring have been mentioned.

Conclusion

47. Overall, the majority of measures adopted/recommended by COP in Decisions II/9, IV/7 and V/4 have been given attention and implemented to various extents, by a majority of Parties. However, only a minority of Parties reviewed the Programme of Work (Decision II/9) and submitted information concerning its implementation (Decision V/4).

48. No clear trends emerge in terms of regional groupings. However, an analysis in terms of economic development (i.e. industrialized, developing, and countries with economies in transition) gives some insights as to the possible constraints to implementation. Indeed, there appears to be a clear link between the level of economic development and the level of implementation. The data show that developing Parties (among which small island developing countries and LDCs) and Parties with economies in transition are lagging behind when it comes to operational implementation of measures related to forests biodiversity, in spite of a declared high level of commitment and/or willingness to do so (cf. participation in the future work of the UNFF, level of priority). This can be explained by the inadequacy of financial, technical and human resources (see *constraints in implementation*). Concerning

industrialized countries, poor records may be accounted for by other priorities for action in terms of conservation of biodiversity.

C. Programme of work on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

Introduction

49. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of Parties, in Decision V/23, established and endorsed a programme of work on the biological diversity of dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland, and savannah ecosystems, which may also be known as the programme on “dry and sub-humid lands”. Parties were urged to implement it and provide scientific, technical and financial support to its activities at the regional and national levels and foster cooperation among countries within regions and subregions.

50. The programme of work contained in the annex I to the above decision was divided into two parts: assessments and targeted actions in response to identified needs. In the first part, six activities were identified and ways and means were recommended for implementing them. In the second part, three more activities as well as ways and means were recommended to address identified needs.

51. Considering that this programme of work was just established and endorsed at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, only three questions were included in the format for second national reports. The questions were mainly focused on the review and identification of ways of implementation, including regional and subregional cooperation and providing scientific, technical and financial support to the implementation. Out of 61 reports, 53 Parties responded to these three questions.

Implementation of programme of work

Priority setting and level of resources availability

52. Compared with other programmes of work adopted by the Conference of Parties, a relatively low priority is accorded to the implementation of the programme of work on biological diversity of dry and subhumid lands. 16 Parties accord a high priority and 18 Parties a medium priority. 11 Parties give a low priority and 15 Parties indicate this programme work is not relevant to their national circumstances. When we look at resources availability for implementation, a majority of Parties (37 out of 47) find resources limiting and severely limiting. Only 10 Parties indicate that the resources are good or adequate. The following figures illustrate the priority setting and resources availability among different regional groups of countries.

Figure 18

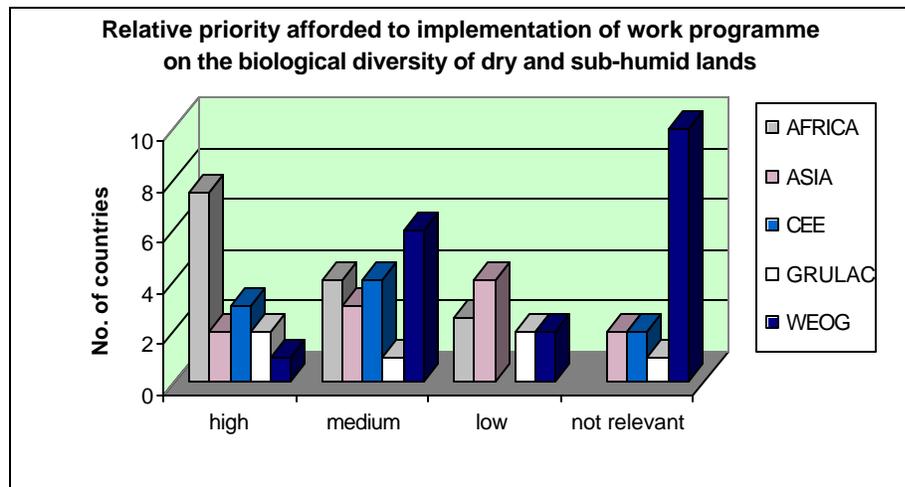
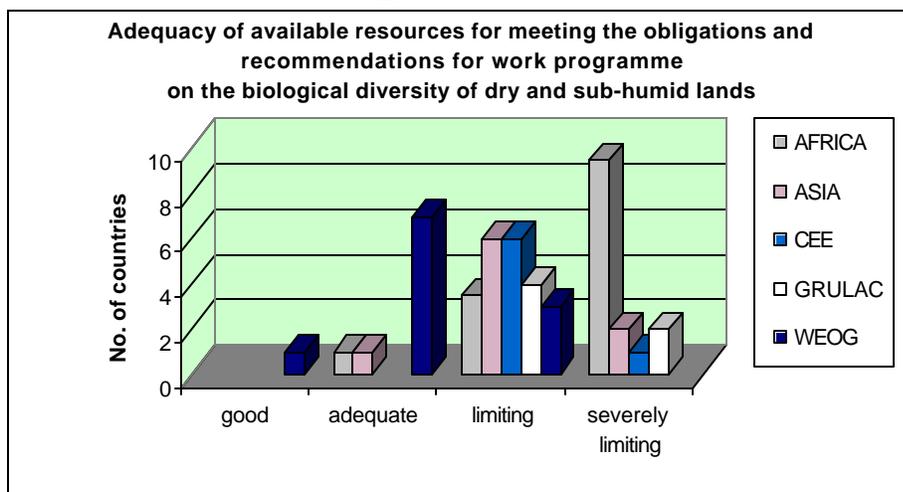


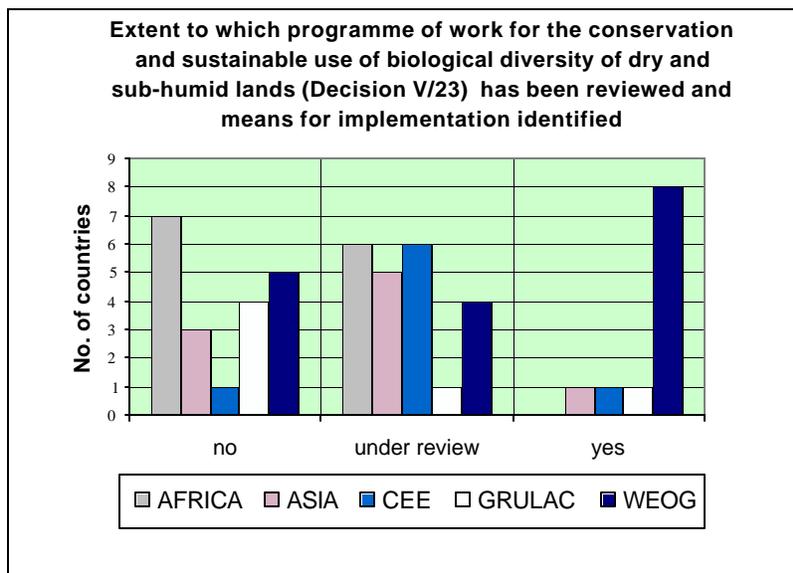
Figure 19



Review of programme of work

53. It seems that more time is needed for Parties to review the programme of work and identify how it will be implemented since it was just established and endorsed by COP 5. In spite of that, a several reporting Parties have taken some action in response to the decision. 11 Parties (17%) have completed the review and identified ways to implement the programme of work. 22 Parties (35%) are undertaking the review. 20 Parties (32%) report that the review has not yet been done. Here the differences among different regions are not clear. One noteworthy fact is that some least developed countries (7) have not undertaken the review yet. One of the reasons for not having undertaken the review might be that some of the countries find this programme of work not applicable to their national circumstances.

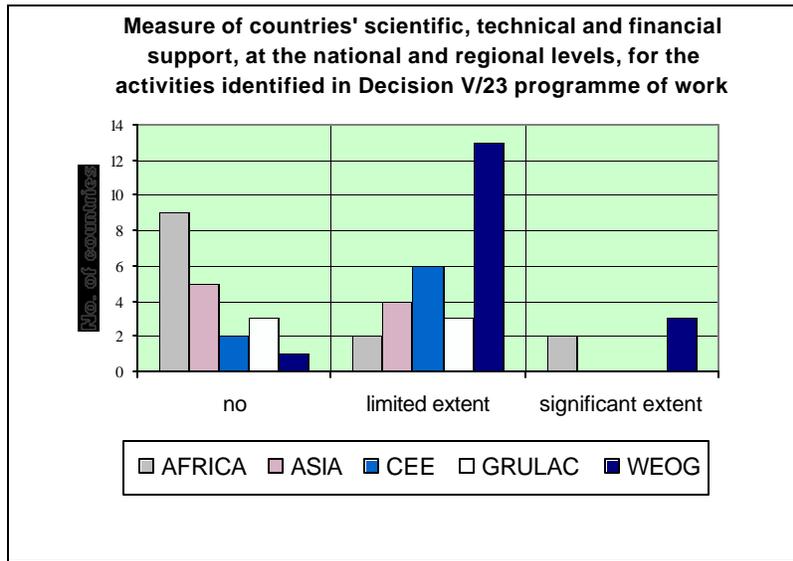
Figure 20



Support to activities in programme of work

54. A majority of WEOG countries (13) are providing limited scientific, technical and financial support at the national and regional levels to the activities identified in the programme of work. 20 Parties, most of them developing countries, are not providing such support to the activities in the programme of work.

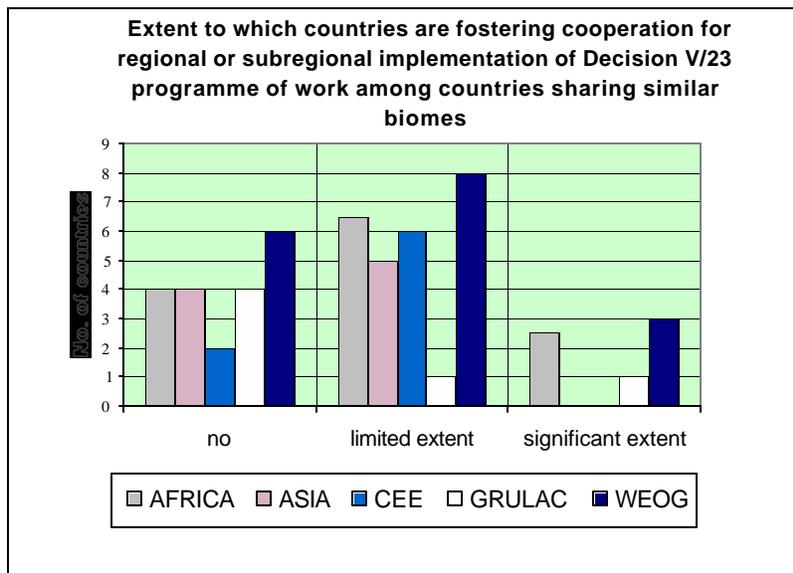
Figure 21



Regional cooperation for implementation of programme of work

55. More than a half of Parties (33) are fostering cooperation to various extents for the regional or subregional implementation of the programme among countries sharing biomes. Small island developing countries, due to their particular geographical situations, are not fostering such cooperation. Neither are some industrialized countries (7) promoting such collaborations at the regional level. One possible reason might be the fact that they do not have dryland or subhumid ecosystems in their region.

Figure 22



Conclusion

56. Clearly, the implementation of the programme of work calls for more and substantive actions and support. However, it is encouraging to note that quick actions have been taken by a significant number of Parties though to a limited extent. More encouraging trends and information may emerge from the next round of national reporting if more questions are included.

D. Programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

Introduction

57. At its third meeting, the Conference of Parties, in Decision III/11, decided to establish a multi-year programme of activities on agricultural biological diversity. Through Decision IV/6, the Conference of the Parties decided to expand the focus of the programme of work. The fifth meeting of the Conference of Parties reviewed the implementation of phase I of the programme of work. Altogether responses were received from 61 Parties to the questions concerning the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

Implementation of decisions III/11, IV/6 and V/5

Prioritization and resources availability for implementation

58. Similar to the programme of work on forest biological diversity, the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity also enjoys a high degree of priority among many Parties. A little more than a half of reporting Parties (33 or 53%) gives a high priority and over one third of Parties (22, or 35%) a medium priority. Only 4 Parties (6%) give a low priority. In terms of resources availability, more than a half of Parties (36 or 58%) find resources limiting for the implementation of the programme of work and a few Parties (5 or 5%) indicate that resources are severely limiting. It is, however, encouraging to note that 17 Parties (27%) indicate that the resources are adequate. The following figures illustrate the priority setting and resources availability of different regional groups of countries.

Figure 23

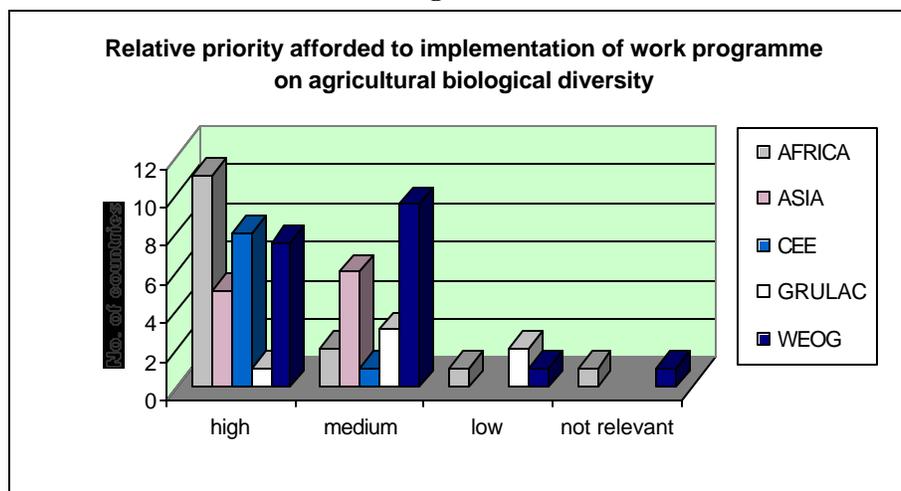
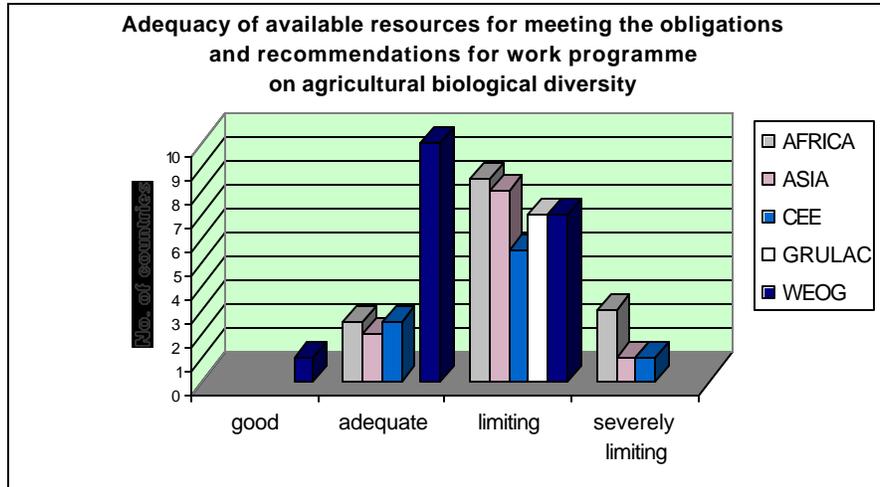


Figure 24



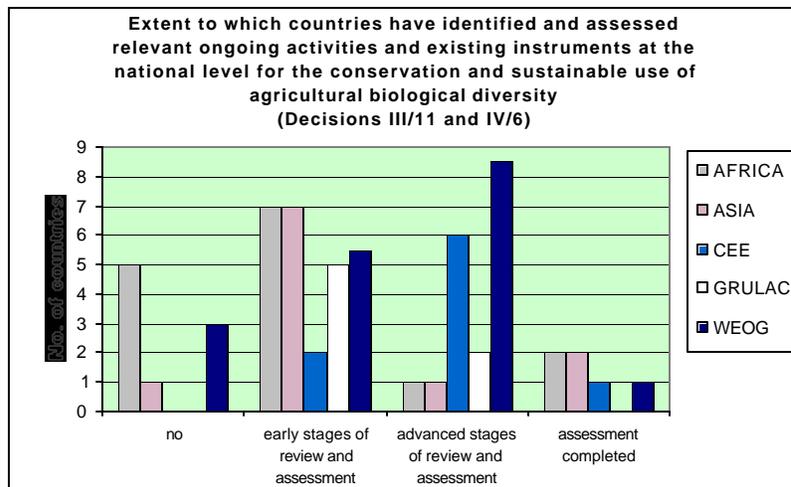
Review of phase I of the programme of work

59. Over a half of the Parties have not reviewed the programme of work or identified how collaboration can be undertaken in its implementation while 23 Parties (37%) have done so.

Assessment, identification and monitoring

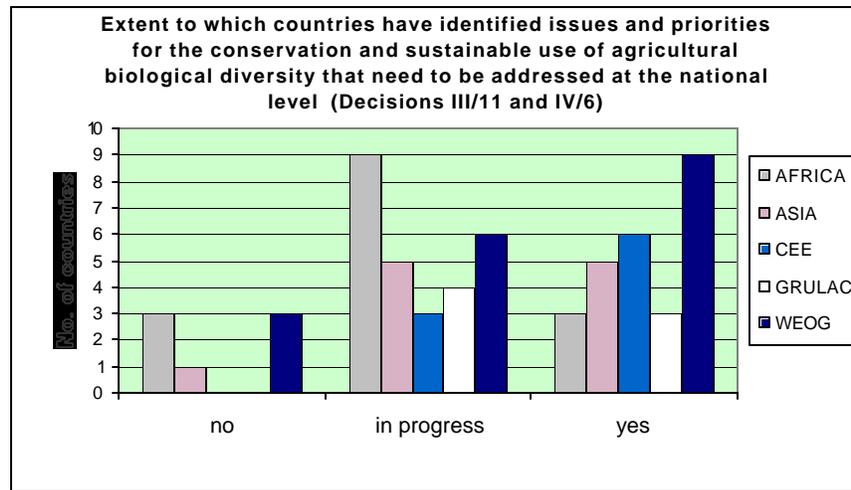
60. It is clear that most of the Parties are assessing and identifying relevant ongoing activities and existing instruments at the national level for the implementation of programme of work. 27 Parties are in early stages and 18 Parties in advanced stages of review and assessment. Only 6 Parties, four of them being developing countries, have completed the assessment and 9 Parties have not started the review and assessment yet.

Figure 25



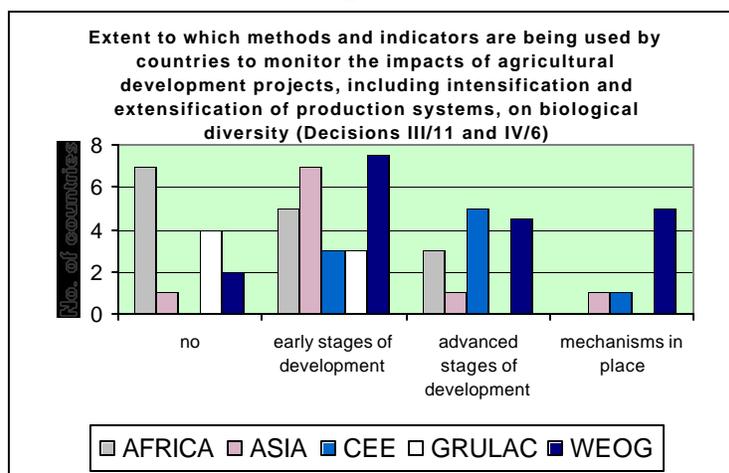
61. Again, a majority of the Parties are identifying (27 or 43%) or have identified (26 or 41%) the issues and priorities that need to be addressed at the national level for the implementation of the programme of work. Only 7 Parties (11%) have not identified the relevant issues and priorities.

Figure 26



62. Similarly, a considerable number of reporting Parties are developing methods and indicators to monitor the impacts of agricultural development projects on biological diversity, including intensification and extensification of production systems. 25 Parties (40%) are in early stages and 14 Parties are in advanced stages of development. 14 Parties (22%) have not developed such methods or indicators. Only 7 Parties (11%) indicate that mechanisms are in place for monitoring these impacts.

Figure 27

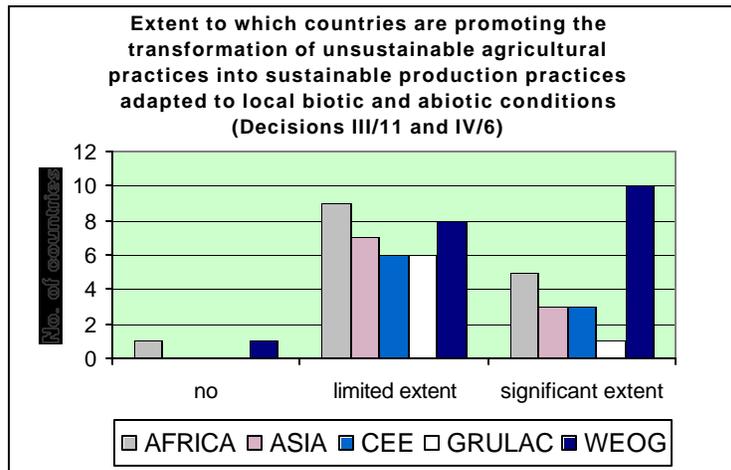


Measures for implementing the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

63. A majority of the reporting Parties (35 or 56%) indicate that they are in early or advanced stages of developing national strategies, programmes and plans which ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components. And 19 Parties have put mechanisms in place for this purpose. Only 6 Parties (9%) do not have such plan or programme in place.

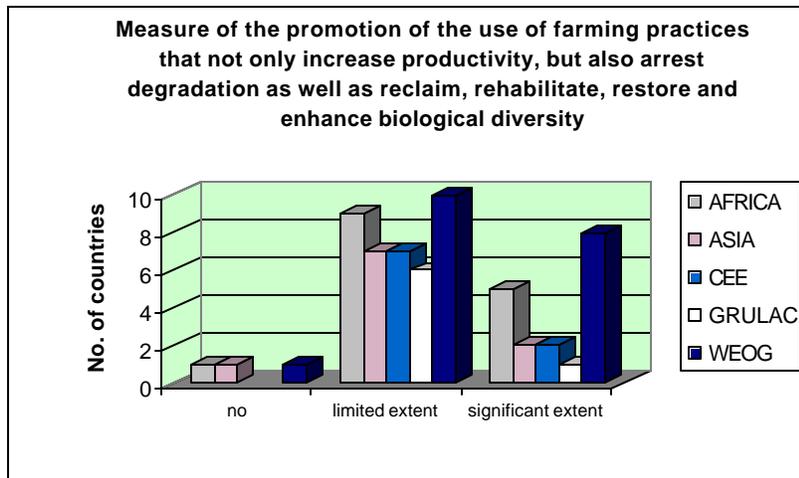
64. A large majority of the reporting Parties indicate that they are promoting to various extents (36 – 58% -- to limited extent and 22 – 35% -- to significant extent) the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions. Only two Parties are not doing so.

Figure 28



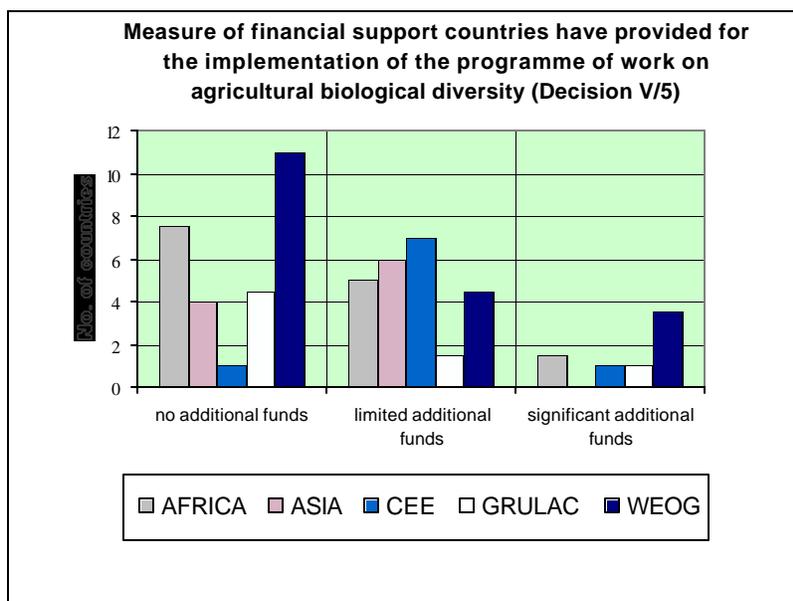
65. Similarly, a vast majority of the Parties (39 – 62% -- to a limited extent, and 18 – 29% -- to a significant extent) are promoting the use of farming practices that not only increase productivity, but also arrest degradation as well as reclaim, rehabilitate, restore and enhance biological diversity. Very few Parties (3) are not doing so. Almost a similar number of Parties (38 Parties – 61% -- to a limited extent and 15 Parties – 24% -- to a significant extent) are promoting the mobilization of farming communities for the development, maintenance and use of their knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity.

Figure 29



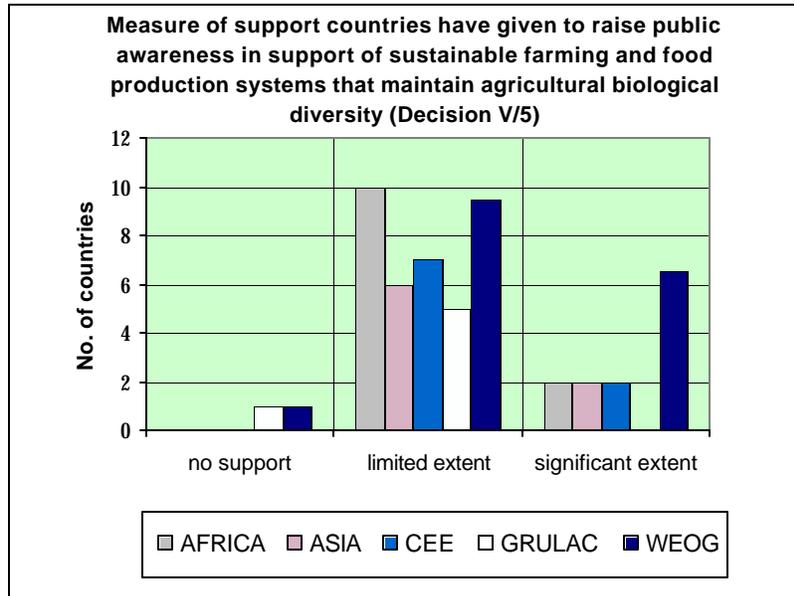
66. The financial support provided to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity is very limited. 28 Parties (45%) indicate that they have not provided financial support. 24 Parties (38%) report that they have allocated limited funds for the implementation of this programme of work. Only 7 Parties (11%) have allocated significant funds for this purpose. It should be noted here that a considerable number of reporting Parties from WEOG (11) have not yet funded the implementation of this programme of work.

Figure 30



67. Limited support was accorded by over a half of Parties (38, or 61%) to the actions to raise public awareness in support of sustainable farming and food production systems that maintain agricultural biological diversity. 12 Parties (19%) gave significant support to these educational and awareness raising actions. Only 2 Parties have not provided any support.

Figure 31



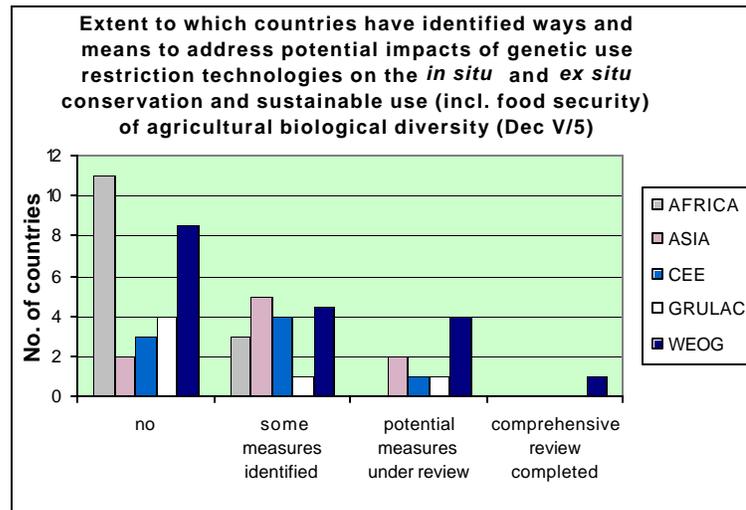
Genetic use restriction technologies

68. To address generic concerns regarding such technologies as genetic use restriction technologies, 24 Parties (38%) are considering how to address them under international and national approaches to the safe and sustainable use of germplasm. Eight Parties (12%) are developing measures for this purpose. 23 Parties (37%) indicate that these concerns are not considered yet.

69. With respect to the scientific assessments on ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies, more than a half of the Parties (37 or 59%) have not carried out these assessments. Only two Parties have established major programmes for the assessments. 16 Parties (25%) are undertaking some assessments. It should be noted that a majority of least developed countries have not carried out these scientific assessments probably due to their limited capacity and resources restraint in this regard.

70. Closely related, 28 Parties (45%) report that they have not identified the ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biodiversity. 18 Parties (29%) indicate that they have identified some measures; eight Parties (12%) are reviewing potential measures and one Party has completed a comprehensive review.

Figure 32

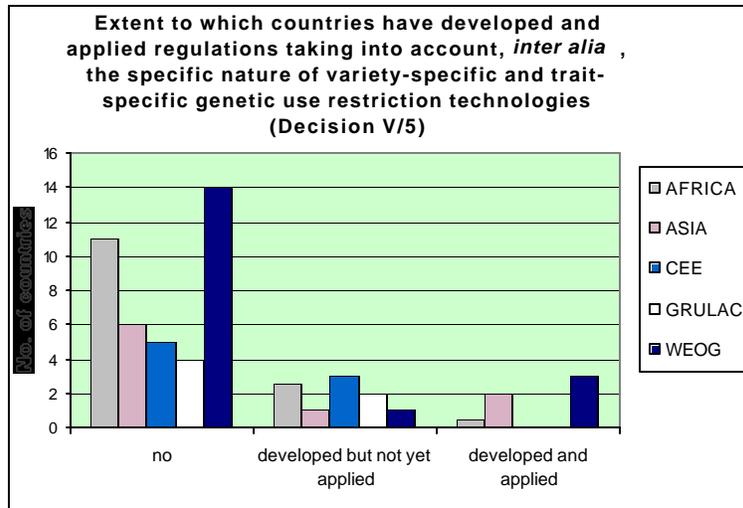


71. Twenty-seven Parties (43%) indicate that there is a need for effective regulations at the national level with respect to genetic use restriction technologies to ensure the safety of human health, the environment, food security and conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. 24 Parties (38%) have not assessed the need and 4 Parties (6%) indicate that such regulations are not needed. It should be noted here that a significant number of least developed countries have not made an assessment of the need for national regulations in this field.

72. A majority of Parties (40, or 64%) have not developed such regulations to address the impacts of genetic use restriction technologies. 10 Parties (16%) have developed but not applied such regulations. Only 6 Parties indicate that they have developed as well as applied such regulations. Clearly, without having undertaken the assessment of the needs, it is difficult to proceed with the development and application of regulatory tools. Again, it should be noted that a majority of least developed countries (10), small island developing countries (5) and industrialized countries (14) have not developed such regulatory instruments.

73. The availability of information about these regulations to other Contracting Parties is very limited. Only 3 Parties have provided such information through CHM and 9 Parties through other means. A big majority of Parties (43) have not made such information available. Obviously information about these regulations is not available if they are not developed or applied yet.

Figure 33

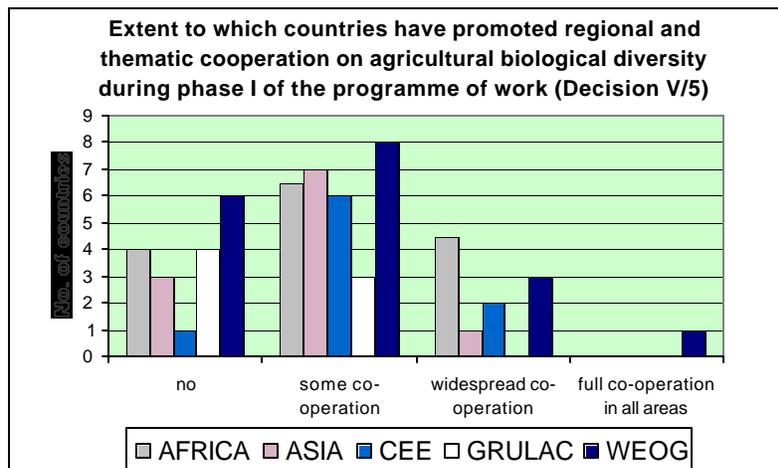


International and regional cooperation

74. Most of the countries (41 or 66%) are collaborating with other Contracting Parties to identify and promote sustainable agricultural practices and integrated landscape management. 18 Parties (29%) are not undertaking such collaboration in this field. Among these 18 countries, most of them are developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

75. The regional and thematic cooperation within the framework of the programme of work is still very limited for the time being. 31 Parties (50%) report on some cooperation and 18 Parties (29%) on no cooperation. 11 Parties (17%) are undertaking widespread cooperation and only 1 Party is undertaking full cooperation in all areas.

Figure 34



76. A majority of Parties (41 or 66%) are not collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators. Only 15 Parties (24%) indicate they are undertaking the cooperation in this field. However, most of the Parties (47 or 75%) are helping to implement the Global Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources. Only 10 Parties (16%) are not doing this.

77. A majority of the Parties (46 or 74%) are coordinating their positions in both the Convention on Biological diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. It should be noted that the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was adopted in early December 2001 (to replace the International Undertaking) and further coordination may be needed in the implementation of both the Convention on Biological Diversity and this new treaty after its entry into force in the future.

78. Another international legal instrument relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity is the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. Out of 51 answering Parties, 6 (9%) have ratified the Rotterdam Convention. 27 Parties (52%) have signed it and are undertaking a process of ratification. 18 Parties (35%) have neither signed nor ratified the Rotterdam Convention.

79. A significant majority of the Parties support the application of the Executive Secretary for observer status in the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization, which aims to promote compatibility and mutual supportiveness of implementing the provisions of CBD and relevant rules of World Trade Organization.

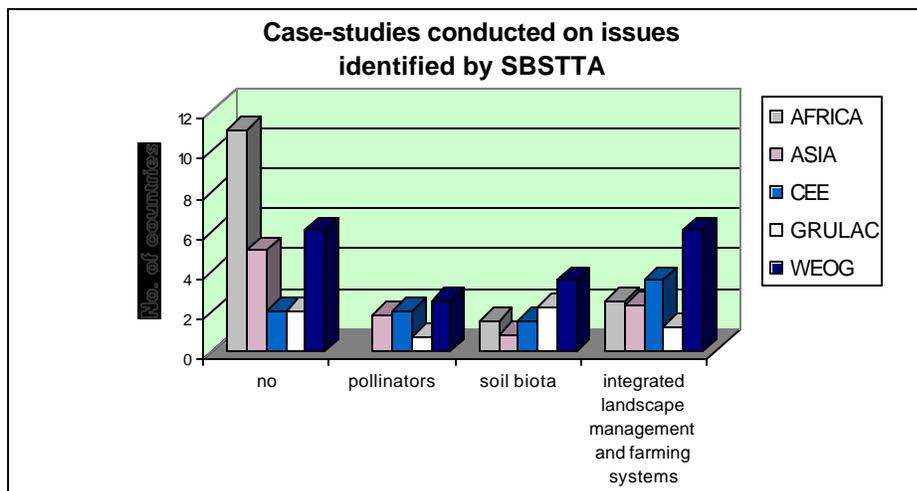
80. A number of developed Parties (11 or 17%) have provided financial support within existing cooperation programmes for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity, in particular for capacity building and case studies, in developing countries and countries in transition. A few developed countries (4 or 6%) have provided some additional funds to the developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of this programme of work.

Information exchange, case studies and public awareness

81. Most Parties (48 or 77%) are taking steps to share experience addressing the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity, some through case studies and some through other mechanisms, such as CHM, expert workshops and establishment of institutions at national and regional levels for promoting sustainable agriculture. Only 10 Parties (16%) are not taking any steps in this regard.

82. With respect to the case studies on the issues identified by SBSTTA, 7 Parties (11%) have conducted case studies on pollinators, 10 Parties (16%) on soil biota and 16 Parties (25%) on integrated landscape management and farming systems. 26 Parties (41%) indicate that they have not conducted any case studies on the issues above.

Figure 35



83. A majority of the Parties are establishing or enhancing mechanisms for increasing public awareness and understanding of the importance of the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components. 26 Parties (41%) are in early stages and 17 Parties (27%) are in advanced stages of developing such mechanisms. 19 Parties (30%) have established such mechanisms for education and raising public awareness of relevant issues. Only 5 Parties (8%) report that no mechanism is in place.

84. Most of the Parties (44 or 70%) are not compiling case studies and implementing pilot projects relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators. However, 12 Parties (19%) are doing something in this regard. Some Parties have made published a number of publications or documents where case studies on conservation and sustainable use of pollinators can be found.

85. Only very few Parties (3) have provided other Parties through Clearing House Mechanism with the information on scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies. A few (5) have provided such information through other means, such as publications or direct distribution of the assessment to the Parties in the same region.

86. Most of the Parties have not disseminated the results of scientific assessments on ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies. Only a few (8) have disseminated such information either through CHM or through other means. A similar observation is made on the availability of information concerning the regulations on genetic use restriction technologies.

Conclusion

87. The tentative analysis of the 62 second national reports analyzed so far is limited, as the sample is not representative from a regional, ecosystem or capacity (financial and institutional) point of view. However, representing 30% of the 182 Parties, it allows for the identification of general tendencies and conclusions.

88. The reporting Parties acknowledge positive progress on several aspects, such as the assessment of ongoing activities and existing instruments at national level; identification of issues and priorities; positive attitude through experience sharing to establish and operate public awareness mechanisms; and implementation of national strategies, programmes and plans to ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components. The Parties confirm to be increasingly promoting the transformation of unsustainable into sustainable agriculture practices and also promoting the mobilization of farming communities and the use of local and indigenous knowledge.

89. The Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources, the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, the Rotterdam Convention, the Global Plan of Action and the World Trade Organization are supported by a majority of the reporting Parties.

90. Most of the answers to the questions regarding the cross-cutting issues of pollinators and genetic use restriction technologies (GURT) were negative. For instance, regarding the pollinators, they confirm low level of collaboration and case studies; about the GURTs, it reveals difficulties in assessment, information sharing, regulation and actions needed to mitigate the impacts.

91. Despite the positive tendencies reported on the national processes, there is no information on the nature of the priorities and actions identified and put in place, on the ways and means undertaken, on the quality of the action, the constraints for their effective implementation and the impact of the results. On the natural resource management point of view, and in particular the impact on biodiversity, no question lead to the understanding of the practices adopted, and whether there is a general tendency toward improvement or degradation of the biodiversity.

92. It is also difficult to interpret the information consistently in line with the four elements of the programme of work of the Convention: assessment, adaptive management capacity building and mainstreaming. For instance, the questions on method assessment (mechanisms being put in place, case studies and on-going activities) do not inform neither on the nature of these tools and activities, nor on the difficulties to implement them, nor what the results are. The questions related to adaptive management (336, 337 and 340) and to capacity building (338) confirm promotion of good practices and of mobilization of farming communities; however, there is no indication if the result is an improvement or a degradation of biodiversity.

93. It is important to note that the implementation of the programme of work related to Decision V/5 is at an early stage, as most of the Parties are declaring not to have reviewed their Programme of Work, and having allocated only limited additional funds to it.

E. Programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems

Introduction

94. The Conference of the Parties (COP) in its fourth meeting adopted decision IV/4 on status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable use. The programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems is contained in Annex I to decision IV/4. The COP in its fifth meeting adopted decision V/2 on progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

95. Questions 310 to 313 of the second National Reports cover some of the components of decision IV/4. Questions 314 to 318 are on implementation of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems as contained in decision V/2. Question 319 is on relationship of the convention with the CSD and biodiversity-related conventions (decision III/21).

Level of Priority and Resources Availability

96. A majority of Parties accord a high or medium priority to the implementation of the programme of work on inland waters ecosystems. Out of 60 responding Parties, 39 Parties (65%) give a high priority and 16 Parties (26%) a medium priority. Only 5 Parties (8%) give a low priority. About two-thirds of the Parties (43) report that only limiting or severely limiting resources are available for the implementation for this programme of work. One third (17) of the Parties indicate that the resources are adequate. The following graphics illustrate the priority setting and resources availability among different regional groups of Parties.

Figure 36

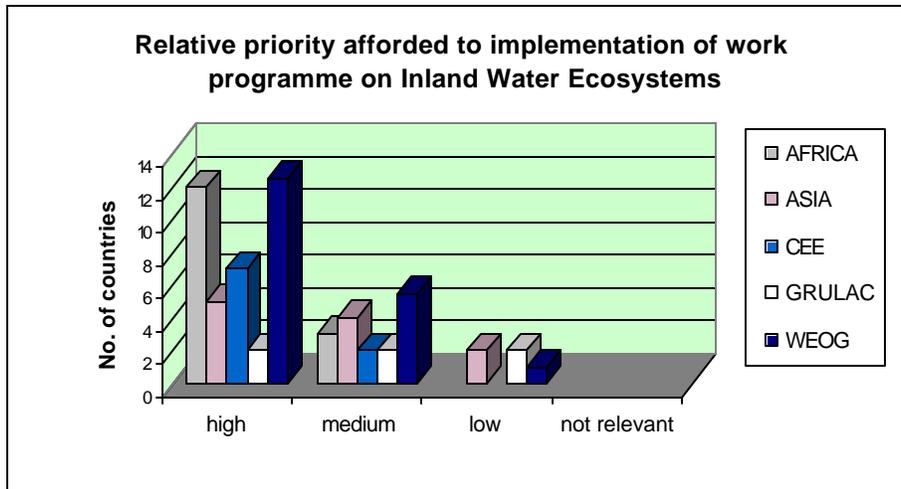
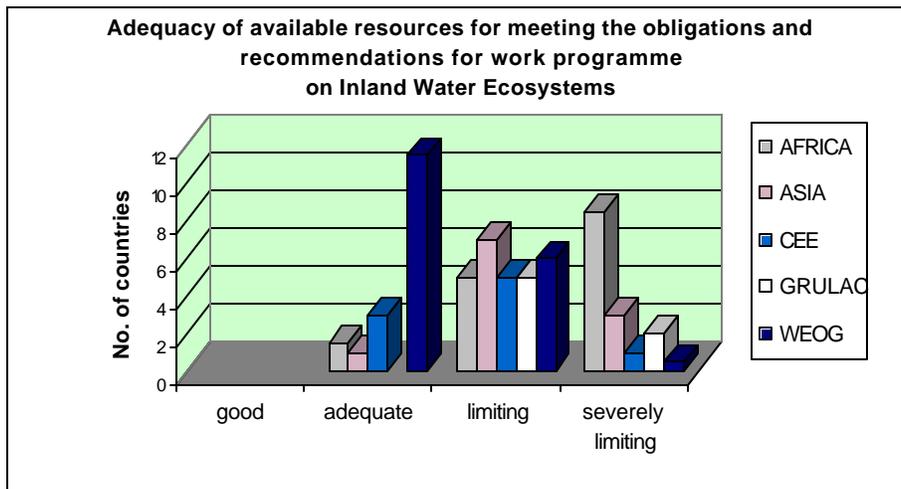


Figure 37

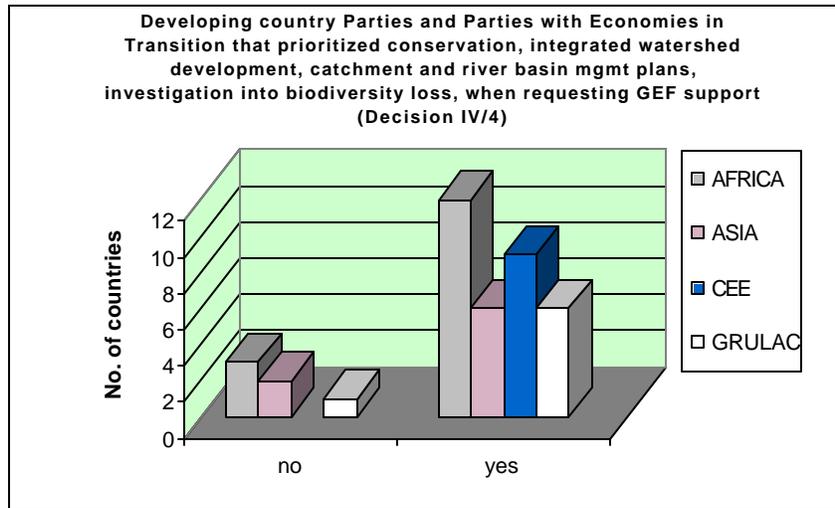


Implementation of decision IV/4- status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable use

97. Out of 62 answering Parties, 33 (53%) have included information on biological diversity in wetlands when providing information and report to the CSD, and considered including inland water biological diversity issues at meetings to further the recommendations of the CSD. 55 Parties (88%) have included inland water biological diversity considerations in their work with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with inland waters.

98. Thirty-one out of 41 developing countries and countries with economies in transition have given priority to identifying important areas for conservation; preparing and implementing integrated watershed; catchment and river basin management plans; and investigating processes contribution to biodiversity loss when requesting support for projects relating to inland water ecosystems from GEF.

Figure 38



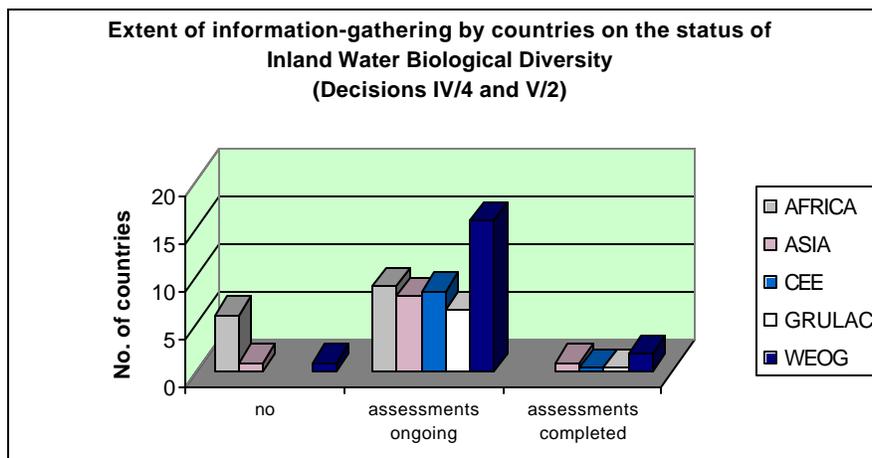
99. Nine Parties (14%) reviewed the programme of work specified in annex I to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme. The programme of work is under review by 24 Parties (38%).

Implementation of decision V/2 - progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems

100. Twenty-nine of the responding Parties (46%) have stated that they support and/or participate in the River Basin Initiative. Updated information on support and participation of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the River Basin Initiative is contained in the progress report on the implementation of the Initiative (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/13).

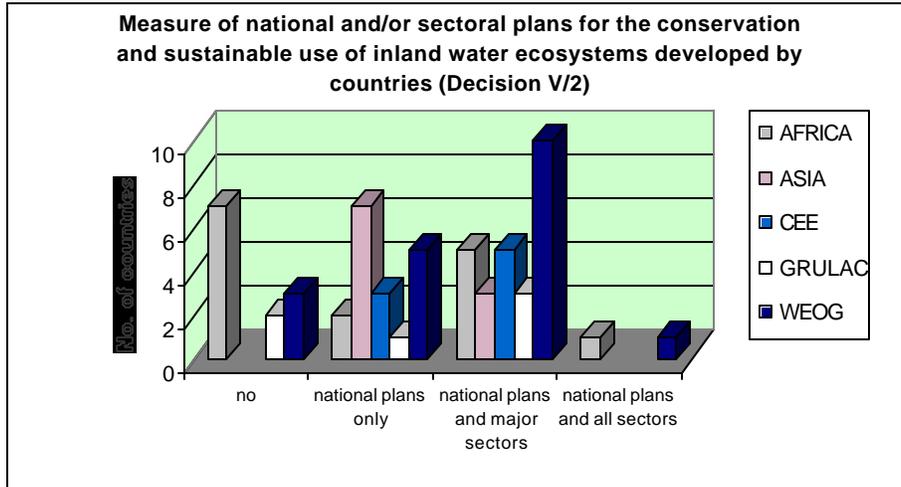
101. Forty-six Parties (74%) are gathering information on the status of inland water biological diversity and four have completed the assessment. This information is available in 14 national reports and some is available in scientific reports and on the Internet. Only one country has stated the method used for assessment and one country has mentioned that assessment is an ongoing process and never can be completed.

Figure 39



102. Eighteen Parties (29%) have developed national plans for conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems and 24 (38%) have developed national and sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems. 38 Parties (61%) have implemented capacity-building measures for developing and implementing these plans. 2 small island developing countries have developed their national plans and 2 such countries have developed both national and sectoral plans for conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems.

Figure 40



Implementation of decision III/21- relationship of the Convention with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions

103. Forty-nine Parties (79%) have fully incorporated conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, and of migratory species and their habitats, into their national strategies, plans and programmes.

Conclusion

104. The programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems is recognized as priority programme by a majority of responding Parties. However, two thirds of the Parties do not have adequate resources for implementation of the programme of work. Responses show that the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems is reviewed by only nine Parties, which identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme. However less than half of the responding Parties reported on developing national and sectoral plans for conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems. This indicates that majority of the national sectoral plans for conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems are developed irrespective of the programme of work.
