

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

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Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	January 2007

Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report

The present report reflects above all the achievements of the Republic of Albania in the field of biodiversity conservation during the period following 1999 until 2002. The great part of the legislation (acts) related to the issue was finalized at that time. The institutions responsible for the biodiversity conservation and management were strengthened in terms of staff and finance. The public awareness basis for the biodiversity conservation was broadened.

The present report was developed by a team of specialists from the Ministry of Environment (MoE), the scientific and nature conservation experts from the Albanian Academy of Sciences, Universities and NGOs. Experts from the Directorate for Biodiversity Protection at MoE wrote the final edition of the report.

The main sources used for writing the report are:

1. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 1998;
2. First National Report on Biodiversity Conservation, 1999.
3. Annual report for the state of environment in Albania, Tirana 1998;
4. Annual report for the state of environment in Albania, Tirana 1999-2000;
5. Annual report for the state of environment in Albania, Tirana 2001-2002;
6. The 'Green Strategy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MoAF), 1998;
7. National Report on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, 2002
8. Reports from international projects;
9. Scientific and research reports from contracts signed by MoE.

Please provide information on any particular circumstances in your country that are relevant to understanding the answers to the questions in this report

Albania has become a Party to three UN main Conventions after 90-s which corresponds to the country's change of regime and participation in international agreements on environmental protection. Albania ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on January 1994. On October 3, 1994 Albania signed the Convention on Climate Change and Albania became a Party of the UNCCD on 27 April 2000.

Albania is a small country located in South Eastern Europe. It has borders with Serbia and Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Greece and covers an area of 28,748 km². From the fertile coastal plain on the Adriatic Sea, the land rises into hills and

mountains to the North (Albanian Alps) and East (Korabi Mountain). Small rivers traverse the country. Although Albania is rich in water resources, 33 % of the catchments areas are situated outside its national borders.

Albania is distinguished for its rich biological and landscape diversity. This diversity is attributable to the country's geographic position as well as geological, hydrological, climatic, soil and relief characteristics. The high diversity of ecosystems and habitats (marine and coastal ecosystems, wetlands, river deltas, sand dunes, lakes, rivers, Mediterranean shrubs, broadleaf, conifers and mixed forests, alpine and subalpine pastures and meadows, and high mountain ecosystems) offers rich habitats for a variety of plants and animals. There are around 3,200 species of vascular plants and 756 vertebrate species. There are 27 endemic and 160 subendemic species of vascular plants. Approximately 30% of all European floras occur in Albania. The high Albanian forests maintain communities of large mammals such as wolf, bear, lynx, and wild goat, and also characteristic bird communities.

Coastal lagoons and large lakes inside the country are important areas especially for wintering migratory birds. There are annually met around 70 waterfowl and waterbird species with a total population of 180,000 individuals in Albania during the winter. Albania is also an important crossroad for the migration of birds, bats, and insects.

There are some 91 globally threatened species found in Albania. These include the Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*), and the Sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*) for which Albania is a country of particularly critical importance.

As part of the global economic, cultural and environmental arena, Albania's development will only proceed by adequately taking into account, global processes and trends. The principles of the conventions, as well as of the European Union environmental policy, have been established as priority areas for the next ten years. Acceding to the conventions means that the provisions thereof take precedence over domestic law and activities, and countries are bound by the international commitments undertaken under the conventions. Given the broad scope of application of the individual conventions, the specific nature of local circumstances and the needs and interests of the states, the environmental and economic policy acts may in practice turn out to be in conflict with the objectives of the conventions.

In institutional terms, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) is the highest governmental body responsible for environmental protection. It was established in September 2001, on the basis of the National Environmental Agency as the main environmental institution created in 1993. In early 2006, the *MOE* was additionally tasked with overseeing most issues related to water, pasture, and forest management.

Albania has started the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) process with the European Union, which set the conditions for the country's eventual accession to the EU. The policies that need to be adopted and actions to be taken are fully in line with the national policy documents. These instruments are the main focus of national development and donor support.

The COP has established programmes of work that respond to a number of Articles. Please identify the relative priority accorded to each theme and the adequacy of resources. This will allow subsequent information on implementation of each Article to be put into context. There are other questions on implementation of the programmes of work at the end of these guidelines.

Inland water ecosystems

1. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
b) Medium	
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	
2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting	

Marine and coastal biological diversity

3. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
b) Medium	
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	
4. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting	

Agricultural biological diversity

5. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	
b) Medium	
c) Low	X
d) Not relevant	
6. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	

b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	
d) Severely limiting	X

Forest biological diversity

7. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
b) Medium	
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	
8. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting	

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

9. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	
b) Medium	
c) Low	X
d) Not relevant	
10. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	
d) Severely limiting	X

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

Points 1, 3, 5, 7, 9. On 1997 with the support of the foreign experts a “Water Strategy” was elaborated and approved in 2003. A regional strategic action plan for the marine biodiversity had been elaborated in the frame of the Mediterranean SAP BIO project, and Albania also elaborated the National Report on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity. Also a national forest strategy is under process with the support of the WB project. All these documents take into account the CBD recommendation and other related documents.

Points 2, 4, 6, 8, 10. The national resources for accomplishment of the obligations and recommendations for reaching the aims in any of the mention fields of work are rather limited than adequate. This is due to both the economical difficulties the country is passing at the

moment and to the character of the nature protection investment process. Mostly of the funds are provided by foreign donors that are sought for the protection of the Albanian nature in general and for biodiversity in particular.

Article 5 Cooperation

11. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
12. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate	X	c) Limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p><u>Points 11, 12.</u> The respective objectives at biodiversity protection and sustainable use of the biological resources in the different countries in the world cannot be reached without international partnership. That is because the biological diversity is a global phenomenon, and the state borders must not part the countries but unite them for the execution of joint actions in the field.</p> <p>The international cooperation with other countries, in the field in question is a high-priority task for Albania, due to the support of the donor's community (including GEF) in activities promoting the cooperation between different countries and stakeholders.</p>					

13. 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) bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
b) international programmes (please give details below)	X
c) international agreements (please give details below)	X

Decision IV/4. Status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable use

14. Has your country developed effective cooperation for the sustainable management of transboundary watersheds, catchments, river basins and migratory species through bilateral and multilateral agreements?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	

Decision IV/15. The relationship of the CBD with the CSD and biodiversity-related conventions, other international agreements, institutions and processes or relevance

15. Has your country developed management practices for transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

Decision V/21. Co-operation with other bodies

16. Has your country collaborated with the International Biodiversity Observation Year of DIVERSITAS, and ensured complementarity with the initiative foreseen to be undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to increase scientific knowledge and public awareness of the crucial role of biodiversity for sustainable development?	
a) no	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	

Decision V/27. Contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the ten-year review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

17. Is your country planning to highlight and emphasize biological diversity considerations in its contribution to the ten-year review of progress since the Earth Summit?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Point 13. Cooperate with other Contracting Parties, directly, or through competent international organizations, in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction and on other matters of mutual interest

Albanian cooperation with other countries for the biodiversity protection and sustainable is implemented via various:

- Albania has a bilateral partnership with the Italy, Greece, Austria, Slovenia, FYR of Macedonia and other countries. The international projects between the governments of Republic of Albania and of the above countries are developed usually on the basis of signed Memorandum of understanding.
- Albania takes part in large number of programmes, related to protection of different components of the environment. Such programmes are those of WB, PHARE, INTEREG, FAO, MedWet, PHARE, CARDS, MedPol, etc.
- Albania is a signatory to the following global or pan-European conventions:
 - Biodiversity Convention;
 - Convention on the Conservation of the European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern);
 - Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl

Habitat;

- Convention on the Conservation of the World and Cultural Heritage;
- Convention on Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention);

-

14. Albania had ratified the following conventions related to transboundary cooperation:

- The ESPOO Convention "On Environmental Impact Assessment in the Transboundary Context";
- UNECE Convention "On the Protection and Use of Transboundary Water Courses and International Lakes"

This had been expressed clearly also in the three lakes that Albania is sharing with the neighboring countries, FYR of Macedonia (Lake of Ohrid and Prespa), Greece (Lake Prespa) and Montenegro (Lake Shkodra). The cooperation with Italy (we share the Adriatic Sea) is starting to be productive in some concrete project regarding the protection of the marine environment and capacity building in Albania (particularly in the frame of Interreg program).

15. The Stability Pact of the East-European countries stipulates the establishment of transboundary protected areas. To that fact:

Albania has been cooperating with Greece and FYROM on the subject of Biodiversity protection of the Trans border areas, such as Micro and Macro Prespa lakes and Ohrid Lake. In 2000 a trilateral agreement among the neighboring states (Albania, Greece and FYR of Macedonia) on the protection of the two transboundary lakes Macro and Micro Prespa has been signed by the Prime Minister. Based upon that agreement an inter-Balkan protected region called "Prespa Park" was created.

16. Albania cooperates with UNESCO. There are plans for including the Albanian part of the Ohrid lake in the UNESCO list of the world heritage. There have been also taken several steps toward proclaiming the entire Ohrid, Scadar and Prespa region within transboundary context as Biosphere Reserve.

Article 6 General measures for conservation and sustainable use

18. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>		
19. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
18; 19. These measures has been placed at the highest priority for Albania. Because of the lack of experience in the environment field, international technical and financial co-operation has been and continues to be vital for Albania. It's clear that effective protection and sustainable use of the biological resources are impossible without a clear view of the goals, without the time schedule of the activities and the legislative, institutional, organizational, staff and financial support. The foreign financial support and help must be pointed out (see Question 28, please).							

20. What is the status of your national biodiversity strategy (6a)?	
a) none	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) completed ₁	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) completed and adopted ₂	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) reports on implementation available	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. What is the status of your national biodiversity action plan (6a)?	
a) none	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) completed ₂	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) completed and adopted ₂	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) reports on implementation available	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Do your national strategies and action plans cover all articles of the Convention (6a)?	
a) some articles only	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) most articles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) all articles	<input type="checkbox"/>

1/ Please provide information requested at the end of these guidelines.

23. Do your national strategies and action plans cover integration of other sectoral activities (6b)?	
a) no	
b) some sectors	
c) all major sectors	X
d) all sectors	

Decision II/7 and Decision III/9 Consideration of Articles 6 and 8

24. Is action being taken to exchange information and share experience on the national action planning process with other Contracting Parties?	
a) little or no action	
b) sharing of strategies, plans and/or case-studies	X
c) regional meetings	X
25. Do all of your country's strategies and action plans include an international cooperation component?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
26. Are your country's strategies and action plans coordinated with those of neighbouring countries?	
a) no	
b) bilateral/multilateral discussions under way	
c) coordinated in some areas/themes	X
d) fully coordinated	
e) not applicable	
27. Has your country set measurable targets within its strategies and action plans?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	
If a developing country Party or a Party with economy in transition -	
28. Has your country received support from the financial mechanism for the preparation of its national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, which was the Implementing Agency (UNDP/UNEP/World Bank)?	World Bank

Decisions III/21. Relationship of the Convention with the CSD and biodiversity-related conventions

29. Are the national focal points for the CBD and the competent authorities of the Ramsar Convention, Bonn Convention and CITES cooperating in the implementation of these conventions to avoid duplication?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

20; 21; 22. The National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), developed in 1999 and approved by a Government decree in 2000, in accordance with the international Convention on Biological Diversity. The national strategy defines the main directions for development of biodiversity protection in the country. According to the Strategy, the key elements that requires immediate support from the Albanian side and the international society are:

- Scientific backup and support to the nature conservation activities;
- Support to legislative initiatives;
- Enlargement and support to the network of protected areas;
- Ecological education and cooperated consultancy;
- Development and implementation of eco-tourism policy;

The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) is the basic document presenting the Government's policy and general programs in the environmental sector. The NEAP was first prepared with assistance from PHARE and the World Bank in 1994. It was revised in 2001 through an extensive consultative process involving a large number of stakeholders organized into thematic work groups. The main issues identified through the NEAP are:

- o Development of policies and programs;
- o Improvement and completing the legal framework;
- o Institutional strengthening and capacity building;
- o Public awareness rising.

Priority investments are to focus on watershed management, forestry, flood control, solid waste management, water supply, sewage systems and urban management. However, the revised NEAP does not set out priorities. Moreover, although each proposed activity in the NEAP is coasted; most funds have only been requested and not secured. An inter-ministerial committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, has been set up to enable implementation of the revised NEAP.

The National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action plan includes many concrete activities, connected with biodiversity conservation, to be implemented by the different periods of coming years.

According to the Plan, the main activities for achieving the country's biodiversity conservation are as follows:

- Drafting of acts and normative documents, creation of monitoring systems, cadastre of the

- protected areas and geographic-information systems;
- Institutional strengthening of biodiversity conservation in-situ;
 - Restoration and maintenance activities related to the restoration of habitats and to conservation of endangered species and of their genetic resources;
 - Strengthening of the scientific base for biodiversity conservation;
 - Information, education and training.

The financing of the plan's activities is assigned to different institutions, responsible for the socio-economic sectors in the country. The organization of the national plan's implementation and the mechanism for its actualization allow change in case of implementation conditions' change.

The activities, recommended by the NBSAP cover most of the articles of the Biodiversity Convention.

23. Representatives of the other sectors of economy sectors took part both in the elaboration of the Strategy and Action plan for Biodiversity Conservation. The institutions in charge of the different sectors have undertaken responsibility for the financing and implementation of the corresponding tasks of the NBSAP. Besides the Ministry of Environment, the main participants in the implementation of the activities outlined in the strategic documents are also the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Education and Science and others.

24, 25, 26. Albania used the biodiversity protection know-how of some of the leading countries for the Plan's development and coordinated some of the planned activities with the neighbor countries, and especially with Italy and Greece.

27. The cost on the implementation of the different activities, enumerated in the plan, is defined.

The "rate of achievement" of the two main goals of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan (by means of implementation of the included therein activities) is determined as follows:

- In the field of biodiversity protection monitoring should be used for the identification of the status, the type and the degree of impact on the biological species and ecosystems;
- Monitoring of the impact on biodiversity;
- Establishment of database;
- Estimation of the status of vegetation in particular areas or throughout the country;
- Data on the status of environment by components:
 - *in the areas of distribution of certain endangered species;*
 - *in the areas of distribution of species of higher economic value*
 - *in other selected areas of the country.*

The data received from the monitoring are kept and updated in a database (including the Red list of Albania, list of nature monument, protected areas), the elaboration of which, as well as the establishment and maintenance of GIS for some of the protected areas and biodiversity, is included in the NBCAP as activity for implementation.

The work on the creation of the above described monitoring started in 2001.

28. The GEF through the World Bank had supported the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. GEF had been active also in supporting other project related to biodiversity protection and international water.

29. There is close coordination between the Focal Points of the different conventions, for the simple reason that they are coordinated by one Directorate in the Ministry, the Biodiversity Protection Directorate.

Article 7 Identification and monitoring

30. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
31. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>30; 31. There is available information on the biological characteristics, ecological needs and the distribution of the wild plant and animal species and for their habitats available in the country. The components of different hierarchic levels of the living nature, as well as the abiotic components of the environment, have been identified. The threats for the biological diversity are also identified. During the past time the proper preventive activities, the activities for the protection and conservation of the biodiversity, the steps to be taken to reduce the negative effect and impacts upon the biodiversity have been determined. The monitoring at the species level was established for several key plant and animal groups. Yet the establishment of an integrated biodiversity monitoring system is a pending issue. Since both specialists and equipment are necessary for the creation of the system it can be assumed that the resources for reaching the goal are quite limited at the moment. For the moment the amount of money related to bio-monitoring is about 30.000 USD.</p>					

32. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	X
33. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at ecosystem level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	X

c) for major ecosystems	
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	
34. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at genetic level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors	X
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	
35. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	X
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	
36. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at ecosystem level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	X
c) for major ecosystems	
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	
37. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at genetic level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) minor programme in some sectors	X
c) major programme in some sectors	
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	
38. Has your country identified activities with adverse affects on biodiversity (7c)?	
a) limited understanding	
b) threats well known in some areas, not in others	
c) most threats known, some gaps in knowledge	
d) comprehensive understanding	
e) reports available	X
39. Is your country monitoring these activities and their effects (7c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	X
40. Does your country coordinate information collection and management at the national level (7d)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	

c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	X

Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment

41. Has your country identified national indicators of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	X
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	
42. Is your country using rapid assessment and remote sensing techniques?	
a) no	X
b) assessing opportunities	
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a major extent	
e) reports on implementation available	
43. Has your country adopted a "step-by-step" approach to implementing Article 7 with initial emphasis on identification of biodiversity components (7a) and activities having adverse effects on them (7c)?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes	X
44. Is your country cooperating with other Contracting Parties on pilot projects to demonstrate the use of assessment and indicator methodologies?	
a) no	
b) yes (if so give details below)	X
45. Has your country prepared any reports of experience with application of assessment methodologies and made these available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
46. Is your country seeking to make taxonomic information held in its collections more widely available?	
a) no relevant collections	
b) no action	X
c) yes (if so, please give details below)	

Decision V/7. Identification, monitoring and assessment, and indicators

47. Is your country actively involved in co-operating with other countries in your region in the field of indicators, monitoring and assessment?	
a) no	
b) limited co-operation	X
c) extensive co-operation on some issues	

d) extensive co-operation on a wide range of issues	
48. Has your country made available case studies concerning the development and implementation of assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
c) yes - through the national CHM	
d) yes - other means (please specify)	X
49. Is your country assisting other Parties to increase their capacity to develop indicator and monitoring programmes?	
a) no	
b) providing training	
c) providing direct support	
d) sharing experience	
e) other (please describe)	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

32; 34. The efforts of many scientists have contributed to the collection of data on the Albanian plant and animal species. The major documents, containing the description of the wild plant and animal species, have been issued by the Albanian Academy of Sciences: "The Flora of Albania" – 4 volumes so far, and "The Red Book of Albania". The genetic specifications of the different species – a part of their complete characteristics – are not presented in the above mentioned documents.

33. There is summary information regarding the ecosystems and habitats on the whole area of Albania. A project, called "Corine Biotopes", was developed. Different habitats, Qualification Scheme are included and described in the 125 units of the Project.

35. Monitoring at the species level has been partly established for key plant and animal groups in Albania:

- The changes of the commercially important forest species is made:
- The evaluation of the forest ecosystems has been done through the World Bank Albanian Forestry project. The health status of the tree species is determined annually by means of measure of the degree of defoliation, determination of the color of the leaves, physiologic and other measures of single trees of the respective species.
- The changes in the number of the local vertebrate species and of the migratory birds are monitored as follows:
 - The number of the vertebrate species, mostly hunting ones, is estimated through the annual counting, carried out mainly by the state forestry directorates and organized hunters and fishermen.
 - The winter bird census made regularly for Ohrid and Prespa Lakes and not in continuously level for other water bodies including lakes and lagoons.
 - The number of the migratory birds is estimated through the annual winter-spring counting, carried out mainly by members of nationals and international NGOs.

36. The monitoring at the ecosystem level takes place only in certain ecosystems within protected areas, for example the Prespa National Park, etc.

37. The monitoring at the genetic level of few species is going on in some cases mostly related to the domestic autochthon fauna. Is still a very difficult area and mostly are made studies and not monitoring.

38; 39. The determination of the activities that threaten the biodiversity and the monitoring of those ones, for which this is compulsory, is the main function of MoE and its Regional Environmental Agencies. Such responsibilities are undertaken also by the institutions that govern the socio-economical sectors in the country and which use the biological resources of the wild nature, or pollute the nature by production, construction, transport, etc. MoE controls the activities of these institutions and their divisions as well as similar activities of the rest physical or juridical persons in the country by means of direct control/overview, the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures and other mechanisms.

40. Most of the information, connected to the nature protection in Albania, is at the national level.

41. No any study made until 2002, but there is a Decree of the Government that decides the main indicators that should be monitor by the scientific institutions.

47; 48; 49. The partnership of Albania in the field of determination of indicators, monitoring and assessments as well as the joint case studies is developed mostly with Macedonia and Greece. The partnership projects regard mainly the water ecosystems (Lake Ohrid, Micro Prespa lake and Devolli River).

Decisions on Taxonomy

**Decision IV/1 Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTA
[part]**

50. Has your country carried out a national taxonomic needs assessment, and/or held workshops to determine national taxonomic priorities?	
a) no	
b) early stages of assessment	X
c) advanced stages of assessment	
d) assessment completed	
51. Has your country developed a national taxonomic action plan?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) action plan in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
52. Is your country making available appropriate resources to enhance the availability of taxonomic information?	
a) no	
b) yes, but this does not cover all known needs adequately	X
c) yes, covering all known needs	
53. Is your country encouraging bilateral and multilateral training and employment opportunities for taxonomists, particularly those dealing with poorly known organisms?	
a) no	
b) some opportunities	X
c) significant opportunities	
54. Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections?	
a) no	
b) some investment	X
c) significant investment	
55. Is your country encouraging partnerships between taxonomic institutions in developed and developing countries?	
a) no	X
b) yes - stated policy	
c) yes - systematic national programme	
56. Has your country adopted any international agreed levels of collection housing?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) being implemented by some collections	
d) being implemented by all major collections	

57. Has your country provided training programmes in taxonomy?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	
58. Has your country reported on measures adopted to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy, to designate national reference centres, and to make information housed in collections available to countries of origin?	
a) no	
b) yes - in the previous national report	
c) yes - via the clearing-house mechanism	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
59. Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes for some institutions	X
d) yes for all major institutions	
60. Has your country assisted taxonomic institutions to establish consortia to conduct regional projects?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
c) yes - limited extent	
d) yes - significant extent	
61. Has your country given special attention to international funding of fellowships for specialist training abroad or for attracting international experts to national or regional courses?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
62. Has your country provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	

**Decision V/9. Global Taxonomy Initiative: Implementation and further
advance of the Suggestions for Action**

63. Has your country identified its information requirements in the area of taxonomy, and assessed its national capacity to meet these requirements?	
a) no	
b) basic assessment	X
c) thorough assessment	
64. Has your country established or consolidated taxonomic reference centres?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
65. Has your country worked to increase its capacity in the area of taxonomic research?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
66. Has your country communicated information on programmes, projects and initiatives for consideration as pilot projects under the Global Taxonomy Initiative to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
67. Has your country designated a national Global Taxonomy Initiative focal point linked to other national focal points?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
68. Has your country participated in the development of regional networks to facilitate information-sharing for the Global Taxonomy Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
69. Has your country sought resources through the financial mechanism for the priority actions identified in the decision?	
a) no	X
b) applied for unsuccessfully	
c) applied for successfully	

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

50;51. The taxonomic investigations in Albania are at different stage of development. Most of the taxonomic groups of animals and plants are basically investigated. The research data are collected in 4 volumes of “Flora of Albania”.

Basic evaluation for the state of the taxonomic investigations in the country has been made during the elaboration of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 1999. The evaluation has been actualized in via different studies made through foreign support relate to specific areas like Bay of Vlora, Lakes Ohrid, Prespa, Scadar and forest ecosystems. Priority directions and needs for further investigations are determined for each group, but national taxonomic plan of operation according to the requirements of CBD is not yet developed. The investigations are carried out based on the annual working plans of of academic institutes and universities. Classical as well as state of the art methods are applied at the development of the taxonomic schemes.

No activities are undertaken regarding the initiative for global taxonomy. Albania will need technical, as well as financial support for applying of this initiative.

52; 54; 59; 60; 63; 68. The collections of plants are mostly found in the herbariums at the Institute of Biology Research (Academy of Sciences), Botanical Garden-Tirana (Faculty of Natural Sciences), fulfill a role of national plants collections. There is also a collection of seeds in the National Seeds Entity.

The animal collections of National Museum of Natural Science-Tirana (Faculty of Natural Sciences), Institute of Fishery Durres and the Zoo-Tirana fulfill a role of National animal collections (see the answer of points 127, 128, 130, 131, 133, 134)

53; 57; 62. Educational and training programs on taxonomy are applied at during the teaching process on biology at some universities. Taxonomists from abroad have been invited and the world wide experience in taxonomy has been applied for educational, training and for some retraining programs.

55; 56; 61 See points 129, 132, 136.

58; 64; 65. Every institution, where taxonomic investigations are carried out appears a “center of references”, but one centralized institution, fulfilling these functions doesn’t exist yet. Scientists – taxonomists are involved also in other investigations concerning biodiversity.

Article 8 *In situ* conservation [excluding Articles 8h and 8j]

70. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
71. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>70; 71. The <i>in situ</i> method is a traditional, priority and the most successful one for the Albanian biodiversity conservation. The limited resources for its application result from the economical difficulties in the country under the circumstances of economy in transition.</p>					

72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?	
a) system under development	
b) national review of protected areas coverage available	
c) national protected area systems plan in place	X
d) relatively complete system in place	
73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	
b) no, under development	
c) yes	X
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	
74. Does your country regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use (8c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
e) reports on implementation available	

75. Has your country undertaken measures that promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings (8d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	X
76. Has your country undertaken measures that promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas (8e)?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	
77. Has your country undertaken measures to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
78. Has your country undertaken measures to promote the recovery of threatened species (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
79. Has your country undertaken measures to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology (8g)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
80. Has your country made attempts to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components (8i)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	
81. Has your country developed and maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations (8k)?	

a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	X
82. Does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity (8l)?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a significant extent	X
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
83. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for <i>in-situ</i> conservation particularly to developing countries (8m)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
84. Does your country receive financial and other support for <i>in situ</i> conservation (8m)?	
a) no	
b) yes (if so, please give details below)	X

Decision II/7 Consideration of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention

85. Is action being taken to share information and experience on implementation of this Article with other Contracting Parties?	
a) little or no action	
b) sharing of written materials and/or case-studies	X
c) regional meetings	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

72. Until the 1990s, protected areas in Albania were small in number and size. Recommendations that emerged from the ecological survey and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan led to an important step in protected area planning in Albania. In June 2002 a Law on Protected areas had been approved and a new system was adopted for classifying existing and proposed protected areas, incorporating six IUCN management categories. The following table summarizes the overall surface of the protected areas is 165 401 ha, which constitutes 5,7 % of the surface of the Republic, up to the end of 2001.

No	PA categories	Number of PA	Surface ha	%	Main goals of the categories for PA management
1	Strictly protected area	4	14 500	8,83	Protected area, managed mainly for scientific aims and the conservation of the wild fauna
2	National parks	13	56 440	32,86	Protected area, managed mainly for the protection of the ecosystem and for recreation/tourism
3	Monuments of nature (special forest wood, woodland areas)	750	3 490	2,88	Protected area/surface, managed mainly for the protection/conservation of the specific/characteristic features of the nature
4	Managed areas	26	42 898	26,13	Protected area/surface, managed mainly for the protection/conservation mainly through management interventions
5	Protected landscape/seascape	4	29 873	18,20	Protected area/surface, managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and for recreation
6	Protected resource area	4	18 200	11,09	Protected area/surface, managed mainly for sustainable use of natural resources/ecosystems
7	Total	801	165 401	100,00	5,7 % of the territory of the Republic and 10,43% of the forest fund

73. The law on Protected Areas, 2002, stipulates the purpose, regime of protection and use of the protected areas, the procedures for their designation and changes within them. The law sanctions plural property of forests, lands and aquatic areas within protected areas, as well as those that are exclusive state property. Through the Protected Areas law the Ministry of Environment (MoE) assumes responsibility for the management, the commissioning of maintenance activities and the guarding of protected areas that are exclusive property of the state; and responsibility for the management and control of activities in the other protected areas. The law introduces management plans for protected areas. Secondary legislation listed below is connected with the practical implementation of the Protected Areas law in different directions.

The main administrative and regulatory instruments for biodiversity conservation are:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures;
- The permitting regime for trading in medicinal plants, endangered species from the wild flora and fauna and their derivatives;
- The administrative penalties and the compulsory administrative measures applied in the field

of nature conservation, or biodiversity, respectively.

74. The main responsibilities for the management of the biological resources in respect to their conservation and sustainable use, are undertaken by:

- MoE and its regional Environmental Agencies, and Forest Service structures – in the protected areas that are exclusive state property (national parks, reserves and maintained reserves);
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and its regional structures – in the land funds that are state property;
- Owners of forests, lands and water resources within the forest and land funds – in municipal and private property.

Numerous Acts are adopted by the National Parliament/or CM concern biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of the biological resources in different economical sectors of the country:

- Green strategy act;
- The Strategy for forest conservation;

The implementation of these acts as well as of the special ecological acts is assigned to separate sectors. The overview of the obedience to the sector and ecological laws is assigned to MoE.

75; 77; 78. Albania undertakes comprehensive measures that promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of populations of plant and animal species in their habitats or migration places. The restoration of degraded ecosystems and extinct or endangered species are part of these activities. The reviewed measures result mostly from the management plans of the protected areas and the Action Plans for the endangered species. Until now we had not developed management plans for PAs in Albania, but exist some schematic ones for the NP “Dajti” and NP “Butrinti” and in the mean time had started the process for the NP “Llogora”, NP “Prespa”. Action plans for species, had not been developed.

76. The adjacent to the protected areas regions are for the moment not subject to the staff attention.

79. The introduction of modified organisms in the wild nature is forbidden according to the conditions of the new Bio security strategy in planning phase.

In accordance with the precautionary approach contained in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the objective of this Protocol is to contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements.

Albania is not part to the Cartagena Protocol.

Albania is in the first steps of starting the project for developing the biosafety framework and in the first steps of gathering all the information which is partly an impediment.

A draft law on conservation of biodiversity was prepared in 2002 but not approved which some articles on GMO have related to imports, eradication and containment of GMOs, notification and

consultation with other states and programs for GMOs. These articles are based on Biosafety protocol and expected to be improved by the development of Biosafety Framework and implementation of the legislation approximation related to EU directives.

GMOs are a new area for Albania and its experts which makes the preparation and implementation of necessary measures difficult. Foreign technical and financial assistance and experience is very valuable. The process on accession of Albania to the protocol is just started.

80; 81;82. According to the Constitution, “The Republic of Albania shall ensure the protection of the environment, the maintenance and diversity of living Nature and the sustainable utilization of the country's natural and other resources” (Article 11)”. In order to fulfill this stipulation, a balance between the nature protection and the sustainable use of biological resources is established in the country. This balance is established both by the currently effective special environmental laws .

84. A number of programs for technical assistance have focused on the transfer and use of international experiences and increased the professional capacity of national experts in environment. EU programs, such as PHARE, and LIFE, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP, UNEP, and technical assistance from the governments of the USA (USAID), Germany (GTZ), Italy, and The Netherlands (SNV) and others, have contributed to this effort.

85. The participation of Albania representatives in the regional meeting, either on a global or European level, is a significant source of information and know-how on the application of the *in situ* biodiversity conservation techniques for the country.

Article 8h Alien species

86. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low			
87. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>86; 87. This priority is coming from the NBSAP, Protected Areas law and is an important element in the pursued from the Ministry of Environment policy in the management of the protected areas and protection of the biodiversity out of them. In the different fields e.g. forestry the problems with the introduction of alien species are partially addressed.</p> <p>With the available human resources, the basic responsible institutions – Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MoAF) have relatively good ability to control and to take adequate decisions regarding the prevention of the introduction of alien species.</p>							

88. Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	
b) only major species of concern	X
c) only new or recent introductions	
d) a comprehensive system tracks new introductions	
e) a comprehensive system tracks all known introductions	
89. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) no	
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed	X
c) most alien species have been assessed	
90. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

Decision IV/1 Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA

91. Is your country collaborating in the development of projects at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels to address the issue of alien species?	
a) little or no action	
b) discussion on potential projects under way	X
c) active development of new projects	
92. Does your national strategy and action plan address the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

Decision V/8. Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species

93. Is your country applying the interim guiding principles for prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species in the context of activities aimed at implementing article 8(h) of the Convention, and in the various sectors?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) limited implementation in some sectors	X
d) extensive implementation in some sectors	
e) extensive implementation in most sectors	
94. Has your country submitted case-studies to the Executive Secretary focusing on thematic assessments?	
a) no	X
b) in preparation	
c) yes	
95. Has your country submitted written comments on the interim guiding principles to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
96. Has your country given priority to the development and implementation of alien invasive species strategies and action plans?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
97. In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed or involved itself in mechanisms for international co-operation, including the exchange of best practices?	
a) no	X
b) trans-boundary co-operation	
c) regional co-operation	
d) multilateral co-operation	

98. Is your country giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
99. Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
100. Has your country developed effective education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species?	
a) no	X
b) some initiatives	
c) many initiatives	
101. Is your country making available the information which it holds on alien species through the CHM?	
a) no	X
b) some information	
c) all available information	
d) information available through other channels (please specify)	
102. Is your country providing support to enable the Global Invasive Species Programme to fulfil the tasks outlined in the decision and its annexes?	
a) no	X
b) limited support	
c) substantial support	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

88; 90; 93. At this stage the introduced tree and bush species in the forestry sector are identified (pine species, Acacia, etc). The forestry policy recommends the restriction of the distribution of the introduced species and afforestation with native species.

The identification of introduced species and their impact is one of the priorities in the development of management plans for national and natural parks, as well as for other protected areas. In these plans are foreseen measures for prevention of the invasion of introduced species or for their elimination.

89. So far there are no comprehensive evaluation of the impact and the threat for the ecosystems and native species from introduced species.

91. So far there are no projects on regional and international level on the problems regarding alien species.

92. In the NBSAP alien species issues are treated and relevant measures are recommended.

97. See point 13.

99. See points 305 to 308.

100. The education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species are connected with the general flow of these processes.

Article 8j Traditional knowledge and related provisions

103. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low			
104. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>103; 104. Albania environmental institutions try to promote and had see the traditional knowledge as a priority for the biodiversity protection. We try to encourage the local communities and authorities in their active participations.</p> <p>In the different branch policies this issue is either not addressed or addressed not sufficiently. The financial resources for the fulfillment of the requirements of the Convention and the national measures in this direction are rather limited. Especially limiting are the financial resources of the Local Self Government.</p> <p>At the individual level, traditional knowledge about biodiversity is present and applied in many activities connected with the use of biodiversity informally in families. Development of professional careers of individuals in the field of the application of traditional knowledge may be achieved through PhD studies at universities and participation in special courses.</p>							

105. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure that the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are respected, preserved and maintained?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
106. Is your country working to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	

Decision III/4 and Decision IV/9. Implementation of Article 8(j)

107. Has your country developed national legislation and corresponding strategies for the implementation of Article 8(j)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) legislation or other measures in place	
108. Has your country supplied information on the implementation of Article 8(j) to other Contracting Parties through media such as the national report?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - CHM	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
109. Has your country submitted case-studies to the Executive Secretary on measures taken to develop and implement the Convention's provisions relating to indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
110. Is your country participating in appropriate working groups and meetings?	
a) none	
b) some	X
c) all	
111. Is your country facilitating the active participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities in these working groups and meetings?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision V/16. Article 8(j) and related provisions

112. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in the annex to the decision, and identified how to implement those tasks appropriate to national circumstances?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
c) yes (please provide details)	
113. Is your country integrating such tasks into its ongoing programmes, taking into account the identified collaboration opportunities?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	X
d) yes - to a significant extent	
114. Is your country taking full account of existing instruments, guidelines, codes and other relevant activities in the implementation of the programme of work?	

a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	X
d) yes - to a significant extent	
115. Has your country provided appropriate financial support for the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	X
d) yes - to a significant extent	
116. Has your country fully incorporated women and women's organizations in the activities undertaken to implement the programme of work contained in the annex to the decision and other relevant activities under the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
117. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	X
d) yes - to a significant extent	
118. Has your country provided case studies on methods and approaches concerning the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge, and the control of that information by indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
d) yes - through the national CHM	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	
119. Does your country exchange information and share experiences regarding national legislation and other measures for the protection of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - with specific countries	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	
120. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and maintenance of knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	

c) some measures	X
d) extensive measures	
121. Has your country supported the development of registers of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, in collaboration with these communities?	
a) no	X
b) not relevant	
c) development in progress	
d) register fully developed	
122. Have representatives of indigenous and local community organizations participated in your official delegation to meetings held under the Convention on Biological Diversity?	
a) not relevant	
b) not appropriate	X
c) yes	
123. Is your country assisting the Secretariat to fully utilize the clearing-house mechanism to co-operate closely with indigenous and local communities to explore ways that enable them to make informed decisions concerning release of their traditional knowledge?	
a) no	
b) awaiting information on how to proceed	X
c) yes	
124. Has your country identified resources for funding the activities identified in the decision?	
a) no	X
b) not relevant	
c) partly	
d) fully	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

105; 106; 107. Based on the formulations of the NBSAP linkage between the traditional way of resource use and their sustainable reproduction is done. A relevant strategy and action plan on this issue are not developed so far.

There are no law mechanisms for the implementation of the Article 8j of the Convention or for the consecutive stimulation and distribution of the benefits from traditional practices.

108. A project for the implementation of the Clearing house mechanism is starting, on which is counted to accumulate and distribute information, including the international experience regarding Article 8j.

110 to 124. Main problem in the implementation of Article 8j is the lack of complete concept on this issue, as well as law-conducted mechanisms and resources for implementation and stimulation.

Currently partially are undertaken measures and activities on the implementation of the Article 8j in Albania:

- In the process of development of Management plans of protected areas information about traditional practices is collected and projects and programs for their development, including popularization and stimulation are foreseen;
- Development of communal and municipal programs for sustainable development (LEAPs Local Environmental Action Plans), where the most important are the issues about sustainable use of the resources, strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities and effective participation of the communities in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, including benefit-sharing.
- Under the support of the GEF SGP and WB Forestry project relevant to traditional practices – agriculture, cultivation of medical plants, fruit production etc, has been implemented.

Article 9 Ex situ conservation

125. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
126. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>125; 126. In Albania, wider priority is given for preservation of species <i>in situ</i>. <i>Ex situ</i> preservation is applied in more restricted cases, when creation of gene banks, breeding in captivity, recovery of old domestic sorts and animal races and plants are concerned. Sometimes it is the only way to recover extinguished species. The country disposes of specialists (Genetic Bank, Institute of Biological Research, Botanical Garden) and in some extend of technical base for realization of <i>ex-situ</i> preservation, but the limiting factor for deep application of this activity appears the insufficient financial resources in economy in transition.</p> <p>Substantial measures are undertaken for regulation of <i>ex situ</i> conservation of the biodiversity components in the country.</p> <p>Several tasks, relevant to the activities concerning the creation and maintenance of new <i>ex situ</i> and gene banks collections, as well as technical aspects are included in the NBSAP.</p>					

127. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>native</i> to your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
128. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>originating outside</i> your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
129. If the answer to the previous question was <i>yes</i> , is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
130. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources <i>native</i> to your country (9b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

131. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources <i>originating elsewhere</i> (9b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
132. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
133. Has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions (9c)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
134. Has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for <i>ex situ</i> conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and <i>in situ</i> populations of species (9d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
135. Has your country cooperated in providing financial and other support for <i>ex situ</i> conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of <i>ex situ</i> conservation facilities in developing countries (9e)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
136. Has your country received financial and other support for <i>ex situ</i> conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of <i>ex situ</i> conservation facilities (9e)?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

127; 128; 130; 131; 133; 134. In Albania the scientifically grounded activities for collection study and conservation of the PGR have their history in the past. At present they are implemented in different directions and to a different degree by:

- In the Institute of Biological Research (IBR) are in way the studies on new germplasms; national herbariums, maintaining botanical information and in vivo plants from the wild flora. The wild species determining the diversity of the relatives of the cultivated plants are cereals, forages, ornamentals, oil, fruit-tree species.

The institutions of agriculture sector has been implemented several programs related to the genetics of the domesticated plants.

The studies related to the domestic races of animals were done by the Institute of Zoo technical Research.

- Study of the local breeds (such as sheep recca, Dukati goat, Polisi goat), etc. supported by USAID;

- Development of national reserves for endangered races of domestic animals.

129; 132; 136. Some of the international projects that are a base for collaboration between Albania and other countries on the conservation of genetic resources are as follows:

- Collection, assessment and conservation of plant genetic resources from the wild flora, 1996, IBR

- The diversity of Orchys sp. In Albania, 1990-1993. Financed by USAID and implemented by Botanical Garden

Article 10 Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

137. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
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138. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

137; 138. The most significant objective in the field of biodiversity in Albania is its conservation and maintenance. The objective includes:

- Conservation, strengthening and restoration of key ecosystems, habitats, species and their genetic resources;

- Ensuring of possibilities for sustainable use of biological resources.

The sustainable use of the resources is implemented in separate socio-economical sectors of the country. The sector integration is a real demand. The resources needed for the management of the process need to be monitored, that is limited.

139. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making (10a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) review of implementation available	
140. Has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity (10b)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
141. 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 (10c)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
142. 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 (10d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
143. Does your country actively encourage cooperation between government authorities and the private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological diversity (10e)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) review of implementation available	

Decisions IV/15. Relationship of the Convention with the Commission on Sustainable Development and biodiversity-related conventions

144. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on tourism and its impacts on biological diversity, and efforts to effectively plan and manage tourism?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	

d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
145. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on biodiversity-related activities of the CSD (such as SIDS, oceans, seas and freshwater resources, consumption and production patterns)?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - correspondence	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X

Decision V/24. Sustainable use as a cross-cutting issue

146. Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	X
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	
147. Has your country assisted other Parties to increase their capacity to implement sustainable-use practices, programmes and policies at regional, national and local levels, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation?	
a) no	X
b) not relevant	
c) to a limited extent	
d) to a significant extent (please provide details)	
148. Has your country developed mechanisms to involve the private sector and indigenous and local communities in initiatives on sustainable use, and in mechanisms to ensure that indigenous and local communities benefit from such sustainable use?	
a) no	X
b) mechanisms under development	
c) mechanisms in place (please describe)	
149. Has your country identified areas for conservation that would benefit through the sustainable use of biological diversity and communicated this information to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision V/25. Biological diversity and tourism

150. Has your country based its policies, programmes and activities in the field of sustainable tourism on an assessment of the inter-linkages between tourism and biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
151. Has your country submitted case-studies on tourism as an example of the sustainable use of biological diversity to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X

b) yes	
152. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Ecotourism?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
153. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
154. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
155. Has your country established enabling policies and legal frameworks to complement voluntary efforts for the effective implementation of sustainable tourism?	
a) no	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

139; 140; 141; 142; 143; 146; 147; 148; 149. Various measures are used for the achievement of the second specific objective that are including a large number of activities. The sequential numbers of NBSAP activities concerning the sustainable use of biological resources are as follows:

- Drafting of Acts, normative acts and information, management documents – 61/5.1-5.49
- Institutional Strengthening of the Biodiversity Conservation Units-43/3.1-3.51;
- Expansion and Maintenance of the Protected Areas Network -69/ 5.50-5.63 ;
- Restoration and Maintenance Activities mostly related to conservation of endangered species and of their genetic resources -72/5.62-5.63;
- Strengthening of the Scientific Base for Biodiversity Conservation -3.52-3.58, 5.62-5.70 ;
- Information, Education and Training – 73/5.69-5.75-5.84.

The sustainable use of the biological resources in Albania is subject to management and wise use of the ecosystems in a manner and to a degree which maintain their biological diversity, productivity, restoration capacity, vitality and potential to fulfill now and in the future their respective ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global levels without damage to other ecosystems.

The criteria and indicators for sustainable biological resources use (see question 27, please) are features that the resources should not be changed for the worse during the implementation of the activities both at the ecosystem level and at the level of the NBSAP. These will also be taken into account in the monitoring of the implementation of the National Plan activities and in the analysis of their results, etc.

144; 145. MoE fills in questionnaires, enquiries and other documents required by the Secretariat

of the Convention and by the CSD regarding tourism and other activities related to the sustainable use of the biological resources.

150; 152; 153; 155. In the new era of democratic and market developments Albania was becoming an open and attractive country to visitors, conditions now exist for the development of ecotourism sites. Many ideas were developed within several meetings organized in Tirana and country side. This policy should involve support to practical activities, including the publication of tourism-related literature on protected areas, establishment by the MoE of tourism management guidelines for protected areas, definition of conservation design guidelines for essential activities, establishment of an incentive system for conservation projects, and the dissemination of business development and marketing advice for craft industries.

Mostly private companies currently carry out the activities related to tourism in the country. The government tourism managing institution is the Ministry of Territorial Adjustment and Tourism. The MoE and its regional authorities control the tourism activities in the protected areas and outside them with respect to the biodiversity conservation.

Article 11 Incentive measures

156. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X
157. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
156; 157. Based on the circumstances the priority of the implementation of Article 11 can be identified as low. The main reason at this stage is extremely weak financial resources for real stimulation of protection and sustainable usage of the biodiversity. As limiting are identified the financial resources at national and local level for meeting the obligations and recommendations made.					

158. Are programmes in place to identify and ensure the adoption of economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	
e) review of implementation available	
159. Do these incentives, and the programmes to identify them and ensure their adoption, cover the full range of sectoral activities?	
a) no	

b) some sectors	X
c) all major sectors	
d) all sectors	

Decision III/18. Incentive measures

160. Has your country reviewed legislation and economic policies to identify and promote incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) reviews in progress	
c) some reviews complete	
d) as far as practically possible	
161. Has your country ensured the development of mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas, <i>inter alia</i> , national accounting systems and investment strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of identifying mechanisms	X
c) advanced stages of identifying mechanisms	
d) mechanisms in place	
e) review of impact of mechanisms available	
162. Has your country developed training and capacity building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives?	
a) no	X
b) planned	
c) some	
d) many	
163. Has your country incorporated biological diversity considerations into impact assessments as a step in the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
164. Has your country shared experience on incentive measures with other Contracting Parties, including making relevant case-studies available to the Secretariat?	
a) no	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

Decision IV/10. Measures for implementing the Convention [part]

165. Is your country actively designing and implementing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) measures in place	
e) review of implementation available	
166. Has your country identified threats to biological diversity and underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including the relevant actors, as a stage in designing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) partially reviewed	X
c) thoroughly reviewed	
d) measures designed based on the reviews	
e) review of implementation available	
167. Do the existing incentive measures take account of economic, social, cultural and ethical valuation of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
168. Has your country developed legal and policy frameworks for the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) frameworks in place	
e) review of implementation available	
169. Does your country carry out consultative processes to define clear target-oriented incentive measures to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss?	
a) no	
b) processes being identified	X
c) processes identified but not implemented	
d) processes in place	
170. Has your country identified and considered neutralizing perverse incentives?	
a) no	X
b) identification programme under way	
c) identified but not all neutralized	
d) identified and neutralized	

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

171. Has your country reviewed the incentive measures promoted through the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
172. Has your country explored possible ways and means by which these incentive measures can support the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in your country?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	X
c) early stages of development	
d) advanced stages of development	
e) further information available	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

158 to 170. In the NBSAP the need for incentive measures is taken into considering. There is no complete system of law, economic, and social measures and mechanisms for the implementation of Article 11 in all sectors.

In some laws there are bases and procedures for incentive measures. For example in the Law on Protected Areas there is a certain mechanism for accumulation and distribution of financial resources, including for private person, for activities on sustainable use or restoration of resources in the protected areas. The Law on Forestry and Pastures also gives partial possibilities for financial stimulation of certain activities in the forests including for private forest owners.

National laws treating the bioresources regulate their sustainable use mainly through measures regarding the methods and techniques for use rather than stimulating financial or other mechanisms. Among the main reasons for that is the insufficiency of financial resources.

Other way for sustainable use of the biodiversity developing now is the provision of appropriate conditions for alternative forms of livelihood /tourism/, but so far such forms are connected mainly with protected areas – national and natural parks and reserves. In relation to this educational programs are developed, tourism infrastructure is financed. Less financed are particular investment projects including the private sector.

Currently, in the Albanian agriculture sectors exist some possibilities for the local NGOs in getting financial assistance of sustainable agricultural practices.

In other sectors, as fisheries these possibilities are extremely limited.

Many international projects study the law and experience of other countries regarding the applied mechanisms and forms of incentive measures.

171,172. To fulfill the obligation on the Climate Change Convention /Kyoto protocol/ a National action plan is created. It has measures regarding the industrial sector, including forestry and agriculture – afforestation of abandoned and eroded lands, usage of resistant to dry climate native species, educational campaigns, as well as development and implementation of incentive

/financial/ mechanisms for the fulfillment of the measures in the private sector. The implementation of these measures will definitely contribute for the achievement of some of the aims of the CBD.

Article 12 Research and training

173. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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174. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

173; 174. The relative priority of the research and education activities in the field of biodiversity conservation is high in Albania.

A National Strategy for Science and Technology is being implemented under supervision of Ministry of Education and Science (MES).

The concept of research and development within the framework of the MoE up to 2002 includes also research and development in the area of nature conservation among its priorities. The concept, however, has not been applied in practice. Market mechanisms for creating attractiveness from all stakeholders in terms of resources and availability for research both for scientific institutions and NGOs are not yet in place. Generally, the area of science and research is coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Science. Under the auspices of the MES, the Committee of Science and Technology has been established.

The MoE and the MoAF identify the scientific tasks which need to be addressed in the area of biodiversity within a framework of NBSAP.

A number of Research institutions take part in the research that contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, such as research institutions of Academy of Sciences (i.e. BRI), Universities (i.e. MNS, Botanical Garden, Department of Biology of the Faculty of Natural Sciences), research institutions within the MoAF (i.e. Forestry and Pastures Research Institute, Institute of Soil Studies). Non-governmental organizations (such as Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA), Albanian Society for the Protection of Birds and Mammals (ASBPM), Albanian Association of Biologists (AAB), Albanian Herpetological Society, etc., are also involved in the research.

The above mentioned institutions also participate in the development of methods for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

At the individual level there are not sufficient resources for the implementation of research needs. There is need for more professional training and employment in the area of research. There is lack of experts with managerial skills.

175. 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 (12a)?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	
176. Has your country provided support to other Parties for education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
177. Does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (12b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
178. 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 (12c)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

If a developed country Party -

179. Does your country's implementation of the above activities take into account the special needs of developing countries?

a) no	
b) yes, where relevant	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

175. The professional trainings and programs related to education, rational use of biological resources, biodiversity conservation have been developed for the experts of the Directorate for the Biodiversity Protection and General Directorate for the Forest and Pastures (GDFP), Regional Environmental Agencies and Forest Services, as well as for the employees of the National Parks. The programs of a similar character have been implemented in the NGO level using mostly foreign donations and assistance.

Funds for the education and training of specialists in the field of nature conservation are provided also as a part of all international projects in the respective field. Different forms of education, e.g. meetings, seminars and workshops, training courses, University specialization, international visits, etc., are used. Some of the training activities, related to the establishment of

a Network of protected zones are as follows:

- Identification of training needs within communal and municipal government and technical departments responsible for the management and monitoring of protected zones.
- Development of training modules focused on the needs of the regional and municipal government and technical departments responsible for the management and monitoring of protected zones.
- Training of the communal and municipal government and technical departments staff responsible for the management and monitoring of protected zones.

A key role is attributed to the education of staff that will then take part in the nature conservation activities. Following are some of the tasks related to this that are included in the NBSAP:

- Development and introduction of a uniform strategy, a nature education program at all levels;
- Promoting of nature values and eco guiding
- Development of medicinal plant related education programs;
- Promoting the environmental and biodiversity culture at the all levels of the school (Tirana Municipality and REC Tirana)
- Inclusion into the Biology and Ecology subjects in higher education facility curricula of courses on *Biodiversity*, *Protection of the Diversity of Species*, and *Protected species, territories and habitats*,
- Inclusion in the curriculum of Agro environment branch at the Tirana Agriculture University of many obligatory and selection subjects oriented to nature conservation and biodiversity,
- Developing a Master of sciences in agro environment and ecology
- Development of educational programs for genetic resources conservation and use.

177; 178. The scientific research activities of the institutes within the structure of Albanian Academy of Sciences are supported by the national budget. These institutes, as well as the university departments carrying out scientific research activities, sign contracts with government institutions for the accomplishment of researches that are of interest to the above mentioned institutions. Following are some of the research tasks included in the NBSAP:

- Preparation and publishing of a Red List of plants and habitats in conformity with the international categories for being endangered;
- Preparation and publishing of a contemporary national Red Data Book in compliance with the international categories of protected plants, animals and habitats;
- Development of projects for the maintenance of populations of some endangered resources through integrated methods;
- Carrying out of studies and activities aimed at improving the conditions of inundated forests;
- Studies and assessments on the condition of local fish species and fish species;
- development of a content analysis of the Albanian Corine Biotopes Database to determine in which sites exist

Article 13 Public education and awareness

180. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?			
a) High	X	b) Medium	c) Low
181. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?			
a) Good		b) Adequate	c) Limiting
			d) Severely limiting
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources			
180; 181: Issues of environmental education are integrated in conceptual and strategic documents. Legal support for education of employees in the public sector. Specialized events are organized for protection of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components that enable the exchange of information and experience. NGOs having qualified experts participate in environmental education as well as in expert training.			

182. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through media?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
183. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through the inclusion of this topic in education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
184. Does your country cooperate with other States and international organizations in developing relevant educational and public awareness programmes (13b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X

Decision IV/10. Measures for implementing the Convention [part]

185. Are public education and awareness needs covered in the national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X

186. Has your country allocated appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?	
a) limited resources	
b) significant but not adequate resources	X
c) adequate resources	
187. Does your country support initiatives by major groups that foster stakeholder participation and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
188. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes	
189. Has your country made available any case-studies on public education and awareness and public participation, or otherwise sought to share experiences?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
190. Has your country illustrated and translated the provisions of the Convention into any local languages to promote public education and awareness raising of relevant sectors?	
a) not relevant	
b) still to be done	
c) under development	
d) yes	X
191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
192. When requesting assistance through the GEF, has your country proposed projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision V/17. Education and public awareness

193. Does your country support capacity-building for education and communication in biological diversity as part of the national biodiversity strategy and action plans?	
a) no	
b) limited support	
c) yes (please give details)	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

182 to 191. The education and the public relations regarding the biodiversity conservation are included in the respective plans at different times. A special emphasizes and direction is only one of the priorities recommended by the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. The following activities are specified in the NBSAP:

- Inclusion in the programs and school curricula of education related to nature conservation, biodiversity and sustainable use;
- Annual publication of posters on protected plants and animals, decorative wild growth plants, protected areas and landscapes;
- Issue of leaflets, brochures and biodiversity related promotion materials;
- Realization of periodical information campaigns related to protection of nature, respectively biodiversity, via the mass media (TV, radio, magazines and newspapers);
- Establishment of functioning visitor and information centers in the protected areas.

Besides the above mentioned concrete activities related to education and public awareness, there are several other activities related to the establishment of a Network of protected zones:

- Public meetings with local stakeholders (villagers, local and local governments, NGOs, academia, business community, etc.) on the establishment of protected zones and their general use.
- Workshops and/or seminars with local stakeholders on the establishment of protected **zones areas** and their general use.
- Workshops and/or seminars with stakeholders on the identification of new protected **zones areas**;

193. Various projects aiming the building of educational and communication capacity in view of the biological diversity are planed to be implemented for the responsible entities of the Ministries (Education and Environment), as well as for the research institutes and the NGOs.

Article 14 Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

194. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
195. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
194. 195. The EIA is covered by the law on Environmental Impact Assessment (year 2002) which includes assessment of impacts of strategic documents on environment (SEA), and the law on Environmental Protection. In the legal system of Albania, the issue of liability for damage to the environment is not sufficiently applied (in the framework of criminal, administrative and civil liability). For example, there is no specific compulsory insurance for the compensation of damages to the environment in various emergency cases. Legal regulations, which would introduce a more effective system of assessment of natural resources, are also missing.					

196. Is legislation in place requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity (14 (1a))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation in place	X
e) review of implementation available	
197. Do such environmental impact assessment procedures allow for public participation (14(1a))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
198. Does your country have mechanisms in place to ensure that the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account (14(1b))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	

199. Is your country involved in bilateral, regional and/or multilateral discussion on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
200. Is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) no, assessment of options in progress	
c) some completed, others in progress	X
b) yes	
201. Has your country mechanisms in place to notify other States of cases of imminent or grave danger or damage to biological diversity originating in your country and potentially affecting those States (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
e) no need identified	
202. Has your country mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your State to biological diversity in other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	
e) no need identified	
203. Has your country national mechanisms in place for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
204. Has your country encouraged international cooperation to establish joint contingency plans for emergency responses to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) no need identified	

Decision IV/10. Measures for implementing the Convention [part]

205. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting Parties information and experience relating to environmental impact assessment and resulting mitigating measures and incentive schemes?	
a) no	
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	X
d) information provided on the national CHM	
206. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting Parties information on measures and agreements on liability and redress applicable to damage to biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	
d) information provided on the national CHM	

Decision V/18. Impact assessment, liability and redress

207. Has your country integrated environmental impact assessment into programmes on thematic areas and on alien species and tourism?	
a) no	
b) partly integrated	X
c) fully integrated	
208. When carrying out environmental impact assessments does your country address loss of biological diversity and the interrelated socio-economic, cultural and human-health aspects relevant to biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) partly	
c) fully	X
209. When developing new legislative and regulatory frameworks, does your country have in place mechanisms to ensure the consideration of biological diversity concerns from the early stages of the drafting process?	
a) no	X
b) in some circumstances	
c) in all circumstances	
210. Does your country ensure the involvement of all interested and affected stakeholders in a participatory approach to all stages of the assessment process?	
a) no	
b) yes - in certain circumstances	X
c) yes - in all cases	
211. Has your country organised expert meetings, workshops and seminars, and/or training, educational and public awareness programmes and exchange programmes in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures for impact assessment?	
a) no	

b) some programmes in place	
c) many programmes in place	X
d) integrated approach to building expertise	
212. <i>Has your country carried out pilot environmental impact assessment projects, in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures?</i>	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide further details)	X
213. Does your country use strategic environmental assessments to assess not only the impact of individual projects, but also their cumulative and global effects, and ensure the results are applied in the decision making and planning processes?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
214. Does your country require the inclusion of development of alternatives, mitigation measures and consideration of the elaboration of compensation measures in environmental impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	X
215. Is national information available on the practices, systems, mechanisms and experiences in the area of strategic environmental assessment and impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) yes (please append or summarise)	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

196; 197; 198; 210. The requirement for strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is declared in the Preamble of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the Environmental Impact Assessment of Certain Plans and Programs.

The EIA is covered by the law on Environmental Impact Assessment (year 2002) which includes assessment of impacts of strategic documents on environment (SEA), and the law on Environmental Protection.

An EIA may be undertaken on demand from concerned physical or juridical persons and is obligatory for:

- Projects listed in the Annex to the Environment Protection Act;
- National and regional development programs, the plans for rural and urban development and their changes.

In the legal system of Albania, the issue of liability for damage to the environment is not sufficiently applied (in the framework of criminal, administrative and civil liability). For example, there is no specific compulsory insurance for the compensation of damages to the environment in various emergency cases. Legal regulations, which would introduce a more effective system of assessment of natural resources, are also missing.

The MoE is the central body of the state administration for EIA. An investor finances EIA processes; public institutions fund the EIA processes from stage budget resources. For the purpose of information dissemination, the following are used: the Bulletin of MOE information system of EIA and information workshops – public hearings (but they do not specifically focus on the issue of the assessment of biodiversity loss).

The new Act on EIA presumes that the Regional Environmental Agencies (REAs) will implement activities related to EIA. According to the new act, a proponent will continue to be responsible for payments for EIA. A legal or natural person who is responsible for the development of a strategic document covers the costs connected with the assessment of impacts of the strategic documents upon environment.

199; 200; 201; 204. A mechanism for the early notification of the countries that might be affected by environment pollution originating from Albania is provided (see questions 202, 203, please). Measures to decreasing and mitigating the negative impact of such pollution are developed as a part of the bilateral and regional discussions and agreements in which Bulgaria participates along with the rest countries of the region.

202; 203. The MoE keeps a list of authorized or licensed persons for the assessment of impacts on the environment. However, registration in the list is not required for the execution of the expert activities in the assessment of impacts on environment. In order to gain technical capability there is training and additional retraining available. There are no specialized courses for the assessment of impacts on biodiversity. Certificates for the assessment of impacts on biodiversity are not issued or required.

205; 206. Participation at the international meetings is secured.

207; 208; 209; 211; 212; 213; 214; 215. EIA have the major preventive role for nature and biodiversity protection in Albania. The country is a way ahead in the application of contemporary national and international tools and methodologies for the implementation of the classic and strategic EIA.

Article 15 Access to genetic resources

216. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
217. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Severely limiting <input type="checkbox"/>					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
216; 217. There is given a considerable priority of the access to genetic resources in Albania. But, based on that the capacities and human resources are limited.					

218. Has your country endeavoured to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties (15(2))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - limited extent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - significant extent	<input type="checkbox"/>
219. Is there any mutual understanding or agreement in place between different interest groups and the State on access to genetic resources (15(4))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - limited extent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - significant extent	<input type="checkbox"/>
220. Has your country an open participation planning process, or any other process in place, to ensure that access to resources is subject to prior informed consent (15(5))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) processes in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
221. Has your country taken 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 (15(6))?	
a) no measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) some measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) potential measures under review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>

222. Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources (15(7))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	X
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	

Decision II/11 and Decision III/15. Access to genetic resources

223. Has your country provided the secretariat with information on relevant legislation, administrative and policy measures, participatory processes and research programmes?	
a) no	X
b) yes, within the previous national report	
c) yes, through case-studies	
d) yes, through other means (please give details below)	
224. Has your country implemented capacity-building programmes to promote successful development and implementation of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including scientific, technical, business, legal and management skills and capacities?	
a) no	
b) some programmes covering some needs	
c) many programmes covering some needs	X
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	
e) no perceived need	
225. Has your country analysed experiences of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including regional efforts and initiatives, for use in further development and implementation of measures and guidelines?	
a) no	X
b) analysis in progress	
c) analysis completed	
226. Is your country collaborating with all relevant stakeholders to explore, develop and implement guidelines and practices that ensure mutual benefits to providers and users of access measures?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

227. Has your country identified national authorities responsible for granting access to genetic resources?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
228. Is your country taking an active role in negotiations associated with the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources

229. Has your country designated a national focal point and one or more competent national authorities to be responsible for access and benefit-sharing arrangements or to provide information on such arrangements?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) yes, and Executive Secretary notified	
230. Do your country's national biodiversity strategy, and legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, contribute to conservation and sustainable use objectives?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
Parties that are recipients of genetic resources	
231. Has your country adopted administrative or policy measures that are supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) other arrangements made	
c) yes	
232. Does your country co-operate with other Parties in order to find practical and equitable solutions supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention, recognizing the complexity of the issue, with particular consideration of the multiplicity of prior informed consent considerations?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	

233. In developing its legislation on access, has your country taken into account and allowed for the development of a multilateral system to facilitate access and benefit-sharing in the context of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) legislation under development	
c) yes	
234. Is your country co-ordinating its positions in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes	
235. Has your country provided information to the Executive Secretary on user institutions, the market for genetic resources, non-monetary benefits, new and emerging mechanisms for benefit sharing, incentive measures, clarification of definitions, <i>sui generis</i> systems and "intermediaries"?	
a) no	
b) some information provided	
c) substantial information provided	
236. Has your country submitted information on specific issues related to the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	
b) yes	
237. Has your country provided capacity-building and technology development and transfer for the maintenance and utilization of ex situ collections?	
a) no	
b) yes to a limited extent	
c) yes to a significant extent	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

218 to 222; 224 to 230. At the present moment the access to genetic resources and technologies is regulated by the specific provisions of the Law on Environment and other specific laws that are applied to the newly obtained, invented or improved crop cultivars or to the new races, lines or hybrids of farm animals;

This issue had been covered in the prepared draft of the Biodiversity law but is still not approved. The genetic resources can be used from other countries as well but on the basis of prior consent in a written form about the conditions and the way for mutual benefit sharing.

The transfer of technology to developing countries is becoming an issue in the context of the increasing level of official development aid. In Albania, no specific analysis of the influence of intellectual property rights on meeting the commitments has been completed.

Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology

238. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X
239. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
238.239; The transfer of technology to developing countries is becoming an issue in the context of the increasing level of official development aid. In Albania, no specific analysis of the influence of intellectual property rights on meeting the commitments has been completed.					

240. Has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting 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 (16(1))?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
241. Is your country aware of any initiatives under which relevant technology is transferred to your country on concessional or preferential terms (16(2))?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please give brief details below)	
242. Has your country taken measures so that Contracting Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms (16(3))?	
a) not relevant	
b) relevant, but no measures	
c) some measures in place	
d) potential measures under review	X
e) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	X
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements	
243. 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 (16(4))?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	

c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation?	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation?	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements?	
244. Does your country have a national system for intellectual property right protection (16(5))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
245. If yes, does it cover biological resources (for example, plant species) in any way?	
a) no	X
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	

Decision III/17. Intellectual property rights

246. Has your country conducted and provided to the secretariat case-studies of the impacts of intellectual property rights on the achievement of the Conventions objectives?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

240 to 244; 246. These related questions on transfer of technology and most of all, biotechnology and access to genetic resources are closely related (see questions 218 to 237, please).
For more information, concerning biotechnology and distribution of its benefits see the points from 268 to 272.

Article 17 Exchange of information

247. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
248. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
247; 248. The relative priority of the exchange of information in Albania is medium. The resources for meeting the obligations in that field are limiting.					

249. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources (17(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) restricted by lack of resources	
c) some measures in place	X
d) potential measures under review	
e) comprehensive measures in place	
If a developed country Party -	
250. Do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries (17(1))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
251. If so, do these measures include all the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), including technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	

Article 18 Technical and scientific cooperation

252. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>		
253. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
249. Overall fee bill on exchange of environmental information in Albania is under preparation.							
252; 253. The technical and scientific cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation has a high priority in Albania. The country's resources for meeting the obligations and recommendation made in Article 18 of the CBD are limiting.							

254. Has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (18(1))?	
a) no measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) some measures in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) potential measures under review	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
255. Do the measures taken to promote cooperation with other Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention pay special attention to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution building (18(2))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - limited extent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - significant extent	<input type="checkbox"/>
256. 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 (18(4))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) methods in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
257. Does such cooperation include the training of personnel and exchange of experts (18(4))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - limited extent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - significant extent	<input type="checkbox"/>
258. 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 (18(5))?	

a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

Decision II/3, Decision III/4 and Decision IV/2. Clearing House Mechanism

259. Is your country cooperating in the development and operation of the Clearing House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
260. Is your country helping to develop national capabilities through exchanging and disseminating information on experiences and lessons learned in implementing the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
261. Has your country designated a national focal point for the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
262. Is your country providing resources for the development and implementation of the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) yes, at the national level	
c) yes, at national and international levels	
263. Is your country facilitating and participating in workshops and other expert meetings to further the development of the CHM at international levels?	
a) no	
b) participation only	X
c) supporting some meetings and participating	
264. Is your CHM operational	
a) no	X
b) under development	
c) yes (please give details below)	
265. Is your CHM linked to the Internet	
a) no	X
b) yes	
266. Has your country established a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary CHM steering committee or working group at the national level?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision V/14. Scientific and technical co-operation and the clearinghouse mechanisms (Article 18)

267. Has your country reviewed the priorities identified in Annex I to the decision, and sought to implement them?	
a) not reviewed	
b) reviewed but not implemented	X
c) reviewed and implemented as appropriate	

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

254 to 258. Albania is implementing the positive achievements in planning the policy and the activities related to the biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of the biological resources. The results from the carried out in the country profound researches, the proposed technical solutions, methodologies and initiatives make Albania a serious partner in the international technical and scientific partnership. The country's experience in using local and traditional methods, mainly for the sustainable use of the genetic resources, including the *ex situ* conservation of the genetic resources of valuable animal and plant species, is quite significant. The people that are responsible for the relations with international organizations are mostly state employees of high qualification. However, their number is too limited. It is anticipated that their number will be increased. The participation of scientists and representatives of the local NGOs with high competency will be involved.

259 to 267. The establishment of the national Clearing House Mechanism for the biodiversity is a main responsibility of the Ministry of Environment. An interim Clearing House Mechanism for implementation of Convention on Biodiversity through the financial and technical support of EEA was established and operated during 1999-2002 in the Ministry of Environment, where different documents and reports on biodiversity including summary reports on state of biodiversity were loaded. Unfortunately this CHM is experiencing technical difficulties. <http://nfp-al.eionet.eu.int:8180>

This establishment aims to fulfill the regulations of the CBD and is incorporated in the MoE's policy for transparency of its activities.

Article 19 Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

268. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
269. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					

268; 269. The handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits has a high priority in Albania. The country's resources for meeting the obligations and recommendation made in Article 19 of the CBD are limiting.

270. 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 (19(1))?

a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures:	
a) Legislation	X
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	X
c) Policy and administrative measures	X

271. Has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties (19(2))?

a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

**Decision IV/3. Issues related to biosafety and Decision V/1. Work Plan
of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on
Biosafety**

272. Is your country a Contracting Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?	
a) not a signatory	
b) signed, ratification in progress	
c) instrument of ratification deposited	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

270 to 273. Albania has not yet accessed the Cartagena Protocol but intend to do this and the process will start soon. Albania is in the first steps of starting the project of developing the biosafety framework and in the first steps of gathering all the information which is partly an impediment.

A draft law on conservation of biodiversity is prepared in 2002 but not approved which some articles on GMO have related to imports, eradication and containment of GMOs, notification and consultation with other states and programs for GMOs. These articles are based on Biosafety protocol and expected to be improved by the development of Biosafety Framework and implementation of Action Plan on legislation approximation related to EU directives. GMOs are a new area for Albania and its experts which makes the preparation and implementation of necessary measures difficult. Foreign technical and financial assistance and experience is very valuable.

The current distribution of institutional responsibility in this field is not effective. Institutions dealing with the issues of biosafety at the research and education level are working independently and without well coordination of their activities. There is no independent authorized laboratory for GMO in Albania.

In the area of biosafety there are no clearly defined obligations of concerned stakeholders and abilities and knowledge are not sufficient in some cases. Within the state service there is a lack of experienced lawyers because they leave for better paid sectors. Experts in biosafety are obtained from various areas of the economy, research institutions, and universities. They are usually contracted as part time job consultants. The introduction of specialized courses on biosafety into the study programs at Albanian universities would be a significant benefit.

Article 20 Financial resources

273. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>		
274. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
273; 274. The financial sources for the biodiversity conservation are limiting in Albania and are consider the main obstacles in biodiversity protection policy.							
275. Has your country provided financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention (20(1))?							
a) no							<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - incentives only							<input type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - financial support only							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) yes - financial support and incentives							<input type="checkbox"/>
If a developed country Party -							
276. 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 fulfil the obligations of the Convention, as agreed between you and the interim financial mechanism (20(2))?							
a) no							<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes							<input type="checkbox"/>
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -							
277. Has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable you to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention (20(2))?							
a) no							<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If a developed country Party -							
278. Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?							
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -							
279. Has your country used financial resources related to implementation of the Convention from bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?							
a) no							<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Decision III/6. Additional financial resources

280. Is your country working to ensure that all funding institutions (including bilateral assistance agencies) are striving to make their activities more supportive of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
281. Is your country cooperating in any efforts to develop standardized information on financial support for the objectives of the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please attach information)	

Decision V/11. Additional financial resources

282. Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity?	
a) no	X
b) procedures being established	
c) yes (please provide details)	
283. Are details available of your country's financial support to national biodiversity activities?	
a) no	
b) not in a standardized format	X
c) yes (please provide details)	
284. Are details available of your country's financial support to biodiversity activities in other countries?	
a) not applicable	X
b) no	
c) not in a standardized format	
d) yes (please provide details)	
Developed country Parties -	
285. Does your country promote support for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention in the funding policy of its bilateral funding institutions and those of regional and multilateral funding institutions?	
a) no	
b) yes	
Developing country Parties -	
286. Does your country discuss ways and means to support implementation of the objectives of the Convention in its dialogue with funding institutions?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
287. Has your country compiled information on the additional financial support provided by the private sector?	

a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
288. Has your country considered tax exemptions in national taxation systems for biodiversity-related donations?	
a) no	X
b) not appropriate to national conditions	
c) exemptions under development	X
d) exemptions in place	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

275; 277; 279 to 283; 286; 288. Based on the current situation the major internal financial sources for conservation and management of the biological diversity are the budgets of MoE, Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the other Ministries that are use and manage nature biological resources. The amount of the money is planned a year ahead and the accountancy is controlled.

The international support is of enormous importance to the biodiversity protection in the country. This support is carried out mostly by means of international projects. An idea of the necessary and the provided amounts could be obtained from the financial part of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. There is a rough estimation of the sum necessary for the implementation of the plan. This amount is very small when compared to the investments in the country's socio-economic sectors.

Most of the funds are not secure so the country is based on the donor's support in 90 % of the amount necessary for the biodiversity activities.

The benefits from the funds provided by the European Council and the CBD for participation of Albanian specialists in the forums, organized by the CBD, by the European bodies and other institutions related to the biodiversity conservation, are of importance.

Article 21 Financial mechanism

289. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
290. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
289; 290. The development of specific financial mechanisms for the provision of funds for the biodiversity conservation of the states that are members of the Convention is considered essential in Albania. However, it is obvious that both the national and the international resources for the purpose are limited, since there is no significant success in the field so far.					

291. Has your country worked to strengthen existing financial institutions to provide financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision III/7. Guidelines for the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

292. Has your country provided information on experiences gained through activities funded by the financial mechanism?	
a) no activities	
b) no, although there are activities	X
c) yes, within the previous national report	
d) yes, through case-studies	
e) yes, through other means (please give details below)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

291; 292. The information on the accomplishment of the activities regarding the biodiversity conservation is at disposal at the MoE; in the annual reports for the DBP at MoE; in the chapters for nature and biodiversity conservation of the reports of the different Ministries on their overall work; in the reports for biodiversity conservation related tasks, for the accomplishment of which the Ministries contract other institutions, etc.
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Article 23 Conference of the Parties

293. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties?	
a) COP 1 (Nassau)	
b) COP 2 (Jakarta)	
c) COP 3 (Buenos Aires)	
d) COP 4 (Bratislava)	1
e) COP 5 (Nairobi)	

**Decision I/6, Decision II/10, Decision III/24 and Decision IV/17.
Finance and budget**

294. Has your country paid all of its contributions to the Trust Fund?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision IV/16 (part) Preparation for meetings of the Conference of the Parties

295. Has your country participated in regional meetings focused on discussing implementation of the Convention before any meetings of the Conference of the Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please specify which)	
If a developed country Party -	
296. Has your country funded regional and sub-regional meetings to prepare for the COP, and facilitated the participation of developing countries in such meetings?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details below)	

Decision V/22. Budget for the programme of work for the biennium 2001-2002

297. Did your country pay its contribution to the core budget (BY Trust Fund) for 2001 by 1 st January 2001?	
a) yes in advance	
b) yes on time	X
c) no but subsequently paid	
d) not yet paid	

298. Has your country made additional voluntary contributions to the trust funds of the Convention?	
a) yes in the 1999-2000 biennium	
b) yes for the 2001-2002 biennium	
c) expect to do so for the 2001-2002 biennium	
d) no	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

No comments.

Article 24 Secretariat

299. Has your country provided direct support to the Secretariat in terms of seconded staff, financial contribution for Secretariat activities, etc?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

No comments.

Article 25 Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice

300. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of SBSTTA?	
a) SBSTTA I (Paris)	1
b) SBSTTA II (Montreal)	
c) SBSTTA III (Montreal)	
d) SBSTTA IV (Montreal)	1
e) SBSTTA V (Montreal)	1

Further comments on implementation of this Article

300. Based on the data considered at the sittings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as well as the fact that usually the work is done by more than one team, it is recommended that funds for the participation of at least two representatives from the countries in transition are provided.

Article 26 Reports

301. What is the status of your first national report?	
a) Not submitted	
b) Summary report submitted	
c) Interim/draft report submitted	
d) Final report submitted	X
If b), c) or d), was your report submitted:	
by the original deadline of 1.1.98 (Decision III/9)?	
by the extended deadline of 31.12.98 (Decision IV/14)?	X
Later (please specify date)	

Decision IV/14 National reports

302. Did all relevant stakeholders participate in the preparation of this national report, or in the compilation of information used in the report?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
303. Has your country taken steps to ensure that its first and/or second national report(s) is/are available for use by relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, was this by:	
a) informal distribution?	
b) publishing the report?	
c) making the report available on request?	X
d) posting the report on the Internet?	X

Decision V/19. National reporting

304. Has your country prepared voluntary detailed thematic reports on one or more of the items for in-depth consideration at an ordinary meeting of the parties, following the guidelines provided?	
a) no	X
b) yes - forest ecosystems	
c) yes - alien species	
d) yes - benefit sharing	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach

305. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach, taking into account the principles and guidance contained in the annex to decision V/6?	
a) no	X
b) under consideration	
c) some aspects are being applied	
d) substantially implemented	
306. 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, in particular in the context of activities developed within the thematic areas of the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) under consideration	
c) some aspects are being applied	
d) substantially implemented	
307. Is your country identifying case studies and implementing pilot projects that demonstrate the ecosystem approach, and using workshops and other mechanisms to enhance awareness and share experience?	
a) no	X
b) case-studies identified	
c) pilot projects underway	
d) workshops planned/held	
e) information available through CHM	
308. Is your country strengthening capacities for implementation of the ecosystem approach, and providing technical and financial support for capacity-building to implement the ecosystem approach?	
a) no	
b) yes within the country	X
c) yes including support to other Parties	
309. Has your country promoted regional co-operation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders?	
a) no	X
b) informal co-operation	
c) formal co-operation (please give details)	

Inland water ecosystems

Decision IV/4. Status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable use

310. Has your country included information on biological diversity in wetlands when providing information and reports to the CSD, and considered including inland water biological diversity issues at meetings to further the recommendations of the CSD?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
311. Has your country included inland water biological diversity considerations in its work with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with inland water?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
312. When requesting support for projects relating to inland water ecosystems from the GEF, has your country given priority to identifying important areas for conservation, preparing and implementing integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management plans, and investigating processes contributing to biodiversity loss?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
313. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in annex 1 to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	X

**Decision V/2. Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems
(implementation of decision IV/4)**

314. Is your country supporting and/or participating in the River Basin Initiative?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
315. Is your country gathering information on the status of inland water biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) assessments ongoing	X
c) assessments completed	
316. Is this information available to other Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes - national report	
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
317. Has your country developed national and/or sectoral plans for the conservation	

and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes - national plans only	
c) yes - national plans and major sectors	X
d) yes - national plans and all sectors	
318. Has your country implemented capacity-building measures for developing and implementing these plans?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision III/21. Relationship of the Convention with the CSD and biodiversity-related conventions

319. Is the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, and of migratory species and their habitats, fully incorporated into your national strategies, plans and programmes for conserving biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Further comments on implementation of these decisions and the associated programme of work

305 to 308. The ecosystem approach of biodiversity conservation and studying was applied considerably into the national policies and legislation and for implementation activities and their adaptation to local, regional and national levels. This means that the most of ecosystems were studied. The threats for the biodiversity were discussed separately for each ecosystem because if their negative influence might lead to an irrevocable loss of the biodiversity in a particular ecosystem, elsewhere the impact of the threat might be mitigated, changed and even made favorable. It also means that the groups including territorially or functionally close ecosystems, e.g. inland water ecosystems, marine and coastal ecosystems, etc., are not subjects to separate management in the country (except for the agricultural ecosystems and forest ecosystems, which are the resource basis of separate branches of the national economy).

However, the different Albanian ecosystem groups (see questions 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, please) were detailly characterized. The values of the following parameters were determined for every ecosystem group:

- Description (types of land, forests, water surfaces);
- Location;
- Altitude (in meters);
- Area (in hectares);
- Physical characteristics:
 - Climate;
 - Soil;
 - Hydrology;
 - Others;
- Ecological information:
- Habitat types;

- Plant formations;
- Flora;
- Fauna;
- General condition: for the ecosystem groups; plants, animals, habitats;
- Representative biological species and habitats for the ecosystem groups;
- Endangered biological species and habitats for the ecosystem groups;
- Threats to the biodiversity.

These studies were completed by a big team of specialists as a part of the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Part of the studies was implemented in course of the World Bank Forestry Project. This was related to the forest, pasture, alpine pasture etc, ecosystems.

310 to 313; 315 to 319. The groups including territorially or functionally close ecosystems, including the inland water ecosystems, though having been detailedly characterized (the values of the parameters presented in questions 305 to 308 were determined for every group), are not subjects to separate management in the country.

During the development of the projects and activities for the National Parks Prespa, Butrinti, Karavasta, Lake Ohrid, wetlands areas in Narta and Orikum, etc, special attention is paid to the features of the individual inland water ecosystems, to the specific ways of their protection, management and sustainable use.

Marine and coastal biological diversity

Decision II/10 and Decision IV/5. Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity

320. Does your national strategy and action plan promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
321. 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	X
d) arrangements in place	
322. Has your country provided the Executive Secretary with advice and information on future options concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

323. Has your country undertaken and/or exchanged information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X
324. Has your country 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) no	
b) programmes are being developed	
c) programmes are being implemented for some species	X
d) programmes are being implemented for many species	
e) not a perceived problem	
325. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in an annex to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	X

Decision V/3. Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity (implementation of decision IV/5)

326. Is your country contributing to the implementation of the work plan on coral bleaching?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) not relevant	
327. Is your country implementing other measures in response to coral bleaching?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details below)	
c) not relevant	
328. Has your country submitted case-studies on the coral bleaching phenomenon to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) not relevant	

Further comments on implementation of these decisions and the associated programme of work

320 to 325. Marine and coastal biodiversity along the Adriatic and Ionian coastline, are treated in the NBSAP and in the other strategic documents like the SAP BIO (Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan) prepared on the Mediterranean scale but with the contribution of national document prepared by the national experts.

Agricultural biological diversity

Decision III/11 and Decision IV/6. Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity

329. Has your country identified and assessed relevant ongoing activities and existing instruments at the national level?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of review and assessment	
c) advanced stages of review and assessment	
d) assessment completed	
330. Has your country identified issues and priorities that need to be addressed at the national level?	
a) no	X
b) in progress	
c) yes	
331. Is your country using any methods and indicators to monitor the impacts of agricultural development projects, including the intensification and extensification of production systems, on biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
332. Is your country taking steps to share experiences addressing the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes - case-studies	
c) yes - other mechanisms (please specify)	
333. Has your country conducted case-studies on the issues identified by SBSTTA: i) pollinators, ii) soil biota, and iii) integrated landscape management and farming systems?	
a) no	
b) yes - pollinators	
c) yes - soil biota	
d) yes - integrated landscape management and farming systems	X
334. Is your country establishing or enhancing mechanisms for increasing public	

awareness and understanding of the importance of the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	

335. Does your country have national strategies, programmes and plans which ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
336. Is your country promoting the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions?	
a) no	X
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
337. Is your country 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?	
a) no	X
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
338. Is your country promoting mobilization of farming communities for the development, maintenance and use of their knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
339. Is your country helping to implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
340. Is your country collaborating with other Contracting Parties to identify and promote sustainable agricultural practices and integrated landscape management?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision V/5. Agricultural biological diversity: review of phase I of the programme of work and adoption of a multi-year work programme

341. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
342. Is your country promoting regional and thematic co-operation within this framework of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some co-operation	X
c) widespread co-operation	
d) full co-operation in all areas	
343. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) limited additional funds	X
c) significant additional funds	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
344. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity, in particular for capacity building and case-studies, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition?	
a) no	
b) yes within existing cooperation programme(s)	
b) yes, including limited additional funds	
c) yes, with significant additional funds	
345. Has your country supported actions to raise public awareness in support of sustainable farming and food production systems that maintain agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent	
c) yes, to a significant extent	
346. Is your country co-ordinating its position in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes	
347. Is your country a Contracting Party to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade?	
a) not a signatory	
b) signed - ratification in process	
c) instrument of ratification deposited	
348. Is your country supporting the application of the Executive Secretary for	

observer status in the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation?	
a) no	
b) yes	

349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

350. Is your country compiling case-studies and implementing pilot projects relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	

351. Has information on scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies been supplied to other Contracting Parties through media such as the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) not applicable	X
b) no	
c) yes - national report	
d) yes - through the CHM	
e) yes - other means (please give details below)	

352. Has your country considered how to address generic concerns regarding such technologies as genetic use restriction technologies under international and national approaches to the safe and sustainable use of germplasm?	
a) no	X
b) yes - under consideration	
c) yes - measures under development	

353. Has your country carried out scientific assessments on inter alia ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) some assessments	
c) major programme of assessments	

354. Has your country disseminated the results of scientific assessments on inter alia ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	

355. Has your country 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 biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) some measures identified	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive review completed	

356. Has your country assessed whether 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 the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes - regulation needed	
c) yes - regulation not needed (please give more details)	
357. Has your country developed and applied such regulations taking into account, inter alia, the specific nature of variety-specific and trait-specific genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes - developed but not yet applied	
c) yes - developed and applied	
358. Has information about these regulations been made available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	

Further comments on implementation of these decisions and the associated programme of work

329 to 343. The management, conservation and sustainable use of the agrosystems, together with some ecosystem types from the rest ecosystem groups, is implemented in the Agriculture branch in the system of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. The activities are coordinated and controlled at the national level. Until now there is no much work done on this issue.

Forest biological diversity

Decision II/9 and Decision IV/7. Forest biological diversity

359. Has your country included expertise on forest biodiversity in its delegations to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) not relevant	
360. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes	
361. Has your country integrated forest biological diversity considerations in its participation and collaboration with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
362. Does your country give high priority to allocation of resources to activities that advance the objectives of the Convention in respect of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
For developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition -	
363. When requesting assistance through the GEF, Is your country proposing projects which promote the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision V/4. Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for forest biological diversity

364. Do the actions that your country is taking to address the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity conform with the ecosystem approach?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
365. Do the actions that your country is taking to address the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity take into consideration the outcome of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
366. Will your country contribute to the future work of the UN Forum on Forests?	
a) no	X

b) yes	
367. Has your country provided relevant information on the implementation of this work programme?	
a) no	X
b) yes - submission of case-studies	
c) yes - thematic national report submitted	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
368. Has your country integrated national forest programmes into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans applying the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
369. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure participation by the forest sector, private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes - some stakeholders	X
c) yes - all stakeholders	
370. Has your country taken measures to strengthen 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?	
a) no	
b) some programmes covering some needs	
c) many programmes covering some needs	X
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	
e) no perceived need	
371. Has your country taken 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?	
a) no	X
b) under consideration	
c) measures taken	

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

Decision V/23. Consideration of options for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems

372. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you will implement it?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes	
373. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work?	
a) no	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	
374. Is your country fostering cooperation for the regional or subregional implementation of the programme among countries sharing similar biomes?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	

Further comments on implementation of these Decisions and the associated programme of work

360 to 371. After the new circumstances the management, conservation and sustainable use of the forest ecosystems, together with some ecosystem types included among, is implemented in the General Directorate of Forest and Pastures (Ministry of Agriculture and Food). The activities are coordinated and controlled at the national level. The ecological legislation of the country (acts, etc.) is respected in view of the biodiversity conservation.

Decision V/20. Operations of the Convention

375. Does your country take into consideration gender balance, involvement of indigenous people and members of local communities, and the range of relevant disciplines and expertise, when nominating experts for inclusion in the roster?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
376. Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	
377. Has your country undertaken a review of national programmes and needs related to the implementation of the Convention and, if appropriate, informed the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) under way	
c) yes	

Please use this box to identify what specific activities your country has carried out as a DIRECT RESULT of becoming a Contracting Party to the Convention, referring back to previous questions as appropriate:

375, 376, 377. Based on their type part of all the activities on biodiversity conservation in Albania are related to the provisions of CBD and the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy. The following activities can be considered as basic achievements regarding this concern:

- The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) is the basic document presenting the Government's policy and general programs in the environmental sector. The NEAP was first prepared with assistance from PHARE and the World Bank in 1994. It was revised in 2001 (covering the period 2002 – 2005) through an extensive consultative process involving a large number of stakeholders organized into thematic work groups. The main issues identified through the NEAP are:

- Development of policies and programs;
- Improvement and completing the legal framework;
- Institutional strengthening and capacity building;
- Public awareness raising.

- Establishment of basic acts, as well as legislative instruments in harmonization with the European legislation;

- Establishment of plans and strategic documents:

- Biodiversity conservation strategy;
- Management plans for the protected areas;
- Action plans for conservation of wild plant and animal species.

- Enlargement of the protected areas network;

- Establishment of administration bodies for their management and security;

At the national level, a number of high level inter-ministerial structures with a permanent or temporary mandate, decision-making or advising, exist such as: the National Council of Territorial Adjustment (NCTA), National Water Council, Committee of Energy Policies (all the latter are chaired by the Prime Minister); Council of Tourism Policies, National Council for Nature and Biodiversity (NCNB), Steering Committee of National Environmental Health Action Plan, Steering Committee of the National Environmental Action Plan (all the latter are chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister). The MoE is represented at the highest level in all the above-mentioned committees.

Please use this box to identify joint initiatives with other Parties, referring back to previous questions as appropriate:

The joint activities between the Albanian institutions and those in other countries on the biodiversity conservation are undergoing in the range of bilateral, regional, European and world initiatives. (Please, see questions 11 – 17 for the forms of this cooperation)

Please use this box to provide any further comments on matters related to national implementation of the Convention:

In fully accordance with its national legislation, Albania takes over commitment to the CBD provisions. As the provisions of CBD are mostly in principle there is no controversies with considering the national particularity (specificity) and possibilities as well.

The wording of these questions is based on the Articles of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties. Please provide information on any difficulties that you have encountered in interpreting the wording of these questions

Based on the structure offered by the Convention we deeply appreciate the informational significance of the national reports and the possibility to assume the state of the world biodiversity conservation after going through them. There were no difficulties in interpreting the wording of the questions included in the (guidelines for the) Report.

If your country has completed its national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP), please give the following information:

Date of completion:	Albanian National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) – 1999		
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government			
By which authority?	Albanian Council of Ministers		
On what date?	2000		
If the NBSAP has been published please give			
Title:	Albanian National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) – Tirana, 1999 – 109 pp.		
Name and address of publisher:	National Environmental Agency, Ministry of Health Rr. Bajram Curri, Tirana – ALBANIA		
ISBN:			
Price (if applicable):	96.000 US\$, support by the GEF/WB project		
Other information on ordering:			
If the NBSAP has not been published			
Please give full details of how copies can be obtained:			
If the NBSAP has been posted on a national website			
Please give full URL:			
If the NBSAP has been lodged with an Implementing Agency of the GEF			
Please indicate which agency:	World Bank		
Has a copy of the NBSAP been lodged with the Convention Secretariat?			
Yes	X	No	

Please provide similar details if you have completed a Biodiversity Country Study or another report or action plan relevant to the objectives of this Convention

Albania finished a study in 2000 "National assessment of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity" prepared by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in collaboration with local experts.

Please provide details of any national body (e.g. national audit office) that has or will review the implementation of the Convention in your country

The main appropriate bodies able to review the implementation of the Convention in Albania are:

- Institute of Biological Research, Albanian Academy of Sciences Tel./Fax: + 355 4 222638
- Museum of Natural Sciences/ FNS, Tirana University, Tel: +355 4 229028
- Botanical garden/ FNS, Tirana University, Tel: +355 4 225454 Fax: +355 4 250166