

**MINISTRY ON NATURE PROTECTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

THIRD NATIONAL REPORT ON BIODIVERSITY

YEREVAN 2006

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A. REPORTING PARTY

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Information on the preparation of the report

Box I.

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

In compliance with the requirements of the Article 6 of "Convention on Biological Diversity" in 2005 Armenia has undertaken the preparation of the third national report on biodiversity, for which it received the financial support of GEF. By de decree of the Minister of Nature Protection of Armenia the Head of Biodiversity and Water Resources Conservation Division of Environmental Conservation Department of Ministry of Nature Protection Ms. Tatyana Danielyan has been appointed as the coordinator of the third national report. The experts and consultants selected on the competitive basis made up a working group, the members of which have analyzed and summarized the existing information about various areas linked with the biodiversity.

The following institutions were involves in the preparation of the third national report: Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), Institute of Botany of NAS, Insitute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of NAS, State Agricultural University, Yerevan State University, Hrachya Acharyan University, Yerevan State Institute of Economy, Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs, etc. The experts have conducted discussions with the representatives of different government and non-governmental organizations; scientific-research institutions; international and national programs about biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use of different purposes. The members of the working group have also participated to the field scientific expeditions in a range of marzes of the republic to specify certain data and to collect updated information. The program coordinator has regularly (1-2 times per week) has organized general discussions about some arguable issues, which were actively participated by all the members of the working group. The collected information has been analyzed and input into the standard report form submitted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The preliminary version of the third national report has been discussed during a seminar with the participation of the representatives of the Ministry of Nature Protection and other agencies (government, non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions, etc) and based on their comments and recommendations the final version of the report has been prepared.

The experts and consultants collected the information from the following sources:

- a. Materials prepared and published by Ministry of Nature Protection in 1999-2005 (Biodiversity of Armenia, First national report; National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia; Capacity Assessment for the Conservation of the Armenian Biodiversity; State Strategy and National Action Plan for the Development of the Specially Protected area of the Armenia's Nature: National Report on Sustainable Development; National Scope of the Biosafety of the Republic of Armenia; Report on Needs Assessment of the Capacities of UN Global Conventions – biodiversity; change of climate; to combat desertification; The State of Environment in Armenia, 2002 national report, etc);
- b. Materials published by "Convention on Biological Diversity"; conferences and decisions of the meetings of the working groups of member countries;
- c. Reports submitted by the state entities and international programs;
- d. Environment and bioresources in Armenia 2002-2003, statistical books;
- e. Scientific researches and articles;
- f. Meetings with the representatives of non-governmental organizations and individuals;
- g. Results of 2005 autumn field scientific-expeditions;
- h. RA official information references;
- i. www.nature-ic.com web page
- j. other web pages

B. PRIORITY SETTING, TARGETS AND OBSTACLES

Box II.

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

The Armenia's geographical location, complex geological structure, highland zoning, location on the borderline of different natural-climate provinces have contributed to the general of rich natural and landscape diversity. In Armenia there are seven different landscape types with specific cohabitations, representatives of flora and fauna. The Armenia's biodiversity is extremely rich by valuable economic species. Approximately 2000 species of plants have nutritive, fodder, curative, painting, oily, honey-producing, resin characteristics. A range of animals have fur, meat and other characteristics. The biodiversity has got numerous species of crop wild relatives and animal genes, due to which Armenia from old times has been one of the centers of cattle breeding and agriculture.

At present approximately all the ecosystems of Armenia are subject to human influence, as a result of which hundreds of plant and animal species are on the verge of extinction. The consequences of the human impact are more visible in case of forest, semi-desert ecosystems, as well as unique water ecosystem of the Lake Sevan. There are numerous issues in the forest ecosystems connected with the irregular use of the forests; degradation and extinction of forest diversity; massive infection by pests and diseases. The poor condition of the Lake Sevan's ecosystem is first of all conditioned by the decrease of the water level system; reduction of the lake's surface; misbalance of the biological elements and chains of the supply in the water; extinction of the biodiversity components.

In Armenia there is a clear link between bioresources and socio-economic situation. The bioresources are pivotal factors supporting the economy of the country, especially in providing with agriculture and recreation, as well as food and industrial sectors. The economic changes of the last decade have had a considerable impact on biodiversity. Although as a result of reduction of industrial volumes there has been a decrease of air, soil and water pollution, the degradation of various ecosystems and extinctions of certain species continues first of all as a result of welfare decrease of the population.

The leadership of the republic, very much concerned with the existing situation, has classified the prevention of degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity among the priority of the country. During 2002-2005 the relevant legislative basis has been created for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of bioresources; a range of real steps have been taken with the purpose to improve and stabilize the institutions; financial resources provided by the state and aimed at the development of the sector have been increased by several times; international cooperation has been expanded. As a result of this there has been a tangible move in conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and plant-animal species. One of the key achievements has been the reduction of the water use from the of economic purposes and stable trends of lake's water level increase, as a result of which one can see recovery of water ecosystem and biodiversity.

The achievements and obstacles for the conservation of the biodiversity identified by the working group are presented in the table below:

Strengths	Obstacles; needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of laws, sub-legislation acts; - Perception of the importance of ecological issues by the Government and public; - Armenia's membership to international con- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Negligence of biodiversity conservation issues in various socio-economic development programs of different sectors; - Insufficient enforcement of provisions stipu-

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ventions and interstate agreements; - Stable policy framework; - Increase of state financing aimed at the biodiversity maintenance during 2002-2006; - Implementation of international projects aimed at the personnel training; re-training and development of science; - Expansion of cooperation with international entities; - Presence of sustainable system for specially protected nature zones and setting up new zones; - Support to the introduction of biodiversity monitoring in specially protected nature zones; - Number of entities performing scientific researches (scientific-research institutes; scientific centers; relevant departments in universities; scientific divisions); - Comparatively high degree of studied biodiversity in the republic; - Presence of Red Book; - Presence of broad-scale information about biodiversity; - Presence of high quality specialists; - Presence of large number of NGOs dealing with environmental issues and their proactive activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lated by law; - Need to develop and adopt normative -legal acts regulating the sectors; - Insufficient funding of the sector; - Lack of interconnection of processes going on in the country, insufficient inclusion of the convention issues in them; - Expansion of non-regulated use of bioresources as a result of population's destitution and reinforcement of human impact on the eco - systems; - Lack of evaluation indicators for the state and tendencies of biodiversity; - Unclear separation of the functions of entities performing management, planning and supervision in this area; their frequent overlap or omissions; - Lack of databases on biodiversity; state registration; inventory and monitoring system; - Lack of the mechanisms for the involvement of the private sector during the decision making process on biodiversity maintenance; - Lack of the national program on conservation of the genetic resources, sustainable use and improvement of accessibility; - Poor and non-regulated financing of scientific topics in the area of biodiversity; - Insufficiency of high quality personnel in the line of certain professions (including forestry, taxonomy, resources sciences); - Limited use of traditional knowledge, experiences and methods; lack of information; - Insufficient level of use and exchange of advanced technologies.
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Priority Setting

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

Article/Provision/Programme of Work	Level of Priority		
	High	Medium	Low
a) Article 5 – Cooperation		X	
b) Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use		X	

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

v) Inland water biodiversity	X		
w) Marine and coastal biodiversity			
x) Dry land and sub humid land biodiversity			X
y) Mountain biodiversity		X	

Challenges and Obstacles to Implementation

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

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

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

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

based approaches to management																			
z) Weak law enforcement capacity	NA	NA	NA	3	NA	NA	3	3	NA	NA	NA	3	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	NA	NA	NA	3	NA	NA	NA	3	NA										
bb) Others (please specify)																			

2010 Target

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

Box III.

Goal 1	Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes.		
Target 1.1	At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
In the "National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan" (NBSAP) the following actions have been accepted as the national target objectives of the country:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preserve and restore the most endangered landscape, ecosystems and flora and fauna species; - Expand specially protected network by increasing their efficiency; - Expand the forest areas by protecting, restoring and sustainably using the forest resources; - Improve the biodiversity conservation management system (including the management of specially protected area) to ensure the efficient activities of the system: 			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s) (ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box (es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details

a) Agricultural		X	<p>To support the conservation of meadows of the valuable fodder plant species (natural pastures) in 2005 with its decree No800 the Armenian Government has stipulated the implementation of the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of the natural pastures and registration of the types; - Improvement measures; rehabilitation of watering systems; - Improvement of legal framework; development of local management plans; - Development of evaluation criteria for biodiversity value and efficiency.
b) Inland water		X	<p>The issues of the conservation of the natural resources of the Lake Sevan and its watershed basin are regulated by the "Law on the Lake Sevan" (2001) and among the key requirements of the law are: the sustainability of the Lake Sevan's ecosystem; provision of the water's positive balance and efficient use of the natural resources.</p> <p>According to the "Law on Approving the annual and complex program the Lake Sevan's ecosystem rehabilitation; maintenance, reproduction and use" (2001) the following issues have been considered as priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevention of the Lake Sevan's level reduction and provision of at least 6 m. increase of its level by the introduction of complex measures, as a precondition for the rehabilitation of the lake's previous qualitative and quantitative indicators and prevention of extrication; - Through putting norms and regulating the natural resources in the Lake Sevan and its water basin reduction of negative anthropogenic impacts on its ecosystem and its individual components and prevention of their further degradation; - Conservation; rehabilitation and provision for reproduction of landscape and biological diversity, rare, endemic and scientific and economic high value species. <p>2004-2006 annual plans of ecosystem rehabilitation, conservation, reproduction and use of the Lake Sevan envisage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study; evaluation and forecast of changes in the dynamics of ecosystem components; - Scientific researches in "Sevan" national park; - Registration of the plant and animal resources in the lake and lake's watershed basin; - Replenishment of the fish resources. Provision for the reproduction of valuable and rare fish species. Maintenance of genetic fund.
c) Marine and coastal			

d) Dry and sub humid land		X	
e) Forest	X		In the "National Forest Program" (Government Protocol Resolution #1232 dated 21.07.2005) as target objectives of the country the following actions have been identified: a/ setting up and improvement of the forestry legal framework; b/ forest building; c/ state registration of the forests; state forest cadastre and state monitoring of forests; d/ maintenance of forests; e/ conservation of forests; f/ rehabilitation of forests and forest coverage; g/ use of forest, etc.
f) Mountain	X		Armenia is a mountainous country; 76.5% of the country is 1000-2500m. above sea level; chains of mountains occupy around 47% of the country's territory; around 40% of the settlements are 1500-2000m. above sea level. Based on this the majority of the country's target objectives are extended to the mountainous zones.
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>"Conservation and rehabilitation of landscape and ecosystems" activity is aimed at the attaining the objective mentioned in NBSAP, which includes the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect and rehabilitate the main water-marsh ecosystems (including the Lake Sevan and the lake Arpi); - Protect and rehabilitate the main forest ecosystems, especially the forests harmed in 1990-1995; - Rehabilitate the unique and economically important forests – providing with their natural reproduction; - Rehabilitate the degraded landscapes and biodiversity harmed by the economics activities. <p>Actually in regard of supporting the conservation of ecosystems; habitats and biodiversity NBSAP identifies measures only for water-marsh and forests systems, in case when other systems in Armenia also need conservation.</p> <p>The national target objective is included in different development strategies and program. It is fully reflected in "National Forest Policy and Strategy"; "National Forest Program of Armenia" document, as well as socio-economic development plans of marzes of the republic.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>The Lake Sevan is one of the most endangered ecosystems of the Republic of Armenia, which contains more than 80% of the country's water resources. The lake is characterized by unique fish world; there are 3 endemic species in the lake – trout with its 4 sub-types; kogak and beglu. Because of the decrease of the lake's level the ecosystem's balance has been fully destroyed; as a result of drying of the places for spawning the lake biotypes of the endemic fish types are on the verge of extinction.</p> <p>In 2002-2005 annual plan for the rehabilitation, preservation, reproduction and use measures of the</p>			

Lake Sevan's ecosystem a special attention is drawn to the increase of the lake's level, which is the main precondition for the rehabilitation of lymnosystem.

With a purpose to solve the issue in 2002 there has been around 40% reduction of the water outlet from the lake for the irrigation purposes. At the same time around 300.6 million cubic water has been channeled to the lake through Arpa-Sevan canal, which is 30% more than the similar indicator of 2001. During 2003-2005 as a result of the relevant measures the level of the lake went up by 174cm.

The following programs are being implemented for the preservation and reproduction of the natural resources of the Lake Sevan:

- a/ study of hydro-chemical and hydro-biological peculiarities of Sevan-Hrazdan hydro-systems with the purpose to improve the water quality in the Lake Sevan and river Hrazdan and its use for various purposes;
- b/ study of fish fauna's population and biological indicators under the circumstances of the water level increase;
- c/ the identification of the lake's plankton and benthos substances in trophic relations of Sevan's lymnosystem;
- d/ study of ecological peculiarities of the Lake Sevan's crayfish and the identification of its role in the trophic chain of lymnosystem.

It has been identified that the state of fish fauna in the lake remains extremely intense. The industrial reserves of the white fish are about exhausted.

The natural pastures of the republic cover around 30% of the total territory and are on 600m (semi-desert) - 2700-3500m (alpine zones) altitude and are characterized by the diversity of fodder plants, the majority of which are the representatives of grain-crops – around 300 species.

The extensive development of land use, overgrazing; irregular harvest of industrial plants; insufficiency of the legal framework have lead to extreme degradation of the ecosystems; steep reduction of the type composition and even extinction of some species.

Within the framework of "ICARDA – regional program of agriculture of development of mountainous countries" they have developed a range of new technologies for the surface and root improvement of natural fodder fields with the purpose to improve the pastures in the fodder diversity and extremely burdened state. The surface improvement technology is applied for the improvement of the worst pastures in Gegharkunik and Tavush marzes.

Within the framework of "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" project in 9500 ha pastures of 59 communities of the republic they apply the sustainable management methods. The use of the pastures is implemented on the system of shift grazing. As a result of project implementation the pastures and grasslands of 3300 ha will be improved. At present in 1770 ha pastures and grasslands they have already implemented fertilizing measures. With the training purposes in 20 communities they have identified the worst state pastures, where for 1-2 years the grazing is prohibited. With a purpose to efficiently use the far pastures and ease the pressure on close pastures and forests they envisage to rehabilitate and build up 200 watering points. At present the activities have been completed in 45 communities.

"Edible wild vegetable-plants selection and seed breeding" scientific-research topic (Scientific center of legumes and technical plants) is aimed at the reduction of use of the wild edible plants by the means of organizing their cultivation.

Armenia is a country poor of forests, where the forest lands constitute around 10% of the country's territory. As a result of economic and energy crisis in the republic since 1991 the forests of Armenia has been subjected to over logging – in violation environmental balance. As a result of irregular use, overgrazing, logging of the forests deep structural changes have taken place: the trees have lost their capacity of natural reproduction; the productivity decreased; erosion processes have increased; hydrological regime of the forest has been destroyed. The estimates show that during the last years around 30 thousand ha of forest has been logged, of which around 7 thousand ha forest has been fully logged.

Because of inappropriate activities of the human being, besides the reduction of forest coverage of the republic there have also been undesirable changes in the forest biodiversity and genetic resources of the forests have been worsened.

The preservation and sustainable use of the forest resources is considered as one of the priorities of the state. To regulate the aforementioned areas in 2003-2005 the Armenian Government has adopted a range of legal documents, in particular "National Forest Policy and Strategy"; "National Program of Armenian Forests" and "Action plan for mitigating actions to help address the problems associated with illegal logging" developed within the framework of "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" program. All the aforementioned documents contain measures aimed the rehabilitation of the forest areas and development of sustainable forms of forest use.

In October 2005 the National Assembly adopted new Forest Code, which regulates the relations connected with the Armenian forests and forest lands. In particular a new category of forest target significance has been stipulated – industrial forests, as well as the have stipulated the idea of setting up community forests.

With a purpose to support the preservation of ecosystems; habitats; biodiversity in the Caucasus region the international organization "Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund" (CEPF), including in Armenia, implemented a large-scale project, thanks to which they identified the territories, eco-corridors and the most endangered species that need urgent conservation.

With the support of CEPF and BirdLife International in the Caucasus region, with the purpose to protect the bird fauna they have identified junction areas, including 5 in Armenia – lakes Sevan, Arpi, Armashi, chain of mountains Pambak and in Khosrov reserve. They developed and submitted to the approval of BirdLife-International a list of additional 13 areas, where they envisage taking under care all the endangered species of the republics' birds.

See target objective 1.2 for the information about biodiversity maintenance in specially protected area of the nature.

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

Change of water level of the Lake Sevan. Dynamics of the water's physics-chemical indicators.

Dynamics of type composition and spread of forest biodiversity.

The area of specially protected area of Armenia and its percentage relations with the total area of the republic.

Degree of the division of the pastures and grasslands; type composition of the vegetation; density, height and efficiency of the vegetation; green mass received from the unit area.

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

Lack of state registration, inventory and monitoring of the biodiversity. As a result of population's poverty strengthening of human factors on the pastures and forests in the proximity of communities; insufficiency of the funding and high quality specialists; lack of sub-legislation.

The coverage by the water the forest areas as a result of increase of the water level of the Lake Sevan is another concerning issues. The latter is harming not only the forests, but is also a serious danger from the point of view of lake's pollution. At present as a result of the level increase of the Lake Sevan around 410 ha area (of which 215 ha covered by forests) is already under the water. By and large in case of 6 m increase of the lake's level additional 3288 ha forests territories will be under the water.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

By the decrees of the Government the issue of clearing up the water covered areas of the Lake Sevan is included in the priority list of 2005-2006. From the state reserve fund resources have been allocated to clear up the forest nurseries from the water covered areas.

Box IV.

Target 1.2	Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>The national target objectives for the conservation of the zones of special biodiversity importance are mentioned in "State strategy for the development of the specially protected area of Armenia's nature and national action plan" (SSDSPANAP) document (developed by UNDP "Needs assessment for the capacity enhancement for biodiversity" project (NACEB) (UNDP/GEF) approved by the Government Protocol Resolution # 54 dated December 26, 2002</p> <p>The national target objectives for the conservation of the zones of special biodiversity importance are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improvement of the legal framework; 2. Improvement of the management system; 3. Improvement of NBSAP networks; 4. Improvement of NBSAP financial mechanisms; 5. Improvement of staff. <p>The monitoring, evaluation, rehabilitation and sustainable use of the deteriorated pastures and ecosystems are one of the objectives of "Food safety policy of Armenia" program document (2004). "Strategy on Development of Agriculture in Armenia" pinpoints the need of natural rehabilitation of pastures and grasslands and pastures being regions of fodder plants concentration.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	The conservation of deteriorated pastures of great biodiversity importance is focused on their efficient use, development of new technologies, improvement of pastures and grasslands and pastures, evaluation of ecological

			state of pastures, broad use of local flora fodder plants to get new fodder perennial plants in the practical selection.
b) Inland water			<p>The following measures concerning the inland waters are planned in SSDSPANAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish a range of new specially protected area, which will include different landscape types – alpine meadows, steppe, semi-deserts, water-marsh habitats and salty swamps; - establish a new “Jermuk” national park – including two existing reserves (one of the reserves is hydrological); - establish reserves for the conservation of high mountainous lakes; - establish “Khorvirap” reserve for the conservation of wet areas of swamp zones; - establish reserves for Shirak marz: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a/ in watershed basin of Mantash river; b/ with the purpose of birds conservation in the watershed of the lake Arpi and Akhurian river; - establish reserves for the conservation of residual lakes in Lori marz.
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest		X	<p>The following measures concerning the forests are planned in SSDSPANAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish “Kirants” natural part – with a purpose to protect the biodiversity of forest ecosystems, especially for the conservation of relic species and development of eco-tourism on the basis of rich nature and human legacy; - establish reserves to protect Shirak marz Ashotsq relic oak forest; - on the basis of “Boghaqar” reserve establish “Arevik” reserve to protect the endangered and unique species of biodiversity in the mountain chain of Zangezur in Megri and Bargushat mountains; unique natural monuments; transboundary habitats of endemic and rare animals (regional Armenia-Iran-Azerbaijan).
f) Mountain		X	<p>Armenia is a mountainous country and the aforementioned forests are located in lower and middle mountains zones.</p> <p>With the purpose to protect the unique mountainous xenophile ecosystems the following measures are envisaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish “Vorotan” natural part – to protect the unique ecosystems of Southern Zangezur; unique natural geological; landscape; geomorphologic and historical-cultural monuments and their recreation sustainable

			use; - establish "Arpi (Gnishik)" national part to protect the biodiversity of Vayots Dzor natural system; genetic fund of wild plants and unique monuments of nature.
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programs			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>A range of activities are included in NBSAP as individual directions (in-situ conservation), which are aimed at specially protected area of the nature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To improve the management of the system; - Specification and expansion of the network; - Personnel training; - Direct support of the environmental activities. <p>Within the framework of aforementioned activities 26 measures are to be implemented. SSDSPANAP also includes the relevant measures (see sections I and II of this target). The issues of conservation of specially protected biodiversity zones are included in socio-economic development plans of marzes.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>The conservation of rich landscape and biological diversity of the republic is performed mainly through SPAN. The total area of specially protected area is 311 thousand ha (including the mirror of the Lake Sevan), which makes around 10% of the total area of the republic. At present SPAN system of Armenia includes 3 state reserves, 23 reservations and 2 national parks. The lakes Sevan and Arpi are included in the list of Ramsar, as wet zones of international significance. However, 54% of these zones (and even 91%, if we exclude the water surface of the Lake Sevan) make up forest systems, i.e. even SPAN do not include the entire diversity of the republic's landscape. Very important biodiversity ecosystems are not included in here, i.e. steppe; meadow; steppe-meadow and high mountainous.</p> <p>For the implementation of the measures stipulated by "State strategy for the development of the specially protected area of Armenia's nature and national action plan" document in 2004-2005 the Government has funded the following mid-term projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of SPAN 6 new protected area projects ("Arevik" state reserves; Arpi (Gnishik)" and "Jermuk" national parks; "Kirants" and "Vorotan" natural parks; "Araji Ler" reservation); - Establishment of SPAN cadastre; - Revision; boundary specification and mapping activities of SPAN (including "Khosrov Forest" state reserve; state reservations; "Erebuni" state reserve under "Reserve-park complex"; "Sochut", "Vanadzor", "Soranner" and "Ijevan" dendroparks); - Development of nature's monuments inventory, passport and list approval program. <p>Within the framework of "Management of protected area and biodiversity conservation" component of "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" project they implement the activities of project development of participatory management; mapping of national parts; inventory and registration of biodiversity components and introduction of biodiversity monitoring system of "Sevan" national park (includes high mountainous fresh water Lake Sevan 125.2 thousand ha water surface and 24.9 thousand ha littoral land territory) and "Dilijan" national park (includes 24 thousand ha mainly forest</p>			

territory). The “Law on Nature Specially Protected Areas” is in the process of adoption. The draft law is in the process of discussion.

Within Caucasus initiatives according to Armenia-Germany inter-government agreement in October 2005 a contract was signed about implementing “Establishment of cross-border conservation zones in Armenia and Javakhk highland” (with the support of German development and reconstruction bank). The project implementation area will include the lake Arpi, as well as Georgian water-marsh areas bordering with Armenia.

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

The criteria for the specially protected area of biodiversity are: the percentage of SPAN surface in total territory of the country; the percentage of forests and other ecosystems in total area of SPAN.

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

The challenges in regard of implementation of aforementioned target are about insufficiency of financial resources and material-technical base; lack of management plans and monitoring system, human resources, especially professional staff.

The challenges of preserving the large-scale plant diversity in pasture areas are connected with the need to improve the management mechanism by local self-governing bodies and rural population; lack of resources for monitoring and rehabilitation measures.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box V.

Goal 2	Promote the conservation of species diversity		
Target 2.1	Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		In “Sustainable agricultural development strategy” (2004) one identifies the conservation and rehabilitation of entire gene pool of plants and crop wild relatives. In “Law on seeds” (2005) among the major issues one has also included the conservation of crop wild relatives.
b) Inland water	X		In the annual program of rehabilitation, conservation, re-production and use of the Lake Sevan’s ecosystem (2002-2006) they have included “Replenishment of fish reserves” action, within framework of which the implement “Provi-

			tion for reproduction of valuable and rare fish species".
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land	X		The conservation of endemic crop wild relatives and desert and semi-desert fauna species are among the statutory issue of "Erebuni" reserve; "Gorovan sands" and "Vordan karmir" reservations.
e) Forest			In "National Forest Program" they have included identification and mapping of etalon ecosystems (districts) for the conservation of unique and exterminating species of forest biodiversity; activities aimed at prevention of natural habitat loss of individual types of forest biodiversity and conservation of pivotal bio-types.
f) Mountain	X		Rehabilitation population of Armenian Mouflon and leopard in Central and Southern Armenia; re-introduction of bezoars goat from the territory of Armenia to its natural area – Borjomi-Kharaguli national park (Georgia) are important environmental programs and implemented with the support of WWF.
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programs and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>According to NBSAP as target issue the following is identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop and implement a special action plan for the rehabilitation of the endangered species (Armenian Mouflon; leopard; vordan karmir, trout of Sevan, etc); - implement research projects to evaluate the state and spread of less studied taxons; - develop and implement an action plan for the conservation of crop wild relatives. <p>According to "Agriculture sustainable development plan" as a target for the country it has been stipulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measures to protect the gene pool of plants and animals (especially the crop wild relatives) and their use in selection; - Measures to improve the state of strictly tensioned pastures and fodder plants. 			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>To evaluate, rehabilitate, protect some endemic species of Armenian flora or to limit the reduction of population they have studied the state of those ecosystems, where around 60 endemic and around 40 rare species of Armenia grow.</p> <p>In 2004 in "Sevan" national park with the purpose of protecting the biodiversity the birds' (silver pheasant, red duck, white-eyed diving duck, grey duck, crying duck, beaker, silver squeal, grey tarkh) registration, inventory and natural reproduction activities. The registration data serve to identify the annual hunting measures.</p> <p>Since 2003 the fish reserve replenishment of the Lake Sevan is taking place, as a result of which endemic fish species have been released into the lake (summer bakhtak, gegharkuni) and spawns and</p>			

caterpillar of white fish.

The ex-situ conservation of the Lake Sevan's trout (gegharkuni and summer bakhtak sub-species) gene pool is implemented within the framework of "Collection, incubation, receipt of caterpillars from the mother body grown in artificial conditions of summer bakhtak and release of spawns to the Lake Sevan" project. In artificial conditions they have created a stable reserve of sub-species that are on the verge of extinction, thanks to which their status has been tangibly improved. Though serious measures are undertaken for reproduction of disappearing fishes, however, the results can be expected only in case of their natural reproduction in the lake.

Within the framework of the World Bank and Global Environmental Facility financed "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" project's "Management of protected area and biodiversity conservation" component they have studied the fish-fauna composition of the Lake Sevan and determined the quantitative indicators of industrial fish species.

"Center for Armenia's bird lovers" NGO in 2003-2004 with the support of ANSEF international organization has implemented "Study of Armenia's bird fauna in artificial lakes of Armash" project. During the project the organization has identified a colony made of 5000 birds and studied the composition of its species.

With the support of World Wild Fund (WWF) they implement the projects "Conservation of Leopard in Caucasus Ecoregion", "Sustainable use of medical herbs in the Caucasus Ecoregion"; "Rehabilitation of Bezoar Goat in its natural area", which are aimed at effective conservation, rehabilitation and reduction of population's limitation of plant and animal species in mountainous areas.

Within "In-situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives through Strengthening of Information Management and Use of Modern Technologies" UNEP/GEF project at present they identify the national criteria to organize the conservation and effective use of key crop wild relatives for the republic.

Within "Conservation of wild relatives of Armenia's grain and use in selection" – in Central Asia and South Caucasus agriculture sector studies international cooperation (ICAR) project they collect, protect, study and use of the seeds of wild wheat, grain, bailey, rye.

The task "Study, conservation, enrichment, use of genetic collections of traditional species of crop wild relatives and agricultural crops and preparation of electronic samples' database for the conservation of their natural diversity" is aimed at the conservation of grains and legumes.

They also perform the collection, conservation and use in selection activities of wild species of legumes (melon, cucumber, pumpkin, tomato, egg-plant), as well as building activities of the seeds of primary agricultural crops genetic resources for the agriculture and food of the republic.

In the laboratory of the plants' genetic resources of Armenian Agriculture University within "Conservation of wild relatives of Armenia's grain and use in selection" project they have collected and put for short-term conservation the seeds' sample of wild wheat, grain, bailey, rye and analyzed the areas of their spread in Armenia and trends for reduction.

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

The number of the species (populations), for which they have developed and perform rehabilitation, conservation or population reduction's limiting measures.

The animals or plant species under the risk of extinction or having diminishing area in specially pro-

tected area and their number.

The number of collected or kept in collection samples, the data on which have been input into international catalogues or databases.

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

In Armenia no taxonomic groups have been identified that have special status.

Lack of updated data about populations of rare species; their non-assessment according to modern criteria; insufficient financial provision of the studies and lack of specialists.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box VI .

Target 2.2		Status of threatened species improved	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X	
Please provide details below.			
<p>The rare species or species on the verge of extinction are included into the Red Book of Armenia and their conservation is performed according to the "Law on flora" (1999) and "Law on fauna" (2000). There are 387 species registered in the Red Book of Plants (1989) and 99 species in the Red Book of Animals. The use of the species include in the Red Book is done in exclusive cases – upon the decision of the Government.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			The activities aimed at the quantitative rehabilitation of crop wild relatives - (<i>Triticum urartu</i>); certain types of goat grass (<i>Amblyopyrum muticum</i> , <i>Aegilops crassa</i> , <i>A. biuncialis</i> , <i>A. ämbellulata</i>), traditional species of grape and certain fruits are among the priorities of the country. After a while one can judge about the results of improvement activities of the state of certain species on the verge of extinction based on the monitoring results of population state of rare and disappearing species.
b) Inland water	X		In the annual programs of measures aimed at the rehabilitation, conservation, reproduction and use of the ecosystem of the Lake Sevan (2002-2006) they approve the activities for the rehabilitation of fish fauna, within the framework of which they collect, incubate, grow caterpillars from the spawns from the valuable endemic species, i.e. Sevan's trout and its sub-types up to growing of small fishes and their release into Sevan.
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			By the Resolution # 49 dated 23.01.2001 "On improving the conservation of valuable tree species of the forests of the Republic of Armenia" the Government has stipulated measures aimed at the improvement of the state of a range of valuable trees (walnut tree; oak tree; pear tree, etc).
f) Mountain			See target 2.1
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and			

strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X
Please provide details below.	
See target 2.1, section III.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
<p>Ministry of Nature Protection performs serious measures aimed at the reproduction of disappearing fish species; however, the results might be expected only after their population in the natural habitat. The specific data of the regularly conduction monitoring of the biodiversity registration and species/population come to speak about the improvement of the state of disappearing species. In 2005 they developed "Establishment of biodiversity monitoring system in Sevan and Dilijan national parks", thanks to which they will describe the state of valuable species.</p> <p>A database is being developed about unique and disappearing invertebrate animal species and their status is determined.</p> <p>They have started the evaluation of rare and disappearing species of Armenia's flora as by IUCN and determination of changes in their population.</p> <p>Within the framework of "Conservation of wild relatives of Armenia's grain plants and their use in the selection" project (ICAR) in 4 marzes of the republic they have conducted an assessment of the growing habitats of the grain wild relatives.</p> <p>Within the framework of "Conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of wild grape in Caucasus and Black Sea Northern region" (IPGRI) project they determine; collect; evaluate; protect and sustainable use the genetic resources of the grape, including the wild species, ancient and selection species.</p> <p>Based on the specific data they have proven that the presence of leopard in Southern Armenia considered as disappeared in recent pas, the state of which has been considerable improved thanks to the making the conservation regime strict in "Shikahogh" state reserve; establishment of anti-poacher points system and improvement of the leopard's nutrition.</p>	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
The number of species registered in the Red Book; number of the animal species populating in natural conditions, number of plant species evaluated as by IUCN criteria.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
<p>The Armenian Red Book has been published around 20 years ago and at present it needs to be revised. It is necessary to evaluate all the species included in the Red Book according to IUCN modern criteria, as well as the endemic species and other species with limited spread. As a result of which they will specify the states of the species, based on which one can judge about efficiency of the environmental measures and change of the number of rare and disappearing species.</p> <p>In regard of protecting the sub-species of Sevan's trout one of the major threats is poaching. After sexual maturity for reproduction the fish rises up to the rivers, which are flowing mainly through settlements. It is extremely difficult to perform the control over the illegal fishing. To inspect the entire length of the river the inspectors of "Sevan" national park are not sufficient and there is lack of the relevant equipment. One of the major reasons of illegal fishing is the low welfare level and unem-</p>	

ployment of population in the basin of the Lake Sevan.

Serious obstacles are also the lack of modern complete information about rare or disappearing species and insufficiency of financial resources – to monitor and organize annual studies' expeditions.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

In 2005 CEPF approved the program, as by which the Red List of Caucasus plants shall be developed. According to IUCN criteria they will assess the species of rare and disappearing plants in the Caucasus ecoregion, including 300 species from the Armenian flora.

Box VII.

Goal 3	Promote the conservation of genetic diversity		
Target 3.1	Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X	
Please provide details below.			
As a national target of NBSAP stipulates: - ensure the sustainable use and rehabilitation of the genetic resources, including agro-biodiversity; - support the sustainable development of the country – by integrating the management of resources into the development programs of the rural communities.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			<p>The conservation of genetic diversity of agricultural crops and animals is the major objective of a range of budgetary programs and grant projects performed in the scientific centers of Ministry of Agriculture and Armenian Agriculture Academy.</p> <p>The implementing programs and researches are aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conservation of Sevan's basis agro-ecosystem and agro-environmental monitoring; - conservation of genetic diversity of agricultural crops and their hybrids; - conservation of the gene pool of the local sheep genes; - short-term conservation of the genetic resources of crops in seeds' collection; - establishment of technical possibilities for long term conservation of gerplazma.
b) Inland water			<p>"Replenishment of fish reserves, reproduction of valuable and rare fish species and conservation of gene pool" has been approved as a national objective in the annual program for the rehabilitation, conservation, reproduction and use measure of the Lake Sevan's ecosystem.</p>
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			

f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>As priority measures in NBSAP they have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop and implement an action plan for the conservation of crop wild relatives; - develop nurseries of crop wild relatives in the proximity of protected area to ensure the re-introduction and conservation; - develop and implement pilot project for the sustainable use of new agriculture technologies and agro-diversity; - develop a range of pilot projects to spread the traditional approaches of biodiversity use. <p>One of the objectives of "Agriculture sustainable development strategy" (2004) is the conservation of the agriculture plants (in particular crop wild relatives) and gene pool of the animals and effective use in the selection.</p> <p>"Food safety policy of the Republic of Armenia" chases an objective to ensure effective management and use of agriculture gene diversity, especially fodder plants and domestic animals, as well as evaluation, monitoring and rehabilitation.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>In 2005 they established inter-governmental commission of plants' genetic resources for agriculture and food, which has got an objective to coordinate the sustainable use of the genetic resources of the plants and development of national programs and strategy in the domain of conservation.</p> <p>They also develop complex measures for the agro-environmental monitoring of the agro-ecosystems of Sevan's basin. They evaluate the genetic diversity of the species and hybrids of agriculture plants based on their potential value for the selection purposes, as well as inventory of sheep gene and characterization to approve the gene purity and homogeneity. The samples of the plants' gene pool are kept in the collections of seeds.</p> <p>They have already started development of a database to keep in safety in medium term the genetic resources of plants for food and agriculture activities.</p> <p>"In situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives through Strengthening of Information Management and Use of Modern Technologies" project is implemented with the support of UNEP/GEF. In 2005 they started to develop the management plan for "Erebuni" reserve, thanks to which they will improve the conservation of grain plants and a range of rare species included in the Red Book.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
The number of species or samples of plants and animals kept in collections and ex-situ conditions.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of the national genetic database in the country; - Lack of sub-legislation for the enforcement of a range of biodiversity conservation laws; - Lack of monitoring complex system for the evaluation of agriculture impact on biodiversity. 			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

In 1981 in the suburbs of Yerevan, i.e. in Kotayk marz they established "Erebuni" state reserve. It covers 89 ha and is located in the transitional zones of mountainous-steppe zones. 61 out of 278 species encountered there are the golden fund of the broadly recorded crop wild relatives. The plant cohabitations are mainly made of annual grains - *triticum araraticum*; *T. boeoticum*; *T. urartu*; *Secale vavilovii*; *Aegilops* and several types of rye. One can also encounter other rare and disappearing species, which are registered in the Red Book. Those are *Rhizocephalus orientalis*; *Hohenackeria ex-capa*; *Cundelia tournefortii*, etc.

Many crop wild relatives can be found in other specially protected area of nature – "Dilijan" national park (around 10% of flora); "Khosrov Forest" (around 11% of flora) and "Shikahogh" (around 12% of flora) state reserves; a range of forest reserves.

Box VIII .

Goal 4	Promote sustainable use and consumption.		
Target 4.1	Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>NBSAP stipulates as a target the following activity – to ensure the sustainable use and rehabilitation of bioresources, including agro-biodiversity. NBSAP stipulates the importance of bioresources as a means of human existence and the dependence of the local communities on those resources. It has been acknowledged that the sustainable use is the mechanism, by means of which the use is compared with the conservation needs, taking into account the population needs they emphasize the immediate value of the bioresources and the need for biodiversity conservation.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			Within “Natural resources management and poverty reduction” project in Tavush and Gegharkunik marzes of Armenia in 59 communities on 9500 ha pastures and 1770 ha pastures and grasslands they implement methods of sustainable management. The use of pastures is performed on the basis of shift grazing. As a result of project implementation 3300 ha pastures and grasslands’ state will be improved.
b) Inland water	X		The Government Resolution # 1380 dated 22.08.2002 “On approving the order for issuing licenses to use the sites of fauna with the purpose of agriculture and industry and concluding contracts” regulates the industrial fishing in the Lake Sevan and decree No84 -N dated 18.03.03 Minister of Nature Protection has approved the composition and working procedures of professional commission issuing the licenses to use the natural animal reserves.
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			The fostering sustainable use of the forest reserves is tightly interconnected with the development and introduction of forest entities management plans, which is stimulated by the Forest Code adopted by the National Assembly in 2005 and envisaged by National Forest Program (2005).

f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>In "Sustainable use" direction of NASP they have included the following actions, which in their turn include 50 measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation improvement of rates of biodiversity use; - Fostering sustainable use of methods of biodiversity in agriculture; - Fostering sustainable use of forest resources; - Fostering sustainable fishery; - Fostering sustainable use of bioresources by local communities; - Development of mechanisms for the sustainable use of resources in specially protected area of the local communities; - Establishment of mechanism to reduce the impact of the forests and rehabilitation of forest resources. <p>"National Forest Plan" envisages to implement the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support to the storing growth of timber forest products in overall forest use volumes: a/ increase of volumes of efficient use of forest products and b/ development of hunting farms; - development of the national standard for forest passportization; - introduction of the national forest certification system, etc. 			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>The sustainable industrial fishery mechanism of the Lake Sevan is based on the registration and evaluation of the fish reserve and identification of the fish reserves. The regular registration of the industrial fish reserves in the lake has been conducted up to 1999, after which due to financial difficulties it was not performed for 5 years. As a result due to scientifically unjustified overuse the quantity of white fish has been drastically reduced.</p> <p>Since 2004 upon the order of the Government the research of industrial populations of the Lake Sevan and evaluation of reserves have been restarted ("Registration of the Lake Sevan fish and crayfish reserves" and "Registration of industrial fish species in the Lake Sevan" projects), which came to prove the fact of the white fish reserves reduction.</p> <p>To protect and rehabilitate the reserves of industrial fish species in 2005 the minimal industrial fishing rate has been established for the white fish and from July 1, 2005 up to December 25, 2005 they have banned to fish white fish in the Lake Sevan.</p> <p>The sustainable use of forests can be implemented in forest ecosystems managed in a sustainable manner. With this purpose within the "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" project in a range of forest farms they have registered the forest resources and inventoried the biodiversity. The development management plans for 5 forest farms are in the process.</p> <p>In 2005 they have also started the development of the management plans for "Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

Sizes of the forests managed in sustainable manner.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
Lack of financial resources for the development of management plans.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box IX.

Target 4.2	Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water	X		“Law on approving the annual plans for rehabilitation, conservation, reproduction and use of the ecosystem of the Lake Sevan” (2001) stipulates the issue of establishment of norms and regulations of natural resources use in the Lake Sevan and its basin, the implementation of which will enable to reduce the negative anthropogenic impact on the lake’s ecosystems and its individual components and prevent their further dissolution.
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			<p>According to Government Resolution #7 (15.01.2004) in the area of forests conservation, maintenance, reproduction and use Ministry of Agriculture is the authorized state body and the supervision is performed by Ministry of Nature Protection.</p> <p>By the Government Resolution #96 dated 29.01.2004 forest management agency was established in the structure of Ministry of Agriculture. In Ministry of Nature Protection the forest inspection is performed the forest supervision division of Environmental state inspection.</p> <p>In “National Forest Policy and Strategy”; “National Forest Program”; “Action plan for mitigating actions to help address the problems associated with illegal logging” documents a range of complex measures have been envisaged, which are aimed at the conservation of the forest biodiversity; reduction of logging; rehabilitation of forests and</p>

			planting of new forests.
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
See target 4.1; section III. A range of provisions of National Forest Program (2005) are dedicated to the prevention of logging and sustainable use of forest resources.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>The water ecosystem of industrial significance of Armenia is the Lake Sevan, where fish and crayfish are grown. The main industrial fish species of the lake are white fish and crucian carp. White fish has been acclimatized in the Lake Sevan since 1920s and by the end of the 20th century it would constitute 80% of the total fishery share. The crucian carp appeared in the lake in 1980s and within short period of time achieved high quantitative development. The crayfish appeared in the lake by the end 1970s and its industrial use began in 1990s.</p> <p>Every year in the period of their reproduction (November-December), with the purpose of reserving the industrial fish species, Ministry of Nature Protection puts a ban on the fishing. The inspectors of "Sevan" national park and environmental state inspectorate perform environmental supervision activities. In 2003 the national park has identified 98 cases of violation of environmental legislation and in 2004 83 cases, of which 41 case for violation of rules of industrial fishing.</p> <p>In recent years there has been a reduction of irregular use of forest resources, especially connected with the improvement of electricity supply and development of gas supply infrastructure. To prevent the illegal use of forest resources in 2003 adjacent to Ministry of Nature Protection they have established a board to support the solution of issues connected with illegal logging and after the Government Resolution "On introducing the state monitoring system of forests" (28.06.05) it has been replaced with a new entity, i.e. state forest monitoring board coordinating the combat illegal logging in Armenia.</p> <p>In 2005 the Government approved "Action plan for mitigating actions to help address the problems associated with illegal logging", which was aimed at the reduction of illegal use of forests in Armenia.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
The main issue is the population's poverty, especially in rural areas and in small settlements, due to which the human impact on ecosystems has been reinforced and illegal use of natural resources. There is lack of updated information about bioresources, as well as amounts subject to use.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			
In the structure of the National Academy of Sciences there is a section of plant resources, which shall ensure the relevant information about bioresources of the republic. However, the economic hardships			

of recent years do not permit to conduct broad-based researches.

Box X.

Target 4.3		No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No		X	
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No		X	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
NBSAP envisages the following actions:			
- develop mechanisms for ratification and implementation of "Convention on international trade of endangered flora and fauna species";			
- establish an inter-ministerial licensing commission for import and export of bioresources.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Armenia has not yet ratified "Convention on international trade of endangered flora and fauna species". In case of exporting to or importing in Armenia the types of wild flora and fauna regulated by the aforementioned convention the Russian supervision federal services undertakes the functions of the convention's administrative body.			

The "Law on Flora" and "Law on Fauna" envisage that the export from and import to Armenia of flora and fauna entities is performed upon the permit of the state authorized body, i.e. Ministry of Nature Protection's bioresearches management agency. In case of exporting wild species they take into account the permits issued in the past for hunting of animals and collection of plants, which are issued based on the evaluation of populations.

The order for import and export of flora and fauna species is regulated by the Government Resolutions # 1173 and # 1174 dated 18.07.2002.

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

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

Lack of reliable background data to evaluate the state of wild flora and fauna species.

Postponement of ratification of "Convention on international trade of endangered flora and fauna species".

Insufficient awareness about the issue by the relevant entities; lack of indicators and methodology guidelines for customs services.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XI .

Goal 5	Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.		
Target 5.1	Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>The 6 meter increase of the Lake Sevan's level has been adopted as target objective in "Law on approving the annual and complex plans on rehabilitation, conservation, reproduction and use of the Lake Sevan's ecosystem" (27.12.2001), which will contribute to the reduction of natural habitats of the biodiversity components or diminishing of the loss dynamics.</p> <p>The provision of the degraded forests ecosystems rehabilitation, sustainable use and development of the forests useful capacities has been stipulated as the key objective in "Armenian forest policy and strategy" document.</p> <p>The urgent need to reduce the dynamics of reduction and degradation of natural habitats of agrobiodiversity is mentioned in "Sustainable agriculture development strategy" (2004) and "Armenian food safety policy" (2004) documents.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			<p>The programs and measures being implemented in Ministry of Agriculture and organizations under its auspices have the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tension release of pastures in the proximity of settlements; - development of sustainable management coordinated mechanism in natural pastures and grasslands; - rehabilitation of density and poor grass coverage of natural pastures and grasslands; - prevention of salination and swamping of irrigated lands of Ararat valley.
b) Inland water	X		"Law on Lake Sevan" requires ensuring the positive balance in the water. The expert commission of the Lake Sevan, based on the need to rehabilitate the lake's ecosystem, has approved the idea of increasing the lake's level by 6 m.
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			

e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
<p>NBSAP has identified the following specific issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect and rehabilitate the forest ecosystems, especially the forest areas damaged in 1990-95; - Protect and rehabilitate the main water-marsh ecosystems (including the Lake Sevan, the lake Gilli and the lake Arpi); - Rehabilitate the landscape harmed as a result of industrial activities and their biodiversity. <p>“National Forest Program” stipulates that the key objective of forest rehabilitation and coverage is to protect and increase the forest covered areas – preventing the soil erosion and undesirable changes of forests’ typology composition. As a specific target they have identified the reduction of illegal logging of the forests (in 2008 as compared with 2005 by 30%) and implementation of broad-based forest rehabilitation activities.</p>			
<p>IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.</p> <p>As a result of the Lake Sevan’s level decrease 36.800 ha of lake’s bottom has been dried and as a result of drying the spawning areas the endemic fish species, i.e. the white fish and trout are on the verge of extinction.</p> <p>As a result of change of the Lake Sevan’s water regime the lake Gilli has dried. The colonies of large white small and other egg-laying birds. Due to the loss of the natural habitat the number of water birds in the Lake Sevan has been reduced – out of 159 bird species 33 rare and disappearing have been registered in the Armenian Red Book.</p> <p>Due to complex measures undertaken by the Government in 2003-2005 the level of the lake has gone up by 174 cm; around 2000 ha lake bottom has been rehabilitated. Together with the increase of the water reserves the disturbed ecosystems and their biodiversities also rehabilitate.</p> <p>During last decades there has been a critical situation in forest ecosystems. In certain areas there is forest aging and over-maturing and in other areas there are degradation and destruction of forests.</p> <p>Conditioned by energy and economic crisis as a result of massive logging they have logged around 40000 ha forest and green zones, around 7000 ha of which completely. An undesirable change of species is taking place – the valuable spelt and oak trees are replaced by species of lower value. Because of logging the protective capacities of the forests have gone down, the erosion and other negative process have become proactive; the ecological balance of the environment has been disturbed.</p> <p>In 2003 according to the assessment of international and local experts the total timber production has been 847000 m², out of which 63000 m² were officially registered. The overwhelming majority of logging has been done by the residents of 230 communities located at the distance of 5 km from the forests for heating purposes.</p>			

In recent years there has been reduction of dynamics of deterioration of forests ecosystems and natural habitats at the expense of structural reforms in the forest sector (forest conservation and use functions have been separated from the forest inspection); reinforced control over logging; improvement of social state of the forest farm personnel and increase of forest rehabilitation activities.

At present within the framework of CCD, with the purpose to rehabilitate the deteriorated lands, two projects are being implemented in Armenia – “Rehabilitation of deserted areas of Garni-Kotayk community of the Republic of Armenia” (2003-2005) and “Engineering-geological activities in Makaravanq monument of Tavush marz of the Republic of Armenia” (2003-2005).

The state of the natural pastures and grasslands is extremely concerning in Armenia. Currently they occupy around 1012,900 ha, of which the grasslands 127,800 ha, pastures 885,100 ha (Government Resolution #2243 of December 22, 2005). The natural pastures and grasslands are on 700-3700 m above sea level, in six different eco-geographical zones from desert-semi-desert up to sub-alpine and alpine. The vegetation of the natural pastures and grasslands of the republic is quite abundant and comprises around 1090 species of flower plants, which belong to 462 gene and 88 families. In most cases the dominants of natural pastures and grasslands are representatives of grains. At present the biodiversity of natural pastures and grasslands of the republic has been subjected to significant changes in regard of the population's number and individual species. In the past the alpine zone meadows of all mountain chains were in poor state due to overgrazing. At present in Geghama and Pambak mountain chains, Aragats the situation has even worsened and in Tashir, Megri, Kapan, Goris, Sisian regions the overgrazing issue is not that acute and one can observe a rehabilitation process of deteriorated areas. As a result of measures implemented by Ministry of Agriculture aimed at the easing of pastures at the proximity of settlements there has been a decrease of loss dynamics of pastures' ecosystems deterioration and fodder plants.

Within “In-situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives through Strengthening of Information Management and Use of Modern Technologies” UNEP/GEF project they envisage to develop management plant of “Erebuni” reserve; monitoring of the area, which will contribute to the considerable reduction of the dynamics of reduction of populations of wild relatives of grain plants and prevention of loss of disappearing species.

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

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

The reduction of industrial activities at present is an important factor contributing to slowing down the dynamics of deterioration of the natural habitats. However, from the other hand the negative human impact on ecosystems and biodiversity has also grown. The damage incurred to the nature as a result of unmanageable exploitation of bioresources (especially logging) is connected with dire socio-economic conditions of the republic; energy crisis and destitution of a large walk of population. The privatization of the land; considerable expansion of civil works during last years; tangible activation in agriculture, tourism development also have a negative impact – not only reducing the habitats of the biodiversity components, but also leading to their deterioration.

To increase the level of the Lake Sevan and rehabilitate the quality of the water it is necessary to ensure the rehabilitation activities of Arpa-Sevan tunnel's emergency sector; to accelerate the activities aimed at the clearing of the littoral areas of the lake that will be covered with water from buildings; undertake rehabilitation or building of sewerage and cleaning facilities of large settlements.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

In 2005 with joint efforts of broad walks of society; NGOs and Ministry of Nature Protection, as well as thanks to the campaign aimed at fight against the construction of highway through the territory of "Shikahogh" reserve implemented by CEPF-WWF they managed to prevent the construction of highway through the territory of "Shikahogh" reserve, the implementation of which could have a crucial importance for unique ecosystems for entire Southern Caucasus. In "Shikahogh" reserve the building of the highway threatened the deterioration of considerable part of the territory, division of the flora and fauna and as a result worsening of natural habitat of various species and their extinction (including rare; disappearing and endemic). Thanks to broad scale campaign the Government adopted a new decision to build the road on the margins of the reserve.

Box XII.

Goal 6	Control threats from invasive alien species.		
Target 6.1	Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>With the purpose to meet the obligations stemming from the biodiversity conventions the adopted "Law on Flora" (1999); "Law on Fauna" (2000) and "Law on the Lake Sevan" (2001), in individual articles of which it is prohibited to illegally import and export the flora and fauna organisms for acclimatization and selection purposes.</p> <p>The state quarantine service inspects the main transportation routs; however, the attention is focused exclusively on known quarantines weeds and agriculture and forest pests. The penetration of alien invasive species presenting potential threat for the natural ecosystem is not under special control.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			"Law on plants conservation and plants quarantine" (2000) stipulates the supervision over the agriculture pests and their prevention from penetration into the territory of the republic.
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
In NBSAP a range of measures have been mentioned, which are aimed at the control of introduced and invasive species:			

- include measures to limit the species in the ministerial plans and action plans of species' conservation;
- train the customs officers on important and endangered species requiring import and export permits;
- set up regulation on introduced fish species treatment in the pools;
- introduce a survey to identify and control the spread of imported species and their impact on biodiversity.

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

The country's policy towards the invasive species is based on the relevant articles of Laws (on flora; fauna) and the Government Resolutions.

According to the Government's relevant decrees (see target 4.3, section IV) the import and export of plants and animals into the Republic of Armenia is done in case of having a permit issued by Ministry of Nature Protection.

However, the spontaneous or predetermined penetration sources of invasive species are numerous. Source of casual introduction can be individual fish farms, which in order to get commercial fish use natural water ecosystems – rivers, reservoirs.

There are 4 invasive species in the Lake Sevan – white fish, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Carassius auratus* and crayfish.

The white fish is a valuable fish species. It has been transported to the lake in 1920-30s with the purpose of acclimatization. In the lake it had a free environmental niche and up to date it has abundant nutrition and is not a competitor with other fish species.

Carassius auratus is a fish of lower value. It penetrated the lake in 1980s and is a serious competitor for the other fishes in the lake. It eats everything. Eats several times more than other fishes and has achieved considerable quantitative development.

Cyprinus carpio has penetrated into the lake together with *Carassius auratus*. It is also a fish of lower value; however, its development in the lake is oppressed.

For crayfish in the lake there are favorable development and growth conditions. The nutrition is not limited.

Ondatra is one of the aggressive invasive species of the fauna; the area of the development of it is rapidly growing. Having destroyed the vegetation in the area of Ardenis lake, which is necessary for grey-eyed diver's egg laying, the *ondatra* has seriously reduced the population of that bird.

Although there are special services in the republic, one cannot say for sure that all the ways of penetration and import of invasive species are under reliable control. This comes to speak about the fact that during last 2 years in the territory of the republic they have registered one more introduced invasive species – false Japanese armored. Recently they have discovered one more invasive plant - *Allanthus altissimo*, which has started to penetrate into the natural ecosystems. By and large around ten plant species seriously endanger the balance of the natural ecosystems. In 2005 in Institute of Botany of NAS they have started research activities aimed at the evaluation of the spread of invasive species and their impact on the natural ecosystems. The list of Armenia's invasive flora and fauna species list has been prepared.

The activities of special services are aimed against the penetration of invasive species into the territory of the republic. Since 1972 in Armenia there is state quarantine service – state inspectorate of plants' quarantine and land cultivation. In marzes the quarantine inspectorate has local points, which control the spread of invasive species on the spots.

In quarantine list they have registered 5 species of agriculture plants' pests; 2 species of weeds and 3 diseases.

The import of disease that might endanger the animal and human life is also under control, which is implemented by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture.

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

Number of newly discovered species.

Frequency of encountering of individual invasive species.

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

The main challenge is underestimation of the importance of the issue and as a result of it lack of funding, personnel and material basis.

In its activities the quarantine inspectorate is guided by old guidelines; there is no reliable information about new potential invasive species; there are not relevant manuals and guidelines in Armenian.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XIII.

Target 6.2	Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
With its Resolution # 1840 (2004) the Government envisaged the evaluation of the impact of alien invasive and introduced species on the ecosystems, natural habitats and biodiversity and measures to regulate the use.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			

e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
See 6.1: section III			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
No program or measure has been developed or introduced for the fight against the alien species, as they have not evaluated yet the impact and size of danger of those species on the natural ecosystems; habitats or individual indigenous species.			
Crucian carp and crayfish continue to successfully grow in the Lake Sevan. For commercial purposes in the natural and artificial ponds of approximately all the marzes of the republic they breed spawn crayfish. No measures are undertaken for fight against <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> and crayfish; crayfish is a commercial target. Since 2004 they work over evaluating the reserves of the crayfish in the lake and preventing the volumes of fishing. <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> is deemed as lower value fish species. The main way to fight against it is to allow unlimited fishing for it during all the months of the year, as well as the spawning period.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
Lack of information about the impact of alien species on the ecosystem of Armenia; lack of research projects in that direction.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			
Besides the obvious negative impact of the pests on the agriculture, any alien species can have a negative impact on the normal processes of ecosystems (for example as a result of competition and worsening of habitat conditions of indigenous species). In Armenia there are many alien water animals, like a range of fishes (white fish, <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> , <i>Carassius auratus</i> , gambuzia, etc); river crayfish, nutria; ondatra. These species have been imported partially on purpose and partially invaded to the reservoirs from fish breeding and animal breeding farms. However, the invasion of some of these species, especially of white fish and less <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> and crayfish, into ecosystems during the years has created a new situation, which at present shall be considered as stable. Besides, the aforementioned species have become an important part of the country's food security, hence, the fight against them is groundless.			

Box XIV.

Goal 7	Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.
Target 7.1	Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change

I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No		X	
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		X	
Please provide details below.			
<p>The list of measures aimed at the reduction of ecosystems vulnerability is presented in the first national report on climate changes in Armenia; some additional measures are envisaged in the national action plan for CCD. NBSAP does not include the climate change issues in the form of individual actions, however certain activities are consistent with the target, especially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protect and rehabilitate the biodiversity of the main water-marsh ecosystems (including the lakes Sevan, Gilli and Arpi); - rehabilitate the rare and commercially rich forests – ensuring their natural reproduction; - determine the optimal proportion of the surfaces of pastures and grasslands and pastures for various landscapes. <p>The Government Resolution “On approving the list of measures to meet the commitments of Armenia stemming from a range of international environmental conventions” # 1840-N dated 02.12.04 envisages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elaborate of policy and strategy on the development of adjustability of the climate changes, reduction of green house gases and absorbers; 			

- establishment of mechanism for the development, exchange and application of technologies contributing to the reduction of green house gas emissions, as well as to adjust to the consequences of the climate change.

The following measures are envisaged in the National Forest Program (2005):

- fostering the forestry/forest rehabilitation activities within clean development mechanisms;
- evaluation of forest vulnerability as a result of climate change;
- development of measures aimed at the increase of forest adjustability;
- capacity evaluation of carbon absorption from the atmosphere of rehabilitating and newly planting forests.

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

In the National Forest Program they have calculated that the efficient forest coverage of the republic shall constitute 20,1%, if forest covered territories expand by around 266,5 thousand ha. Given that there are many eroded lands in the country (around 44% of country's territory), of which more than 60% as a result of extreme erosion are useless for commercial use, while calculating the effective forest coverage they have given a priority to the mitigation of erosion process of mountain slopes and through forest improvement return to the commercial use the lands out of agriculture use.

In Institute of Botany of NAS they have started to evaluate the impact of the climate change on the ecosystems. The need for such studies has been mentioned in the first national guidebook on climate change (1998); however, up to 2005 the mentioned activities have not been performed.

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

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

Lack of data about changes of ecosystem due to climate change, first of all in the etalon zones, where those changes can be observed.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XV.

Target 7.2	Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X
Please provide details below.		
NBSAP identifies the following targets:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop mitigating mechanism with the purpose to diminish the negative economic impact on the biodiversity, at the same time ensure the determination of the real market values of the biore-sources; - use environmental friendly technologies to ensure the conservation of biodiversity. 		
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).		

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>NASP envisages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop and implement a project to directly oversee the human impact on the natural environmental ecosystems; - implement monitoring of stored chemical and industrial wastes and biodiversity risk assessment to mitigate it; - conduct a study about the impact of the used pesticides and fertilizers on biodiversity. <p>In the national action plan for CCD in Armenia they mention the need to improve the waste management legislation; however, it is not linked with the issues of biodiversity.</p> <p>With the purpose to complexly study the lymnosystem of Sevan the Government has approved "Monitoring of contamination state of water sites and air basin" and "Hydro-meteorological monitoring conducted in the Lake Sevan and its basin" program. Within the first program in 29 observatory points of the Lake Sevan and its watershed they will implement a monitoring of the water contamination. The purpose of the second program is to acquire additional equipment and technical devices for water and atmosphere monitoring.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>As by 2003 data in Armenia every year they generate 300 million cubic meter of waste water, approximately 60% of which without any purification flows into open reservoirs and the rest 40% is subjected to only mechanical purification.</p> <p>The waste waters generated in the basin of the Lake Sevan without purification and decontamination are channeled to the Lake Sevan. The main industrial sectors of the basin used to be: machine tool; chemical; food; wood processing and textile industries. Today those enterprises are not functioning or functioning at lower capacities. However, deteriorated substances; chlorines; sulfates; azoth reactions; oil products, phosphates; iron; copper, etc. are channeled to the lake through unpurified streams.</p>			

There are many settlements on the shore of the Lake Sevan, include 4 large towns. The rural areas do not have water waste systems. Only the towns have sewerage systems in the littoral area, the waters of which are not purified in urban station.

The study of the state of water waste and sewerage water purification in the basin of the Lake Sevan; evaluation of biological contamination in the littoral area of the lake identified poor state of hygiene – with violation of hygiene norms.

Based on the evaluation of the accumulation, removal, decontamination study of industrial and solid domestic wastes and degree of contamination of littoral areas in Gegharkunik marz development program they have included recommendations about building up economic-domestic and industrial wastewater purification stations and processing enterprises for solid wastes.

Under the conditions of lack of purifying stations there has been no reduction of the level or degree of external environment in the biodiversity.

In the republic some studies are being implemented aimed at the gauging the impact of various contaminants on the environment (heavy metals; chemical materials, etc). The overwhelming part of those surveys is being implemented on the borders of the settlements and less outside of their borders. So far there have been no complex surveys, based on which one could evaluate the impact of the contamination on the biodiversity.

“Environmental Survival” NGO has implemented “Reduction of negative impact of dabagh industry on the ecosystem of the river Hrazdan” sub-project, within which they studied the water world of the river Hrazdan; evaluated the impact of the industrial enterprises on the biodiversity of the river and rehabilitation of purification station has been done for “Kashi” CJSC.

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

An indicator for the contamination of the Lake Sevan is the number of materials surpassing the boundary permissible values, number of waters used during the industrial process and their quality.

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

In 1995 the Government has started the privatization of industrial enterprises. The application of clean technologies and organization of the production in the aforementioned enterprises, as well as upgrading of purification stations require huge financial investments.

Lack of legal and normative framework. Lack of safe storage and processing possibilities for dangerous wastes. Insufficient material-technical base for controlling entity – especially insufficiency of laboratory equipment.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XVI .

Goal 8	Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods.		
Target 8.1	Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
With this formulation the target is not stipulated in the program document; however, the goods or services provision support by ecosystems on the national level is reflected in the action plans of environmental bias, as well as in socio-economic development plan of the country. The measures aimed at the improvement and rehabilitation of water ecosystems; forests, as well as pastures and grasslands and pastures directly contribute to the relevant capacity enhancement of ecosystems from the standpoint of provision of goods (fish products; fodder and medical herbs; timber; non-timber products of the forest, etc) and services (recreation, ecotourism; mitigation of the climate, etc).			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			See targets 1.2 and 5.1; sections II, III
b) Inland water			See targets 1.1 - 4.1
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			See targets 1.1 - 4.1
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
The following activities are in compliance with target NBSAP, which in their turn include more than 50 measures: - improvement of evaluation and supervision of sizes of bioresources use; - fostering of sustainable use methods in the agriculture; - fostering sustainable use of forest resources; - fostering sustainable fishing;			

- fostering of sustainable use of bioresources;
- fostering of sustainable use by local communities;
- development of sustainable use mechanisms in the proximity of specially protected area by the local communities;
- establishment of mechanisms for the rehabilitation of forest resources and reduction of the impact on the forests;
- development and implementation of sustainable ecotourism encouraging programs.

Actually in NBSAP they have included approximately all the areas and issues, including the agriculture, inland waters, forest.

The "Strategy for Development of Agriculture in Armenia" envisages the solution of the given target in agro-systems and pastures and grasslands.

In the National Forest Program adopted in 2005 a special focus is drawn to the development of ecotourism, recreation and hunting farms, as well as increase of volumes of effective use of forest products.

The goods and services support by forest ecosystems is linked with the forest certification issue, which is envisaged in the forest development programs. At present the first steps in the direction of forest certification are performed within "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" project – in the phase of certification preparation of Zikatar model forest.

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

With a purpose to solve the aforementioned target a range of laws and the Government Resolutions have been passed, of which are:

- "Law on environmental and nature use fees" (1998);
- "Law on compensation tariffs for the damage incurred to the flora and fauna as a result of environmental legal violations" (2005);
- The Government Resolution "On approving the rules of amateur hunting and fishing; fishing and hunting of animals that are not subject to hunting on the territory of the Republic of Armenia" (2004);
- The Government Resolution "On approving the order of concluding contracts on using the objects of the fauna for social purposes" (2003);
- The Government Resolution "On approving the order of concluding contracts and issuing user license for the use of the objects of fauna for agricultural and industrial purposes in the Republic of Armenia" (2002).

In the republic the use of bioresources for the industrial purposes is done on the basis of licenses of permits issued by bioresources management agency of Ministry of Nature Protection. However; the sustainable use of bioresources envisages stipulation of amounts subject to use, for which one needs exact data on bioresources management and inventory. Often those are missing and there are not clear principles developed for the evaluation of the resources.

Water, fish products and crayfish are of commodity value in the natural resources of the water ecosystems. In recent past the Lake Sevan and rivers flowing into the lake were rich of fish species, which would meet the food needs of the population. Because of reduction of the river flow; contaminations of the water systems and poaching the fish reserves have gone drastically down. If in 1996 the total fishing of white fish was 3100t, then in 2004 it was 420. The fishing of crucian carp in recent years was around 400-500t.

Sazan has commercial significance in the lake Arpi, the annual fishing of which makes 500t, the reservoir has lost its commercial significance. The annual fishing (white fish, trout, etc) in the reservoir of Ketchut makes 150-200t.

The light rivers have important fishery significance; however, there the conservation of the fish reserves is insufficient. The rivers are not only significantly contaminated with stream waters, but also their water regime is disturbed during irrigation phase.

The activities of "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" program are aimed at the establishment of sustainable management mechanisms of the natural resources in Gegharkunik and Tavush marzes and poverty reduction through their implementation. The activities envisaged by the program include improvement of biodiversity conservation and use mechanisms of the mountains; forests; meadows; steppes and water ecosystems. The direct objective of the program is to improve the population's socio-economic state, support the rehabilitation of natural pastures and grasslands, prevention of landslides and water erosion through rehabilitation and sustainable use of deteriorated forests.

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

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

Lack of accurate data on bioresources registration; the amounts of bioresources' use established by licenses are not effectively controlled.

The quantitative growth of commodities provided by ecosystems can be ensured only by the means of conservation of land and water ecosystems; creation of processing enterprises and prevention of illegal use and poaching; however, to implement the aforementioned activities one shall have huge material and human resources.

The frequent violations of forest and forest resources use are hampering the development of ecotourism in that area. The strong impact of human factor on the nature, especially the lack of environmental knowledge among rural population, delay the dynamics of rehabilitation of natural ecosystems.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XVII.

Target 8.2	Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X
Please provide details below.		
<p>The target is included in a range of strategic documents and decrees of the Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "National forest policy and strategy of the Republic of Armenia" 2005; - "Action plan for mitigating actions to help address the problems associated with illegal logging" 2005; - "National Forest Program of the Republic of Armenia" 2005. 		

The Government Resolution # 880 dated 2005 envisages development of natural pastures and grasslands sustainable use mechanism. The same issue is also stipulated in "Sustainable agriculture growth" (2004).

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

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			<p>According to "Law on approving the annual and complex plans of measures of rehabilitation, conservation, reproduction and use of the ecosystem of the Lake Sevan" (2001) among other measures the following issues have been identified as primary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by the means of setting up norms and regulations in the Lake Sevan and its watershed basin reduction of negation anthropogenic impact on the lake's ecosystem and its individual components and prevention of their further degrading; - conservation, rehabilitation and reproduction of rare, endemic and scientifically and commercially high value biodiversity species;. <p>The Government Protocol Resolution "On approving the annual plans of the Lake Sevan's ecosystems rehabilitation, conservation, reproduction and use 2004 (06.11.2003) and 2005 (30.09.2004) envisaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - study, evaluation and forecast of changes of the components of ecosystems; - scientific researches in "Sevan" national park. Registration of wild flora and fauna resources in the lake and watershed basin of the lake and identification of the permissible criteria. - replenishment of fish reserves. Reproduction of the valuable and rare fish species. Conservation of gene pool.
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			<p>"Action plan for mitigating actions to help address the problems associated with illegal logging" (2005) envisages the following activities: reduction of rural poverty; development of community forest programs; provision of alternative fuel; rehabilitation of forest institutions and establishment of capacities; forest certification, etc.</p> <p>"National Forest Plan of the Republic of Armenia" (2005) envisages increase of effective forest products, which will</p>

			lead to the improvement of social condition of the population.
f) Mountain			In 2005 with the support of FAO they developed "Sustainable development strategy of mountainous and high mountainous" project, where in an individual section they presented "Strategy of effective use of the natural resources and conservation of environment". They have identified the main environmental objectives, goals, priority directions for sustainable development in mountainous areas and developed investment recommendations for the sustainable use of bioresources.
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>Activities envisaged in NBSAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improvement of evaluation and supervision of bioresources usage amounts; - fostering of sustainable use methods in agriculture; - fostering of sustainable use of forest resources; - fostering of sustainable fishing; - fostering of approaches of sustainable use of bioresources; - establishment of mechanisms for forest resources rehabilitation and reduction of impact on forests. <p>In "National Forest Program of the Republic of Armenia" it is mentioned that one of the priority directions of additional forest use is the development and introduction of mechanism for the effective use of agricultural lands in forest areas.</p> <p>Within "Action plan for mitigating actions to help address the problems associated with illegal logging" they envisage the development of community forest programs, which include implementation activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishment of users' associations; - development of community forest management plans; - pre-commercial and commercial logging as by approved forest management plans; - sustainable storage of non-timber products. 			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>In Gegharkunik marz has got one of the highest poverty incidence - around 65%. The main welfare of the population for many years was the fishing. The population was involved either in fishing or fish trading or fish processing. By and large around 30% of the population was involved in fishing industry. However, year by year there is a tendency of reduction of fish reserves and resources fee for the use of white fish has become a heavy burden for the poor walk of the population and it became the main reason of increasing poaching.</p> <p>To export to the international market the Armenian fish products and crayfish, according to the requirements of EU food bureau's fish products section, in 2004 upon the Resolution of the Government, the Ministry of Health is the authorized body to issue fish product export licenses.</p> <p>Within the framework of USAID DAI "Armenia agriculture small and medium enterprises market de-</p>			

velopment” project they have identified the possible role of small fisheries in the fish export development. After saturating the internal market Armenia can export up to 4000-5000 t of fish.

One of the most crucial objectives of management plans development within “Natural resources management and poverty reduction” project is to ensure the balance between the biodiversity conservation and welfare improvement of the local population. The implementing activities are aimed at the establishment of mechanisms for the sustainable management of the natural resources and poverty reduction by their means. The project implements the community pastures sustainable management by applying the fertilizers in overgrazed pastures and identify the zones forbidden for grazing.

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

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

The key challenge is poverty reduction. Under the circumstance of low welfare the burden on natural resources is increasing and control of the challenge becomes impossible.

The low education and awareness level of the population; insufficiency of the natural resources management; lack of employment for population; lack of inter-sectoral investments for subsistence; violations of laws and regulations and non-implementation of preventive measures; unstable situation of the country's economy, as a result of which the storing organizations - especially medical herbs, edible wild legumes, mushrooms, berries, etc – strive for getting maximum income at short period of time.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XVIII.

Goal 9	Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities.		
Target 9.1	Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
<p>“Fostering sustainable use of bioresources by local communities” activity is designated for the solution of the issue mentioned in NBSAP, which includes the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop a range of pilot projects for dissemination of traditional approaches of biodiversity use; - develop mechanisms for the adjusting the principles of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to the local experience; - implement continuous training and education programs about sustainable use of biodiversity – aimed t the local communities; - develop grant scheme – to foster the traditional biodiversity experience and sustainable use in the local communities. 			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

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

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XIX.

Target 9.2	Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XX.

Goal 10	Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.		
Target 10.1	All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>The national objectives concerning the transfer of genetic resources in compliance with “Convention on Biological Diversity” and other international treaties have not been identified in the official strategic or legislative documents approved by the Government. This target is indirectly regulated by a range of existing laws. In particular, the “Law on Nature Specially Protected Areas” regulates the use of bioresources in specially protected area of different categories; “Law on Flora” and “Law on Fauna” stipulate the rights and obligations of users of genetic resources, including the privatization and incomes of the results of bioresources use. According to “Law on selection achievements” (1999) the author of the selection species is entitled to use the selection specie, as well as envisages the use of selection achievement by other persons for non-commercial purposes – for experiments and as background material to get other species.</p> <p>Armenia has not joined yet the International Treaty on PGRFA; however this process is fostered by the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			In a range of projects and programs of regional cooperation in compliance with the principles of “Convention on Biological Diversity” the implement the transfer and exchange of genetic material for the following purposes: - enrichment of genetic collections; - experiments of species and introduction into culture; - reliable conservation of gerplazma as a copy of collection.
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
Within "Evaluation of needs for the establishment of primary capacities for the biodiversity" (UNDP/GEF 2002) project they have developed "Accessibility of genetic resources, fair distribution of profit received from their use", which according to Bonn principles stipulates the key principles of provision, use and acquisition of genetic resources – based on fair and equal mechanism of profit distribution.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
In Armenia they have not developed yet the mechanisms for the use and applied results of genetic resources on mutually agreed conditions, as well as for the transfer of genetic material.	
For scientific and education purposes the transfer of genetic material, including the samples of live and dead collections, upon the request of various countries is still done of free of charge basis.	
The decision about the transfer of genetic material is made by the institution having collection and the export permit is issued by Ministry of Nature Protection.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
The lack of a monitoring system for the collection and transfer of genetic material can contribute to the quantitative reduction of this or that species population.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XXI .

Target 10.2	Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
The target, as it is, is not formulated in the official documents (national strategic plans and legislation). The laws, mentioned in the target 10.1 section I, are indirectly dealing with these issues.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			Although many programs and projects being implemented in the Ministry of Agriculture and institutions under its auspices do not chase an objective of joint use of the profit; however, they envisage fair and equal distribution

			of the proceeds received from the use of the resources with the countries having them allocated those resources. The income received are of monetary nature and envisages: - legally equal distribution of the material during the registration, co-authoring and scientific publications of selection achievement; - training and exchange of experience.
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
The principles of distribution of proceeds received from the commercial or other activities of genetic resources are presented in "Accessibility of genetic resources, strategy of fair distribution of the proceeds received from their use". (see target 10.1, sections I, II).			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target. The benefit sharing, as a rule, is not a primary objective of the joint program, project or research implemented with the country providing with genetic resources. During the international programs implemented in the country some of the mechanisms for the joint sharing of the proceeds received as a result of use of genetic resources: - equal distribution of genetic materials collected during scientific expeditions among seeds' collections of participating countries; - education and training; - provision of informational materials, etc.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target. Lack of laws and normative acts regulating the issues of equal and fair distribution of the proceeds received from the use of genetic resources. Lack of information about possible proceeds of existing genetic resources and provided gerplazma.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XXII.

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

Box XXIII.

Target 11.2	Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water			
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and sub humid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)

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

Box XXIV.

Target 1. A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Since 1950s by the funding from the state budget of Armenia they publish "The flora of Armenia" multi-volumes. The last volumes 9 and 10 have been published with the support of foreign sponsors.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
A range of programs of study of flora of Armenia are approved by Ministry of Science and Education – other programs by National Academy of Sciences.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
So far they have published 10 volumes of "The flora of Armenia", where they have included information about 90% of species of the country's flora. Now they prepare the last volume dedicated to grains. Given the fact that more than 50 years have passed since preparation and publication of the last volume, they have started the revision of the data concerning the flora, which will be included in one volume of "The identification of the flora of Armenia".	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
The "Law on Flora" establishes the order for conducting the registration of objects of flora and scientific researches in Armenia.	
The survey of taxonomic composition of the Armenian flora is a primary issue of the Institute of Botany of NAS. As a scientific-research program it is included in the working plan of NAS and approved by the Ministry of Science and Education.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	

After the preparation of II National Report (2001) they have studied the families of monocotyledonous of Armenia; the state, spread and environmental characteristics of around 400 species have been identified.

Indicators – total number of studied species; quantitative changes of known species (identification of new species for the republic's flora; studies of new species for science; exclusion of species from the composition of flora); changes of areas of species.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of funding for taxonomic programs, especially for field works; lack of highly qualified plant specialists (classification, taxonomic specialists and florists).

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXV.

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

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

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

No such national program has been identified; however the scientists, as well as the Government perceive the need for such process. The conservation of the species registered in the Armenian Red Book is regulated by "Law on Flora" and "Tariffs for compensation for the damage incurred to flora and fauna as a result of violation of environmental legislation"; Criminal Code; Administrative Code and a range of decrees of the Government.

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

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

The following is mentioned in NBSAP as measures:

- revise and publish new Armenian Red Book – using the updated information and advanced criteria ;
- implement research programs to evaluate the spread and state of population of commercially valuable species.

The National Forest Plan envisages:

- implementation of programs aimed at the prevention of loss of natural habitats of individual species of biodiversity and conservation of pivotal species;
- identification, mapping and implementation of protective measures for etalon ecosystems for the conservation of rare and disappearing species of forest biodiversity.

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

In 2005 CEPF approved a draft according to which they shall develop the red list of the plants of Caucasus region. In Institute of Botany of NAS they have started the preparatory activities for that project, during which they will list the species of Armenian flora that need to be evaluated according to IUCN criteria.

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

Within preparation of red list of the plants of Caucasus project for the first time they evaluated the state of certain rare tree-bush species' population according to modern standards of IUCN. Within "Establishment of cadastre for specially protected area of nature" project they have inventoried and listed the sites of flora of the reserves and national parks of Armenia and within "Management of protected areas and biodiversity conservation" sub-component of "Conservation of natural resources and poverty reduction" project through the field researches they have registered the floristic diversity of "Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)
Indicators – number of evaluated species.
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target
Lack of funding for field works; insufficiency of highly qualified specialists.
VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXVI.

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

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
In NBSAP one strategic direction is fully dedicated to sustainable use of plants, including a range of activities for the implementation of that target, including:	
– develop and adopt amounts of use of bioresources (including medical herbs and edible plants);	
– develop procedures for the use of the most vulnerable species, etc.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Actually at present no scientific research is conducted in the aforementioned area. In the division of plants resources of Institute of Botany of NAS such programs are not funded.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
In 2002 in Ministry of Nature Protection they have created an agency for bioresources management, which inter alia is also responsible for providing with the permissible amounts for the use of the natural resources of flora. However, so far during the issuance of permits for the collection/storage of natural objects they have not applied scientifically justified data about the amounts of the given flora and their use – due to the lack of the latter.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	

The number of plant species, for which they have evaluated the existing resources and amounts of sustainable use.
Number of plant species, for which they have developed sustainable use models.
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target
Lack of highly qualified professionals, lack of funding.
VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXVII.

Target 4. At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
See target 1.1.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
See target 1.1.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
See target 1.1 and 1.2.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p>In 2002 the Government approved "State strategy and national action plan for the development of specially protected area of Armenia's nature", within the framework of which the state budget allocates resources for the implementation of the measures aimed at the establishment of specially protected area.</p> <p>From the point of flora and vegetation conservation the establishment of "Arpi" national park is of great importance – with a purpose of conservation of Vayots Dzor marz biodiversity, especially wild relatives of the cultivations plants; unique monuments of nature; establishment of reserve with a purpose of protecting the rare isolated asp forests of Ashotsq, as well as the establishment of "Kirants" natural park with the purpose of protecting the biodiversity of the ecosystems, especially the relic species.</p>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - surface of specially protected area; - number of plant species growing in specially protected area, including endemic, rare and extinguishing. 	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXVIII.

Target 5. Conservation of fifty percent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
With the aforementioned formulation the target is not identified. The richness and uniqueness of the flora of the area are important preconditions for the establishment of specially protected area of nature.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The aforementioned issue is included in "State strategy and national action plan for the development of specially protected area of Armenia's nature" approved by the Government Protocol Resolution # 54 dated December 26, 2002. In SSDSPANAP they emphasize the development of criteria of the selection of SPAN, establishment of new SPAN (including with new status) and improvement of the present system of SPAN. (For details see box IV, target 1.2.)	
However, so far the territory of the republic is not assessed from the standpoint of richness of the plants diversity and important plants' areas have not identified.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
From the viewpoint of conservation of diversity of plants SPAN of Armenia include the most valuable parts of the country. In existing system of specially protected area of Armenia, which includes 3 reserves, 2 national parks and 23 forest reserves, as well as 2 internationally important Ramsar territories, around 70% of flora and 50% of endemic plant species are under control.	
In 2004 in the Institute of Botany of NAS they have begun activities for identification of important flora areas; at present they have identified only the areas containing endemic species. In 2005 they have inventoried the plants species of "Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks, identified territories with reserve regime. They have prepared the list of plant species of "Khosrov Forest" and "Shikahogh" state reserves; "Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	

From the standpoint of the plant diversity the conservation of the important areas is regulated by the "Law on Nature Specially Protected Areas" (1991) and "Law on Flora" (1999).

In 2002 they created the Biodiversity management agency of Ministry of Nature Protection, 3 sections of which (section of management of flora, SPAN management section and section of denparks management) perform the conservation of plant species and their habitats.

In 2002 3 state reserves and 2 national parks, which have important significance for the conservation of the plants' diversity, have been re-organized as SNCO and relevant decrees of the Government approved their statutes.

"Platan Park" forest reserve, which has been established with the purpose of protecting the only platan park in Caucasus, upon decree No1044 of the Government dated 15.07.04, has been included in the composition of "Shikahogh" state reserve, for the improvement of rare eastern species of platan and reduction of human impact.

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

The separation of especially important plant areas in Armenia started since 1958, thanks to which they establish reserves in accordance with IUCN-IV category and a range of rare, endemic or rare plant species were taken under control (keni, argatkli, sochi, mrtavardeni, etc.). However, the provision of the relevant regime in the aforementioned reserves becomes difficult due to lack of their precise boundaries and administrative staff. The specification of the boundaries of the reserves and mapping of the territories are envisaged by 2006-2007 state programs.

Indicators – the number of evaluated regions from the point of plants' diversity; number of endemic plant species in the specially protected natural zones.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

The constraints to achieving progress towards the mentioned target are linked mainly with insufficiency of financial resources and material-technical base; lack of management plans and monitoring system, as well as human potential, especially professional staff. The public awareness level is weak.

Armenia does not participate to "Global strategy of plants' conservation" process and is not included into the programs determining crucial plants' areas.

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXIX.

Target 6. At least thirty percent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.

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

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

The mentioned target is not stipulated in any strategic paper in the republic.

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

a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>In the section "Forest management and biodiversity conservation" of "National forest policy and strategy of the Republic of Armenia" (2004) document as a strategic target they mention: conservation of the forest environmental values and biodiversity and among the measures to be implemented in "National forest program of the Republic of Armenia" they have included the issue of preventing the loss of natural habitat of individual species of biodiversity and individual species.</p> <p>With the purpose of protecting the natural pastures, pay meadows and forest biodiversity a special attention is drawn on the issue of sustainable use in NBSAP, where they envisage development of regulations for the use of the most vulnerable cohabitations; preparation of guidelines for farmers about the volumes of grazing; identification of the best proportion of surfaces of pastures and grasslands and pastures in the various landscape zones; implementation of the rehabilitation programs of natural pastures and grasslands, especially alpine meadows.</p>	
<p>III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)</p> <p>The conservation of Armenian lands is performed in compliance with the national and territorial programs. The owner/users of the lands have certain obligations for the conservation of lands.</p> <p>According to 1993 registration results (the last one) the National Forest Fund constitutes 460 thousand ha, of which 334,1 thousand ha are forest covered areas, including around 50 thousand ha of artificial forests. The natural pastures and grasslands are mainly the territories of state fund, are not subject to privatization and their management is performed by the authorized state body.</p>	
<p>IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)</p> <p>In the Land Code (1991) the conservation of the land is presented in an individual section, where there is clear demarcation of the obligations of the land users. The conservation and effective use of the lands is performed on the basis of land-construction and environmental national and territorial programs. The needed measures aimed at the conservation of the lands are implemented by the owners and users at the expense of proper resources and the conservation of the state lands – at the expense of state (community) budgets.</p> <p>Within "State forests management" component of "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" for "Sevqar" and "Ijevan" forest industries they have developed forest management plans (FMP) according to the sustainable forest management principles and taking into account the biodiversity consideration. Within the same program at present the develop FMP for additional 4 forest farms. Within the "Improvement of "Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks management" sub-component of the "Management of the protected area and biodiversity conservation" component of the same program they implement "Development of participatory management plans of "Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks" program, which adopted the conservation of the plants' diversity as a priority issue.</p> <p>Within framework of "Community-based management of watershed basins" component in 9500 ha pastures of 59 communities of 2 marzes of the republic they implement methods of sustainable management, thanks to which they will ensure the conservation of the flora in highly mountainous sub-alpine and alpine zones (See also target 1.2 and 2.1)</p>	
<p>V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)</p>	

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target
Insufficient financial and material-technical resources; lack of human potential; poor public awareness.
Lack of mechanisms for the regulation of the optimal burden of the pastures.
VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXX.

Target 7. Sixty percent of the world's threatened species conserved <i>In-situ</i>.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
The target of protecting sixty percent of the threatened species has not been identified; however, the principles of their in-situ conservation are reflected in the "Law on Flora"; NBSAP and "State strategy and national action plan for specially protected area of Armenia's nature".	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
The target is included in a range of strategic documents and the Government Resolutions:	
- The Government Resolution # 49 "On improving the conservation of valuable tree species of the forests of the Republic of Armenia" dated 23.01.2001;	
- "National forest policy and strategy of the Republic of Armenia" 2005;	
- "Action plan for mitigating actions to help address the problems associated with illegal logging" 2005;	
- "National forest plan of the Republic of Armenia" 2005.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
387 rare and extinguishing species of Armenia, which are registered in the Armenian Red Book, are protected by the relevant articles of "Law on Flora" (1999).	
The in-situ conservation of the plants is performed mainly in the system of specially protected area (see box XXVII, target 5).	
At present they perform the inventory of certain SPAN ("Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks; "Khosrov Forest" reserve); identify the rare species and specify the state of populations. They have prepared the list of plant species of "Khosrov forest" and "Shikahogh" state reserves; "Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks.	
They have started the works over establishing new SPAN. Among them from the plant studies point of view the establishment of national park in Vayots Dozr marz and Zangezur region are of special importance. According to preliminary data on the territory of the established national park there are no less than 20 endemic species and the entire flora of the territory includes more than 1100 species of vascular plants. On the territory of the state reserve of Zangezur region there are around 30 endemic plants, as well as a range of medical and other commercially valuable plants.	

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)
By the decree # 23 dated 12.02.04 of the Minister of Nature Protection they have approved "The order of conducting of the Red Book of the plants of the Republic of Armenia and composition of the Red Book commission of the Republic of Armenia". By the decree # 98 dated 02.02.06 they approved the list of the plants included in the Red Book of Armenia, which will contribute to the improvement of the conservation of the given plants.
The type composition of the plants and the state of their populations identified as a result of plants inventory and registration implemented within "Management of the protected area and conservation of biodiversity" component of "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" will serve as a basis for the development of "Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks management.
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)
There are 387 species included in the Armenian Red Book (1989), which constitute around 12% (around 3500 species) of Armenia's vascular plants. Around 70% of vascular plants are protected in SPNZ.
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target
Due to lack of data not situational analysis of the entire territory of the republic has been conducted. The difficulties for the implementation of the aforementioned target are mainly linked with insufficiency of financial resources and specialists (classification, plants specialists; florists), especially young staff.
VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXI.

Target 8. Sixty percent of threatened plant species in accessible <i>Ex-situ</i> collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 percent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
The target is not mentioned, however, its substance is reflected in "Law on Flora" and NBSAP.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	

In NBSAP the ex-situ conservation is identified as one of the strategic directions of the country and includes the following activities;

- improvement of the ex-situ conservation mechanisms;
- establishment and maintenance of nurseries and collections of plants;
- establishment and maintenance of nurseries;
- establishment and maintenance of seeds and genetic databases.

To rehabilitate the illegally logged forests in “National Forest Program” they have envisaged to use mainly indigenous plant species, for which they have envisaged to rehabilitate the seeds and seedling farms by the introduction of new technologies for growing seedlings in closed and open soil.

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

In Armenia the ex-situ conservation of the plants is performed by plants’ gardens and dendroparks, which are scientific-research, educational, environmental and training institutions. Around 6 thousand species are grown and kept here, including 5 thousand species in Yerevan Botanical Park. The aborigine flora representatives of Armenia are of special importance, which constitute 25% of the flora of the republic.

However, in recent years the state botanical collections in botanical parks and dendroparks not only hasn’t been improved, but also considerably worsened. Under the name of re-organization there has been a decrease of NAS botanical park and its branches funding, as a result of which the unique collection of Armenian flora is in extremely dire situation.

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

In 2005 the Government approved the sample statute of dendropark s.

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

Indicators – number of Armenian flora species in ex-situ conditions; number of rare and extinguishing species in the nature.

There is no progress. If 15 years ago Armenian flora collection of Yerevan Botanical Park would include more than 1000 species, then today this number is less than 600. The collection is not upgraded and there are no activities for the development of rare species.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Financial constraints; lack of specialist.

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXII.

Target 9. Seventy percent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.

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

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

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

a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
The conservation of 70% of crops genetic diversity is not stipulated in the program and strategic documents of the republic.	
In the documents listed in the text box VII, target 3.1 they have generally mentioned the need for the conservation of the plants' gene pool in situ conditions, where the advantage is given to the rare and extinguishing representative of flora, as well as ex situ conditions, where the selection and local ancient species and wild species of berries, grapes and main agricultural crops are dominant.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Approximately the half to Armenian flora needs to be protected; however, only 387 species are included in the Red Book of the country. 50 of the plant species on the verge of extinction (rare, extinguishing, and diminishing) are crop wild relatives. Those species have high socio-economic value (wheat, grain, barley, rye, pea, bean, peach, etc.), of which the knowledge of indigenous people is kept and used in the people's selection. However, the existing programs and implementing measures do not ensure the conservation of 70% of crops genetic diversity.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
There are short-term conservation seeds collections of grains and their wild relatives (Armenian Agriculture Academy – 3460 samples); melons and gourds plants (scientific center of melons and gourds breeding – 591 samples); selection species of cereals and leguminous plants (scientific center of land cultivation and plants' conservation – 6840 samples).	
They have begun the development of medium-term and short-term conservation databases of genetic resources for agriculture and food purposes.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
Indicators – number of agricultural crops in seeds collections, including ancient species and wild relatives. - Number of plants' species of socio-economic importance growing in specially protected area of nature. - number of agricultural crops, including ancient species and wild relatives kept in the seeds collections.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Lack of conditions for the long-term conservation of the samples; financial constraints connected with the maintenance of the collections; heating of green houses; care of trees, etc.	
Lack of management plans of specially protected area and monitoring in those areas, lack of on firm conservation mechanisms for ancient crop species in the farms.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIII.

Target 10. Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
They have started to study the alien species of Armenia's flora. The preliminary list of those species is developed, their spread in the republic is explained, their role and participation in the normal ecosystems is evaluated; they have started to establish a database of alien plant species as by format proposed by EU.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
In practice the provisions of "Law on plants conservation and plants quarantine" are aimed at the solution of this issue (only in agro-ecosystems).	
The scientific topic of study of invasive species is approved by Ministry of Science and Education and financed by the state budget.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
Specific activities aimed at the study of invasive species have started in spring 2005.	
Indicators – number of studied alien species; the number of those species that are endangering normal ecosystems and biodiversity; changes of areas for spread of alien species in the republic.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Insufficient funding of scientific researches; lack of highly qualified staff; undervaluation of the seriousness of the matter by scientific and state institutions of the country.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIV.

Target 11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
Armenia has not ratified "Convention on international trade of wild flora and fauna species on the verge of extinction" and the issue mentioned in the target is not primary for the biodiversity of the republic.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	

a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXV.

Target 12. Thirty percent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>This target is not included in the strategies or relevant programs; however, in the presently developed management plans for two national parks of the republic (5% of the total area of the republic) they will include activities for receive of natural raw material/product from sources managed in sustainable manner. They have also developed the management plans for 2 forest farms and development of management plans for 3 forest farms in ongoing. In the aforementioned plans they have included measures for the sustainable receipt and use of timber and non-timber forest products. The expansion of forest certification process will contribute to the solution of the same process.</p> <p>Within "Development of sustainable use of medical herbs in the Caucasus region" project in Gegharkunik marz in 2002 WWF has implemented activities for plantation growth of most used and highly demanded medical herbs. The received results are encouraging and come to prove that the receipt of the natural raw material from resources managed in sustainable manner reduces the human impact on the natural ecosystems.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
The legal framework regulating the target has been established – they have adopted the Forest Code (2005); National Forest Program (2005).	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Lack of information about resources of wild edible; medical, technical and other plants and amounts subject to use; lack of funding to conduct these surveys; lack of scientific personnel.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVI.

Target 13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>In NBSAP an entire strategic direction (sustainable use) is dedicated to the fostering of sustainable use of natural resources by the local communities. In particular they have envisaged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - foster the application of sustainable use methods of biodiversity in agriculture; - foster sustainable use of forest resources; - foster sustainable use by the local communities; - develop mechanisms of sustainable use of resources in the proximity of specially protected areas; - establish mechanisms for rehabilitation of forest resources and mechanisms of reduction of impact on them; - develop and implement sustainable eco-tourism fostering projects. 	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
At present the management plans developed for two national parks include activities aimed at the involvement of the local community population in sustainable use of natural resources.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Development of specially protected area of nature and forest management plans is a participatory process, where the local population is actively involved. During the meetings and trainings organized for them a special attention is paid to the analysis of the traditional methods and experience of botanical resources, which support the sustainable provision of subsistence.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
In NBSAP all the activities are evaluated as II and III class priorities. Consequently – as a result there is lack of funding.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVII .

Target 14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
<p>The aforementioned target is included in the sub-component 2 ("Management of state forests" and "Management of protected area and conservation of biodiversity") of "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" program and partially "National forest program of the Republic of Armenia" (2005).</p> <p>In "Self-evaluation of national capacities for global environmental management" UNDP/GEF project (2002) the issues of plants diversity and conservation are not emphasized; those are included in crossing objectives of three global conventions (Climate Change; Biodiversity and To combat Desertification), in particular connected with the environmental education and public awareness.</p> <p>In "Environmental Education Program of Armenia", the draft of which was developed in 2003, the issues of the plants conservation are not deemed separately and included in the general environmental issues.</p>	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>The implementation of the aforementioned target is implemented in different levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by the secondary education curriculum (botanical science; natural science and other courses) and education programs of middle vocational educational institutions with relevant specializations; - in specialized chairs of universities (botanical science; forest science; ecology, etc.); - by various components of "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" – in "Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks, educational regional center of Zikatar forest; - in Yerevan and marzes by national institute of education; - in Institute of Botany of NAS and botanical park; - in environmental museums (Yerevan, Gyumri, Sevan, Dilijan) and in the nature. <p>A range of informational and educative materials have been published (booklets; brochures; books, guide books), which contain information about Convention on Biological Diversity and plants diversity and conservation.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
See section III.	
"Law on population's environmental education and upbringing" (2001).	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	

No developed indicator.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of funding and personnel. Insufficiency of programs and education-methodology materials. Lack of continuing education of specialists.

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXVIII.

Target 15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
In bioresources management agency of Ministry of Nature Protection work – in botanical resources management section 7 staff; in SPAN management section 7 staff; in dendropark management section 5 staff; however, the majority are not specialists of botanic, even biologists.	
In scientific sections of two national parks and one state reserve there are 1 botanic staff in each, who still need professional training and there is not botanical scientific staff in the personnel of two reserves.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
In 2002 they established bioresources management agency of Ministry of Nature Protection and approved its statute (Government Resolution No1236 dated 08.08.02). The aforementioned agency has 4 sections, 3 of which - botanical resources management; SPAN management and dendropark management – are dealing with plants' conservation issues.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Insufficiency of funding; lack of specialists especially in marzes; lack of methodology, education and didactic materials, insufficient awareness of public.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIX.

Target 16. Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XL.

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

Ecosystem Approach

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

3. ?¹ Is your country applying the ecosystem approach, taking into account the principles and guidance contained in the annex to decision V/6? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but application is under consideration	
c) Yes, some aspects are being applied	X
d) Yes, substantially implemented	

4. ? Is your country developing practical expressions of the ecosystem approach for national policies and legislation and for implementation activities, with adaptation to local, national, and regional conditions? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but development is under consideration	X
c) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying some principles of the ecosystem approach	
d) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying most principles of the ecosystem approach	

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

6. ? Has your country promoted regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) Yes, informal cooperation (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, formal cooperation (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders.

On 24.03.2000 they established and up to date run Regional Environmental Center-Caucasus (REC-Caucasus), which has got management body, i.e. executive director, consultative body and special representatives. From Armenian in the composition of consultative body there are representatives of governmental; scientific and non-governmental organization. The activities of REC-Caucasus are aimed at the analysis of water resources management system in country; evaluation of existing monitoring system, water quality and state of biodiversity. The REC-Caucasus has got Armenian branch, which is implementing environmental issues. In the beginning of 2003 they launched "Pilot projects of Caucasus mountainous regions sustainable development – Agenda 21" project, which inter-alia aims at establishing practical grounds for the second round of Caucasus convention.

For the conservation of Caucasus regional biodiversity in the border zones of Armenia and Georgia

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

the establishment of cross-border specially protected area, which will be implemented with the support of German Rehabilitation and Development Bank, is aimed the provision of joint conservation of Javakhk plain ecosystem ("Establishment of cross-border conservation zone in Javakhk plain" project).

In 2000-2004 with the funding of USAID Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) implemented "Water Resources Management in South Caucasus" project, which included the basin of the river Kur. The goal of the project is to develop Armenia's capacities for sustainable management of water resources through applying eco-systemic approach, which in its turn will contribute to the improvement of the environment and economic development.

With the purpose to increase the public awareness in the basin of the river Debed public hearings have been organized on the topic "Environmental problems of the river Debed". The issue of the water resources, in this case of the river Debed, has been discussed in the general context, based on the eco-systemic approach.

The implementation of "Reduction of cross-border deterioration of Kur-Araks river basin" project began in 2004 (GEF/UNDP). This is the first UN funded project, which is directly aimed at the management and improvement of water eco-systems and includes 5 states located in the territory of basins of Kur-Araks rivers.

NAKRES (Georgia) and "Environmental Survival" (Armenia) non-governmental organization in the border zone of two countries have implemented a joint project "Conservation of South Caucasus arid and semi-arid eco-systems", which was aimed at the study of the relevant eco-systems and biodiversity, as well as increase of public awareness on environmental issues.

7. Is your country facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach? (decisions VI/12 and VII/11)

a) No	
b) No, some programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach.

No practical measures are being implemented, as the activities to introduce environmental approach are in the very early stage of development.

The information-analytical center of the Ministry of Nature Protection (1998) and public centers of environmental information (2002) perform public awareness activities.

In 2004-2005 within "Cooperation in the countries of Southern Caucasus" project (UNDP) sub-project "Support to the comprehensive management of water resources in the countries of Southern Caucasus" (Eurasia foundation) they have created Akhtala public environmental information center, which gains and disseminates among public information about the environmental state of the river Debed.

8. Is your country creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach, including through development of appropriate institutional frameworks? (decision VII/11)

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

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

In 2003 a range of sub-divisions in Ministry of Nature Protection have been consolidated into a greater structure - environmental conservation department. The divisions on conservation of atmosphere air; lands; biodiversity and water resources were included into the department. According to the approved statute the functions of the aforementioned department is development of principles and strategic directions for environment (atmosphere, water and land resources, biodiversity) conservation policy development and implementation.

With the purpose to solve the issues of water resources management in the composition of Ministry of Nature Protection they established water basin district management sub-divisions, the functions of which is to ensure the conservation of sanitary stream and biodiversity in the rivers.

C. ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

Article 5 – Cooperation

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

a) No

b) Yes, bilateral cooperation (please give details below)

c) Yes, multilateral cooperation (please give details below)

d) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation (please give details below)

e) Yes, other forms of cooperation (please give details below)

X

X

X

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

Armenia puts a special importance to the compliance of environmental legislation with international criteria and improvement of the mechanisms for the implementation of the international conventions. The last years are characterized by the expansion of international environmental cooperation, which has been contributed by the Armenia's involvement into the initiatives of international organizations and donor countries, as well as the experience of the country; expansion of the partners' network, more specific regulation of the activities and increase of efficiency of the cooperation with NGOs.

At present the issues of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use are in the focus of many multi-lateral and bilateral projects and initiatives. With the purpose to get technical support they continue to cooperate with UNDP, UNEP, UNECE, World Bank, GEF, OSCE, WWF, CEPF and other international financial organizations and donor countries.

In recent years the list of international environmental conventions/treaties ratified by Armenia has been replenished by Cartagena protocol of UN "Convention on Biological Diversity" aimed at the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use, which Armenia ratified in 2004.

With the purpose to implement the main provision of the conventions in 2002-2005 in Armenia with the funding of GEF they implemented the following projects:

- "Needs assessment for the primary capacities for biodiversity and establishment of information-regulatory mechanism (IRM) structure";
- "Development of Armenian national biosafety framework".

One should also mentioned GEF "In-situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives through Strengthening of Information Management and Use of Modern Technologies" project's PDF B phase, which is being implemented in 5 countries – Armenia, Bolivia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan. The goal of the project is to collect information about Armenia's genetic resources; improvement of their in-situ conservation and establishment of informational database.

Armenia is a party of Pan-European Strategy on Biological and Landscape Diversity and participants to the processes held within that strategy.

At present Armenia is a party to 15 environmental conventions and 3 protocols.

Since 1999 the issues of environmental cooperation are discussed within Armenia-Germany intergovernmental commission. They put a special importance to Caucasus initiative of German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), within framework of which they have developed and soon will launch "Establishment of protected area in Javakhk region" regional project aimed at the conservation of nature and biodiversity in the Caucasus region.

In the domain of sustainable management of bioresources Armenia cooperates with Sweden since 1998. Within "Management of state forests" component of "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" project with the support of Swedish International Development Agency they have developed "Forest Policy and Strategy", Forest Code and "National Forest Program of the Republic of Armenia" and study of illegal logging. According to Swedish International Development Agency 2006-2009 strategy additional support is envisaged for the development of Armenian forests' sector.

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

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

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

The development of regional and sub-regional cooperation is one of the most important directions of Armenia's international cooperation and in this case a special attention is drawn to bio-diversity conservation and sustainable use.

In 2003-2005 Armenia has participated to the preparatory process of environmental conferences and development of the major policy documents, including "Environment of Europe" and "Environment and Health" process, the policy program documents developed within framework of which are guidelines for the countries' further activities.

In 2004 together with other Caucasus republics Armenia has been included into EU "European Neighborhood Policy" (ENP). Based on the interests of the country and priority issues Armenia has submitted its recommendations to be included into Armenia-EU Action Plan developed within "European Neighborhood Policy", where they are going to reinforce the direction of Armenian environmental cooperation with European countries.

2005 is the first year of UN declared decade of "Education for Sustainable Development". Armenia has participated to the development of UN ECE initiated sustainable education strategy process.

In the region of South Caucasus the environmental cooperation, especially in the domain of biodiversity, proceeds with certain obstacles, the reasons of which are economic, as well as political issues. Perceiving that environmental conservations issues that outside of political issues can have a positive impact on the expansion of practical connections, Armenia is consistently leading a policy of sustainable development of relations with all the countries of the region.

In coordination of environmental cooperation of Caucasus countries the role of REC-Caucasus is great. On the regional level the cooperation is mainly performed within the framework of internationally funded international and regional environmental projects, especially supported by WWF. In 2005 in Yerevan a memorandum of understanding was signed between Ministry of Nature Protection and WWF – about cooperation in the domain of Nature Protection, which will contribute to the fostering of nature and biodiversity conservation, especially in regard of common issues of bilateral interest and their solution.

Negotiations are held about establishing a trust fund with a purpose to protect the specially protected area of the Caucasus region.

Armenia is included into UNDP, UNEP and OSCE “Environment and Security” regional initiative’s “Risk transformation cooperation” project implementation. Within the initiative they expect development of legal document aimed at the conservation of Caucasus mountainous ecosystems (“Caucasus Convention”).

Armenia has also participated to the following activities:

- Development of “Caucasus Environmental Outlook-2002”
- Development of “Conservation of biodiversity of the Caucasus Ecoregion” – with the support of WWF, which in March 2006 has been approved at the summit of the ministers of Caucasus countries.

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

a) No

b) No, but steps are under consideration

c) Yes, some steps are being taken (please specify below)

d) Yes, comprehensive steps are being taken (please specify below)

X

Further comments on the harmonization of policies and programmes at the national level.

The biodiversity component is fully reflected in the Armenian national reports prepared within the framework of FCCC and CCD, as well as projects implemented within Ramsar convention.

With the purpose to fulfill the commitments undertaken by countries within the conventions they develop relevant mechanisms, including the development of legal acts, action plans and approaches to their implementation control. In 2004-2005 the Government approved Ministry of Nature Protection developed “The list of measures to fulfill the commitments of the Republic of Armenia stemming from a range of environmental international conventions” and “The list of measures to fulfill the crossing objectives stemming from three global environmental conventions”. The aforementioned conventions ensure the harmonization of the policies on the national level in the domain of fulfilling the environmental conventions and programs, as well as interconnection of various multilateral environmental initiatives and efficiency increase.

With the purpose to implement the partnership and cooperation agreement concluded between the Republic of Armenia and EU they put the Armenian legislation, including the legislation on the conservation and use of flora and fauna, in compliance with European directives.

Box XLI.

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

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

Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use

12. Has your country put in place effective national strategies, plans and programmes to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention? (Goal 3.1 of the Strategic Plan)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant strategies, plans and programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the strategies, plans and programmes for implementing the three objectives of the Convention.	
<p>Still in 1999 in Armenia they developed the biodiversity strategy and national action plan (NBSAP), which within "Self-assessment of the national capacities for the global environmental management" (2002-2004) project has been subjected to multilateral analysis; analysis of implementation actions and measures envisaged by NBSAP; key constraints and shortcomings have been identified.</p> <p>Within UNDP/GEF "Needs assessment of the establishment of primary capacities for biodiversity" (2002) project they have developed "Availability of genetic resources, strategy of fair distribution of proceeds received from their use", as well as "State strategy and national action plan for the development of specially protected area of Armenian nature".</p>	

13. ? Has your country set measurable targets within its national strategies and action plans? (decisions II/7 and III/9)	
a) No	
b) No, measurable targets are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but measurable targets are in advanced stages of development	X
d) Yes, relevant targets are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, reports on implementation of relevant targets available (please provide details below)	
Further comments on targets set within national biodiversity strategies and action plans.	
<p>13 targets have been identified in NBSAP, which are expressions detailing the overall goal of biodiversity strategy and quantity assessments of the implementation results. However, given the large period of time passed after the development of NBSAP (around 7), the measuring units of the aforementioned targets are to be revised.</p>	

14. Has your country identified priority actions in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan? (decision VI/27 A)	
a) No	
b) No, but priority actions are being identified	
c) Yes, priority actions identified (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on priority actions identified in the national bio diversity strategy and action plan.	
<p>All the agreed actions in NBSAP are distributed as by three degrees of priorities; however, the priority degree does not mean the relevant degree of importance, it emphasizes the priority of the</p>	

measures, after which only one can start the implementation of the others.

15. Has your country integrated the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as benefit sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision VI/27 A)

a) No	
b) Yes, in some sectors (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, in major sectors (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, in all sectors (please provide details below)	

Further information on integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

In the biodiversity conservation and sustainable use topic is included in:

- complex and annual programs of the Lake Sevan ecosystem rehabilitation, conservation, reproduction and use measures, 2001 -2006;
- state strategy and national action plan for the Armenian nature's specially protected area, 2002Ä.,
- National forest policy and strategy, 2005;
- Action plan for mitigating actions to help address the problems associated with illegal logging, 2005;
- national forest program of the Republic of Armenia, 2005;
- sustainable development strategy of mountainous and highly mountainous regions (draft);
- "Millennium Development Goals" program document;
- "Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper";
- socio-economic development plans of all the marzes.

16. Are migratory species and their habitats addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan (NBSAP)? (decision VI/20)

a) Yes	
b) No	X

I) If **YES**, please briefly describe the extent to which it addresses

(a) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species	
(b) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats, including protected areas	
(c) Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration	
(d) Research and monitoring for migratory species	
(e) Transboundary movement	

II) If **NO**, please briefly indicate below

a) The extent to which your country addresses migratory species at national level	There is one activity in NBSAP about migrating species: create corridors between the protected area to contribute to the migration of the animals, which is about the same in "State strategy and national action plan for the Armenian nature's specially protected area".
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	At present they finish the process of Armenia's membership to "Convention on conservation of migrating wild species", after which the country will have to form and implement the relevant activities.
b) Cooperation with other Range States since 2000	With the support of WWF and BirdLife International with the purpose to ensure the conservation of birds, including migrating birds, they have identified junction areas, including in Armenia – 5 in the lakes Sevan, Arpi, Armash, Pambak mountain chain and Khosrov reserve. They have developed and submitted to the approval additional 13 territories' lists, where they envisage to take under conservation all the endangered species of the country's birds.

Biodiversity and Climate Change

17. Has your country implemented projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	X
b) No, but some projects or programs are under development	
c) Yes, some projects have been implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.	
The National forest policy and strategy (2004) emphasizes the forest rehabilitation issue as a means to rehabilitate the carbon absorbents and assessment of impact of the climate on the forests. A range of measures envisaged by the National Forest Program (2005) are aimed at the development of these provisions: forest rehabilitation; evaluation of forest vulnerability; increase of adjustability, etc.	
"Armenia: increase of energy-efficiency of urban heating and hot water supply" GEF/UNDP project (2005) has a certain indirect link with the conservation of biodiversity, as it implies reduction of wood for heating, which respectively will improve the situation in the area of forest biodiversity.	

18. Has your country facilitated coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, relevant mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the UNFCCC and the UNCCD.	
In "Assessment of national needs for the global environmental management" project they have analyzed the obligations of the county undertaken within 3 environmental conventions and synergy issues of the aforementioned conventions. As an important result of the project they have developed and in 2005 by the Government Resolution #800 a range of activities were established. They	

envisage development of coordination mechanism in forest management, hydro-construction and reduction of emissions.

Box XLII .

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

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

The development of measures aimed at the mitigation and adaptation of consequences of climate change is its early stage and has not been introduced yet, that is the reason that at this point it is not possible to assess their results.

Key difficulties are – lack of updated data about the impact of the climate change on biodiversity. Such surveys and monitoring has started only in 2005.

Article 7 - Identification and monitoring

19. ? On Article 7(a), does your country have an ongoing programme to identify components of biological diversity at the genetic, species, ecosystem level?

a) No	
b) Yes, selected/partial programmes at the genetic, species and/or ecosystem level only (please specify and provide details below)	X
c) Yes, complete programmes at ecosystem level and selected/partial inventories at the genetic and/or species level (please specify and provide details below)	

Further comments on ongoing programmes to identify components of biodiversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.

The bulk of the activities in biodiversity area are performed on the level of species. They study the composition of species of individual taxonomic groups of fauna (for example – beetles; reptiles; birds, etc). Certain activities are performed for zoo-complexes and their formation.

The vertebrate animals are the best studied animals – 524 species (around 100% of species) and invertebrates more than 5000 (only 30% of species).

On the level of species they continue to study the flora of Armenia. So far they have published 10 volumes of "Flora of Armenia", where they have included information about 90% of the country's flora. In recent years the main focus is on grains' families and to lesser degree the studies of vascular plants. On the genetic level they continue to study some relatives of grains; they have prepared and printed "Atlas of Armenian flora".

Approximately no studies are performed in the republic on ecosystem level. From this viewpoint best of all they have studied the water ecosystems. The Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of NAS during 2004-2000 on the level of ecosystems within "Study of hydro-chemical and hydro-biological peculiarities of Sevan-Hrazdan hydro-ecosystem with the purpose of the water quality improvement

of the Lake Sevan and the river Hrazdan and their use in various sectors" and "Identification of the role of the lake's plankton and benthos substances in the trophic relations of Sevan's lymnosystem" projects they study the ground and plankton fauna's composition study of the Lake Sevan, rivers flowing to and out of the lake and identify the change of species under the conditions of human impact.

The biodiversity studies on the genetic level also are rare and are mainly limited by the studies of chromosome composition's studies or population-genetic survey and for several individual groups (helminthes; beetles; double-winged; fishes; amphibians; reptiles; from mammals the cheiroptera). The category of mosquito has been studied in the Institute of Molecular Biology of NAS; some minor mammals (rodents; insectivorous) has been studies in the zoology chair of YSU. With a range of foreign institutions they have stared joint studies on DNA level for some snakes and helminthes (Institute of Zoology) and minor mammals (YSU).

The results of fauna studies are published in 14 volumes of "Fauna of Armenia"; 7 determinants and a range of monograms. Jointly with American University of Armenia they have implemented "Birds of Armenia" project and 2 monograms have been published (in English and Armenia) and a field determinant.

20. ? On Article 7(b), which components of biological diversity identified in accordance with Annex I of the Convention, have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes?

a) at ecosystem level (please provide percentage based on area covered)

X

b) at species level (please provide number of species per taxonomic group and percentage of total known number of species in each group)

X

c) at genetic level (please indicate number and focus of monitoring programmes)

Further comments on ongoing monitoring programmes at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.

During the development of scientific-research activities in various institutions of Armenia (mainly NAS Institutes of Botanic; Zoology; Hydro-ecology and Fish Breeding; YSY) the surveys performed for various purposes have often contained some elements of monitoring. However, the monitoring activities have not been coordinated and without targets. Often those activities have been stopped due to insufficient funding, as well as lack of highly qualified staff.

Monitoring observations are also conducted in the Lake Sevan; the rivers Hrazdan, Debed: Argichi, Makenis; Marsik; Dzknaget, Gavaraget; Lichq and Tsakaqar. The Lake Sevan occupies 90% of total space of lakes and the aforementioned rivers 30% of the river system.

They mainly study the fish world of the aforementioned water ecosystem, including in the Lake Sevan 6 species (around 3% of fish fauna). A regular monitoring for the fish reserves of the Lake Sevan is performed for the white fish that is of great economic importance.

SNCO "Reserve-park complex" of Ministry of Nature Protection implements monitoring of Ararat vordan karmir beetle.

Within "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" project since 2005 they develop mechanisms for the introduction of biodiversity monitoring system in "Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks on ecosystem (5% of the country's territory) and species (70-80 plant species, 2% of Armenian flora) levels. At present they implement the selection of indicators and their technical development. Recommendations are being developed for the selection of indicators and their technical development. Recommendations are being developed for the maintenance and management of monitoring and inventory data in GIS system.

The Specially Dangerous Infections Prevention Center of Ministry of Health implements regular monitoring of 4 species of rodents and for additional 4 species they collect data, which can be deemed as an element of monitoring (all together 8 species – around 10% of mammals fauna).

In the republic they have regularly performed registration and inventory activities of commercial animal species (fishes), some rare and extinguishing species (leopard, black eagle, bald eagle, Armenian Mouflon; Bezoar goat – see data in 2.2), as well as agriculture pests (see 6.1 and 6.2 – invasive species) and several species of rodents that are of medical importance. Annual monitoring of the status of Leopard, Armenian Mouflon and Bezoar goat populations is implemented by WWF in Southern Armenia (Ararat. Vayots Dzor and Syunik marzes).

21. ? On Article 7(c), does your country have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes on any

of the following key threats to biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) Yes, invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, climate change (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, pollution/eutrophication (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, land use change/land degradation (please provide details below)	X
f) Yes, overexploitation or unsustainable use (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on monitoring programmes on key threats to biodiversity.	
<p>“Environmental impact monitoring center” SNCO of the Ministry of Nature Protection every year regularly performs the monitoring of more than 40 rivers of Armenia. They evaluate the water use as by sectors and the amount of waste waters into the rivers. The monitoring of hydro-chemical indicators (dependant substances; PH; number of biological elements; heavy metals – iron, copper, zinc, synthetic surface active materials, oil products, DDT and DDE) enables to make forecasts about the state of water flora and fauna.</p> <p>The Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of NAS every year performs hydro-chemical surveys of the Lake Sevan and its inflows. They study the lake’s etherification process under the impact of biological elements penetrated into the lake from watershed basin. A database of around 70 years of the lake’s hydro-chemical indicators has been established.</p> <p>“Armenian hydro-metrological and monitoring state service” SNCO performs regular collection of the data about the climate of the country.</p> <p>The data about the use of the land are accumulated in the State Cadastre Committee with the Government. Ministry of Agriculture’s Scientific Center of Land Studies, Agro-chemistry and Amelioration perform limited monitoring of the land deterioration.</p> <p>In 2005 by Government Resolution #1152 in Ministry of Agriculture they establish “State monitoring center of forests” SNCO, the main objective of which was to monitor illegal logging, transportation of timber; sales and other negative activities.</p> <p>They develop biodiversity monitoring projects for “Sevan” and “Dilijan” national parks, which will include the monitoring surveys of the impact of climate change and alien species.</p> <p>In 2005 they started the collection of the data about the impact of spread of invasive species on biodiversity; they have determined the key areas (pilot areas) for the monitoring of the impact of the climate change on the flora diversity of the republic.</p>	

22. ? On Article 7 (d), does your country have a mechanism to maintain and organize data derived from inventories and monitoring programmes and coordinate information collection and management at the national level?	
a) No	
b) No, but some mechanisms or systems are being considered	
c) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are being established	
d) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are in place (please provide details)	X

below)	
e) Yes, a relatively complete system is in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the coordination of data and information collection and management.	
<p>There are many entities in Armenia that maintain and partially manage the information flows (see 19-21). Apart from the aforementioned organizations some monitoring data are maintained and accumulated also in NAS Institutes (zoology, botanic, center of eco-noospheric studies, hydrology and fish studies, geology studies, etc.); Specially Dangerous Infections Prevention Center of Ministry of Health, as well as in state inspectorate of plants quarantine and land cultivation of Ministry of Agriculture. In the form of reports the results of all scientific-research activities are submitted to Ministry of Education and Science. The National Statistics Service of Armenia performs the collection and publication of data on socio-economic, as well as environmental situation. However; the collection of biodiversity data is not coordinated and information flows are not managed adequately. Although there are many organizations involved, today in the republic there is not coordinating body, which deals with collection, analysis and coordination of information on biodiversity.</p> <p>The data on water ecosystems at the disposal of Ministry of Nature Protection (water consumption, hydro-chemical indicators, contamination sources, etc) is available from the web page of the ministry: http://www.mnpiac.am.</p> <p>In the Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of NAS they have created a data base of hydro-chemical and biological indicators of large rivers flowing into the Lake Sevan (fish fauna, especially ground animals, plankton species). In Institute of Botany of NAS there is a database on the long-standing surveys on flora of the republic. Now they have started the upgrading of the data.</p>	

23. ? Does your country use indicators for national-level monitoring of biodiversity? (decision III/10)	
a) No	
b) No, but identification of potential indicators is under way (please describe)	X
c) Yes, some indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
d) Yes, a relatively complete set of indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
Further comments on the indicators identified and in use.	
<p>In 2002 within "Needs assessment of the establishment of primary capacities of Armenian biodiversity" project in they have analyzed the state of biodiversity monitoring in the country. A concept has been developed and recommendations have been done for the selection of criteria.</p> <p>The Ministry of Nature Protection environmental monitoring concept contains principles of selection of monitoring indicators of biodiversity. Besides the relevant indicators are determined within "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" project during the formation of monitoring system in two national parks of Armenia.</p>	

Box XLIII.

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

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

Within "Self-evaluation of national capacities for global environmental management" project they have developed and since 2005 November launched "Development of institutional and legal potential in Armenia with the purpose of optimizing the information and monitoring system for global environmental management" PDF-A project. In case GEF funds a medium proposal (PDF-B) for the introduction of general monitoring system for 3 global environmental conventions there will be established an improved legal framework and institutional system.

Their key constraints are; lack of specialists in this domain; lack of experience coordinated monitoring observations and lack of data for previous years.

Decisions on Taxonomy

24. ? Has your country developed a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1? (decision IV/1)

a) No	
b) No, but a plan is under development	X
c) Yes, a plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, reports on implementation available (please provide details below)	

Further information on a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1.

In "Biodiversity monitoring and taxonomy" section of UNDP/GEF "Needs assessment for the establishment of primary capacities for biodiversity" project (2002-2005) they evaluated the present state of taxonomy studies in the country; the technical capacities and necessary measures for their implementation. The development and implementation of action plan in taxonomy as an individual program has been identified in Government Resolution # 1849 (2005). In NAS Institutes of Zoology and Botany they implement taxonomy surveys of animals and certain groups of plants; however, those activities are not regulated and have secondary importance to solve specific applied issues.

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

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

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

In the country there are animals' collections in the Institute of Zoology of NAS (zoology museum; collection of invertebrates; bones' collection); Nature Museum of Armenia; Yerevan State University and private collections. The richest and only scientifically important state collections are in the Institute of Zoology. For around 15 years the state did not provide any funding. Occasionally lump-sum investments have been provided (2003-2004). The majority of the plants has been destroyed in

1990s during the economic and energy crisis and there is gradually diminishing funding for maintenance and rehabilitation of herbarium collections.

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

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

X

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

The training of personnel in biodiversity is performed in the relevant faculties of state and private university (Yerevan State University; Armenian State Pedagogical University), where general and special courses are taught, during which they envisage only preliminary acquaintance with the elements of taxonomy, key principles of classifications; decisive keys and skills of determination. The further training is done in post-graduate and doctoral courses of those university and academy. However, during last 5 years there has been no masters' or doctoral graduates in the line of taxonomy. 9 candidates of science and 1 doctor of science have completed their scientific degree. The situation becomes critical, as the average age of the classification specialists is close to 60. Due to low remuneration and insufficient financial prospects the young generation lacks desire to become a specialist of taxonomy.

The insufficiency of financial, human and technical resources constrains the possibilities of taxonomy studies. With the efforts of 8-10 classifiers of classification and geography division of plants of the Institute of Botany of NAS they continue to develop and publish the multi-volume "Flora of Armenia". At present they work over 11th volume that will complete the inventory of vascular plants in Armenia (around 3500 species and sub-species). At present there are not classification activities of various taxonomy groups of vascular plants (family, tribe, relatives, etc.).

27.? Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	X
b) No, but steps are being considered	
c) Yes, for some institutions	
d) Yes, for all major institutions	

28.* ² Is your country collaborating with the existing regional, subregional and global initiatives, partnerships and institutions in carrying out the programme of work, including assessing regional taxonomic needs and identifying regional-level priorities? (decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) No, but collaborative programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessments)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessment and priority identification)	

Further information on the collaboration your country is carrying out to implement the programme of work for the GTI, including regional needs assessment and priority identification.

Based on the contracts signed between scientific-research organizations of the Russian Federation and the Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of NAS they perform water-biological and fish joint surveys in hydro-ecosystems of Armenia, Russia and border countries.

A protocol has been signed about "Joint programs" between Hydro-chemistry service of Federal Service of Hydro-meteorology and environmental monitoring of the Russian Federation and Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of NAS, within the framework of which parallel with the joint surveys of the rivers and lakes of Russia and Armenia they envisage exchange of young specialists and doctoral students, publication of joint scientific articles and collections.

They have established and run a joint experimental center of the Institute of Zoology of NAS of Armenia and Institute of Parasitology of NAS of Russian Federation, the results of the projects of which are included into 4 volumes. The Institute of Zoology has concluded agreements on scientific cooperation with a range of foreign institutions – in Poland, Check Republic, Sweden, Russia and USA. Within these agreements they implement surveys of Armenian fauna on the levels of species and genetics. The Institute of Botanic participates to the following international projects in the area of classification:

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

- development of the overview of the Caucasus flora (together with Russian NAS, Saint-Petersburg);
- taxonomic surveys of high class plants' critical tribes (jointly with New-York botanical park, USA).

29. * Has your country made an assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities at the national level for the implementation of the Convention? (annex to decision VI/8)

a) No	
b) Yes, basic assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	X
c) Yes, thorough assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	

Further comments on national assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities.

In the first Armenian biodiversity report and within UNDP/GEF "Needs assessment for the establishment of primary capacities for biodiversity" (2002) project they have analyzed the present state of study, maintenance and use of biodiversity; identified the needs and obstacles; development possibilities and perspectives, including in taxonomy. From the present capacities one can mention the existence of the relevant institutions; highly qualified staff and scientific schools; to a certain extent also scientific-technical base and scientific links and rich collections. From the identified needs one can mention: expansion and deepening of classification activities on genetic and ecosystem levels; training of the specialists for individual non-studied taxons of plants and non-studied or less studied classification groups of animals; insufficient and disproportional study of fauna (only 30%); expansion of international cooperation on the genetic level for taxonomy surveys and especially for education and training of personnel.

30. * Is your country working on regional or global capacity building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties? (annex to decision VI/8)

a) No	X
b) Yes, relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	

Further comments on regional or global capacity-building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties.

31. * Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8? (annex to decision VI/8)

a) No	
b) Yes, for forest biodiversity (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for marine and coastal biodiversity (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for dry and sub-humid lands (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for inland waters biodiversity (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for mountain biodiversity (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for protected areas (please provide details below)	X
h) Yes, for agricultural biodiversity (please provide details below)	

i) Yes, for island biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention.	
In NAS Institute of Zoology they have implemented and continue to implement the following themes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - study of invertebrates fauna of Armenia, as a basis for the evaluation and development of specially protected area of the republic (2002-2005); - study of bio-ecological peculiarities of vertebrates of Armenian fauna, as a basis for the evaluation and development of specially protected area of the republic (2002-2005); - study of bio-ecological peculiarities of vertebrates of Armenian fauna in specially protected area with the purpose of evaluation of their present state and conservation (2005-2008); - study of rare and extinguishing species of Armenia's invertebrates as a basis for the establishment of Armenia's Red Book. 	
Within "Natural resources management and poverty reduction" project in regard of development of management plans of "Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks they have implemented inventory and taxonomy support of flora and fauna. They have also inventoried the biodiversity of "Khosrov" state reserve.	

32. * Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, for access and benefit-sharing (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for Article 8(j) (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for the ecosystem approach (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for impact assessment, monitoring and indicators (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for others (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention.	
The scientists provide with taxonomy support to the selection of biodiversity monitoring indicators, as well as identification of the state of alien species. Taxonomy surveys are being performed during evaluation of consequences of economic and other type of activities, in particular in regard of performing environmental expertise.	

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

33. ? On Article 8(i), has your country endeavored to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are being identified	X
c) Yes, some measures undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.	



34. ? On Article 8(k), has your country developed or maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the conservation of threatened species and populations?

a) No	
b) No, but legislation is being developed	X
c) Yes, legislation or other measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the legislation and/or regulations for the conservation of threatened species and populations.

The Government Resolution #49 (January 23, 2001) "On Improvement of the Conservation of Valuable Forest Species in the Republic of Armenia" identified measures for the improvement of conservation of such valuable forest species as walnut-tree, oak-tree, ash-tree, maple, pear-tree and elm-tree.

By the Government Resolution "On Approving Annual Plan of Measures for Rehabilitation, Conservation, Reproduction and Utilization of Lake Sevan Ecosystem", the "growth of fish resources, ensuring the reproduction of valuable and rare fish species, conservation of gene fund" has been identified as national target objective for the country.

A measure on "Application of new biotechnologies for rehabilitation of endemic fish species of Lake Sevan" is included in the Plan of Actions and Measures of the Government of Armenia for the year 2006.

The Government Resolution #98 (February 2, 2006) the list of flora and fauna species included in the Red Book of Armenia has been approved. This will promote improvement of conservation of the species and populations at the edge of extinction.

35. ? On Article 8(l), does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant processes and categories of activities being identified	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the regulation or management of the processes and categories of activities identified by Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biodiversity.

The Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Environmental Impact Expertise" (1995) restricts any economic activity that may cause negative impact on environment. Other legislative documents (Land Code, Forest Code, "Law on Flora", and "Law on Fauna") also contain provisions regulating the negative impacts of activities upon biodiversity and its separate components. Restriction and regulation of such kind of activities have been implemented by the "Environmental Expertise" State Non-Commercial Organization based on the conclusions provided by independent experts.

Box XLIV.

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on targets and indicators for protected areas.

The "State Strategy and National Action Plan for Development of Nature Protected Areas in Armenia" defines the target objectives (strategic directions), indicators to achieve those objectives as well as the implementation timeline.

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

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

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

According to the "State Strategy and National Action Plan for Development of Nature Protected Areas in Armenia" it is proposed to establish 11 new Protected Areas up to the year 2010, including 1 state reserve, 2 national parks, 6 state reservations and 2 nature parks with a conservation status that is new for Armenia. Development of the Programmes for establishment of the mentioned protected areas has been started since 2004. "Arpi" National Park will be established in central Armenia with an objective to conserve natural landscapes and unique biodiversity of the area, including crop wild relatives and large animal species. "Jermuk" National Park will be established on the basis of two state reservations, which will be extended and integrated into one protected area.

38. Has your country taken any action to address the under representation of marine and inland

water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

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

Further comments on actions taken to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas.

The following measures have been taken to solve the issue of the absence of inner-water ecosystems within the existing protected area network:

- In the framework of Caucasian Initiative, on the basis of Armenia-Germany inter-governmental agreement, the "Establishment of transboundary protected area in Javakhk region" project has been issued (donor organization: KfW). The target area of the project will cover Arpi Lake located in the north-western Armenia, as well as Armenian wetland bordering Georgia.
- A programme has been prepared and the process of development of a Government Resolution "On establishment of 'Khorvirap' reservation" is initiated. The objectives of establishment of "khorvirap" reservation are (1) conservation of the wetland ecosystem, as well as flora and fauna integrity, particularly protection of internationally significant water bird species and their habitat, (2) ensuring the natural development, reproduction and sustainable use of the mentioned species.
- Lists of water objects have been prepared by marzes including about 50 water objects such as rivers, lakes, springs, waterfalls, that are subject to get the conservation status of natural monuments.

39. Has your country identified and implemented practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on practical steps for improving integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures.

40. Is your country applying environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant EIA guidelines are under development	
c) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to some projects or plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to all relevant projects or plans (please provide details below)	

Further comments on application of environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas.

The assessment of environmental impacts in Armenia is implemented by "Environmental Expertise" State Non-Commercial Organization under the Ministry of Nature Protection according to the "Law on Environmental Impact Expertise" (adopted in 1995). Examples of assessment of the environmental impacts of certain projects on the protected areas, include:

- restriction of the construction of gold mining plant in Sodk,
- rejection of the construction of a highway through the territory of "Shikahogh" state reserve.

In 2004 "Ararat Gold Recovery Company" initiated the process of construction of a gold mining plant in Sodk (located within the territory of "Sevan" National Park in order to replace the existing gold mining plant of Ararat marz. The proposal has been submitted for environmental expertise to assess the ecological impacts of the activity. As a result of independent expertise the proposal was rejected.

Detailed environmental expertise has been carried out in order to assess the ecological impacts of the construction of a inter-state (Armenia-Iran) highway through the "Shikahogh" reserve, approved by the Government Resolution in 2005. Due to negative conclusion an alternative route has been finally chosen that will provide relatively low negative impact of the construction works on the state reserve.

41. Has your country identified legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) No | |
| b) No, but relevant work is under way | |
| c) Yes, some gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)) | |
| d) Yes, many gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below) | |

Further comments on identification of legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas.

"Assessment of Priority Capacity Needs for Biodiversity Conservation" Project (2002) identified the legislative and administrative gaps and constraints that hinder effective management of protected areas.

There are legislative gaps in the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Nature Protected Areas" (adopted in 1991), that caused initiation of the development of a new version of the Law. This process is currently at its completion stage. To regulate the existing system of protected area, the following organizational measures have been taken:

- "Sev Lich" state reserve received the status of reservation (Government Resolution #976, Dec 12, 2001)
- "Dilijan" state reserve is re-organized into "Dilijan" National Park (Government Resolution #165, Feb 21, 2002)
- Bioresources Management Agency was established in 2002 under the Ministry of Nature Protection. The Agency has a separate division on Management of Protected Areas.

42. Has your country undertaken national protected-area capacity needs assessments and established capacity building programmes? (decision VII/28)

- | | |
|-------|--|
| a) No | |
|-------|--|

b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, a basic assessment undertaken and some programmes established (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, a thorough assessment undertaken and comprehensive programmes established (please provide details below)	

Further comments on protected-area capacity needs assessment and establishment of capacity building programmes.

“Assessment of Priority Capacity Needs for Biodiversity Conservation” Project (2002) provided detailed information and analysis on the existing capacities and needs of Protected Areas in Armenia.

In the framework of “Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction” project under the “Management of Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation” component, the following activities have been implemented.

- Technical assistance was provided to “Sevan” and “Dilijan” National Parks
- Training were conducted for the staff of National Parks and other stakeholders

In the framework of “Conservation of Leopards in the South Caucasus” project of World Wild Fund (WWF) the technical assistance was provided to “Shikahogh” and “Khosrov” state reserves.

43. Is your country implementing country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant plan is under development	
c) Yes, relevant plan is in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, relevant plan is being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on implementation of country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas.

To assist to the development of protected area system of Armenia sustainable financial means are invested which have increased 3.2 times compared to the year 2000. (See Article 20, text box LVIII)

44. Is your country implementing appropriate methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant methods, standards, criteria and indicators are under development	X
c) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use and some international methods, standards, criteria and indicators in use (please provide details below)	

Further comments on methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance.

Usually the effectiveness of the management of protected areas (reserves and national park) is assessed by the appropriate commission of the Ministry of Nature Protection through evaluation of annual reports (financial, economic, scientific, etc.). If necessary, inspections may be implemented by the temporary commission formed by the Ministry of Nature Protection.

In 2006 in the framework of "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project under the "Management of Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation" component, an operational system of the monitoring of the national park's activities will be applied. Currently appropriate methodologies and indicators are in the process of development for this purpose.

Box XLV.

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

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

Article 8(h) - Alien species

45. Has your country identified alien species introduced into its territory and established a system for tracking the introduction of alien species?

a) No	
b) Yes, some alien species identified but a tracking system not yet established	X
c) Yes, some alien species identified and tracking system in place	
d) Yes, alien species of major concern identified and tracking system in place	

46. ? Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) No	
b) Yes, but only for some alien species of concern (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, for most alien species (please provide details below)	
Further information on the assessment of the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species.	
Limited assessment of the risks only for agro ecosystems of a number of invasive species of insects has been conducted. Currently data collection on several alien plant species is underway in order to further risk assessment.	

47. ? Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate, those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under consideration	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	See Target 6.1, 6.2
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.	
Control over the import of alien species at customs points is implemented only for the agricultural pest species by State Agency on Plant Quarantine of the Ministry of Agriculture. Limited activities related to control over the mentioned species and defeat of them are conducted also within agro ecosystems as part of routine pest control activities.	

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

49. ? Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species? (decision V/8)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the use of the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches in work on alien invasive species.	
Recently initiated research on alien invasive plant species are based on the application of ecosystem approach, which includes not only routine geo-botanical description of the plant community, but also	

identification of the areas endangered by invasive species where detailed investigation of animal species should be conducted.

50. Has your country identified national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	X
b) No, but needs and priorities are being identified	
c) Yes, national needs and priorities have been identified (please provide below a list of needs and priorities identified)	
Further comments on the identification of national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles.	

51. Has your country created mechanisms to coordinate national programmes for applying the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	X
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanisms created to coordinate national programmes for implementing the Guiding Principles.	

52. Has your country reviewed relevant policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles, and adjusted or developed policies, legislation and institutions? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	X
b) No, but review under way	
c) Yes, review completed and adjustment proposed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, adjustment and development ongoing	
e) Yes, some adjustments and development completed (please provide details below)	
Further information on the review, adjustment or development of policies, legislation and institutions in light of the Guiding Principles.	

53. Is your country enhancing cooperation between various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	X
b) No, but potential coordination mechanisms are under consideration	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on cooperation between various sectors.	

54. Is your country collaborating with trading partners and neighboring countries to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity in ecosystems that cross international boundaries? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	X
b) Yes, relevant collaborative programmes are under development	
c) Yes, relevant programmes are in place (please specify below the measures taken for this purpose)	

Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighboring countries.

55. Is your country developing capacity to use risk assessment to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity and incorporate such methodologies in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA)? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	X
b) No, but programmes for this purpose are under development	
c) Yes, some activities for developing capacity in this field are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further information on capacity development to address threats of invasive alien species.	

56. Has your country developed financial measures and other policies and tools to promote activities to reduce the threats of invasive species? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant measures and policies are under development	
c) Yes, some measures, policies and tools are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures and tools are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of financial measures and other policies and tools for the promotion of activities to reduce the threats of invasive species.	

Box XLVI.

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

Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions

GURTS

57. Has your country created and developed capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) No	X

b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to GURTs.	

Status and Trends

58. Has your country supported indigenous and local communities in undertaking field studies to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)	
a) No	X
b) No, but support to relevant studies is being considered	
c) Yes (please provide information on the studies undertaken)	
Further information on the studies undertaken to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and priority actions identified.	

Akwé:Kon Guidelines

59. Has your country initiated a legal and institutional review of matters related to cultural, environmental and social impact assessment, with a view to incorporating the Akwé:Kon Guidelines into national legislation, policies, and procedures?	
a) No	X
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, a review undertaken (please provide details on the review)	
Further information on the review.	

60. Has your country used the Akwé:Kon Guidelines in any project proposed to take place on sacred sites and/or land and waters traditionally occupied by indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)	
a) No	X
b) No, but a review of the Akwé:Kon guidelines is under way	
c) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the projects where the Akwé:Kon Guidelines are applied.	

Capacity Building and Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities

61. Has your country undertaken any measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities to be effectively involved in decision-making related to the use of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/16)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes being developed	X
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	

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

In 2004-2005 the participatory process of development of the management plans for "Sevan" and "Dilijan" National Parks as well as five forest enterprises is initiated, which has been carried out by direct involvement of local communities through consideration of the indigenous knowledge, traditions and skills. The Forest Code of the Republic of Armenia adopted in 2005 contains provisions on establishment and management of community forests.

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

a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are under development	X (refer to question 61)
c) Yes, some mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the mechanisms, guidelines and legislation developed.

Armenia has a signatory of Aarhus Convention since 2001. By assistance of OSCE four Public Environmental Information Centers have been established in 4 marzes to meet the obligations of the Convention. Memorandum on establishment of such centers is signed by the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and corresponding marz administrations. Centers are furnished with appropriate equipment, computers, and library and actively involve representatives of local communities into decision-making in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use as well as planning and implementation of relevant activities.

Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Environmental Impact Expertise" (1995) requires public notification on proposed activity and conduction of a three-step public hearing in order to involve the public in decision-making process.

Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Local Self-Governance" defines that local legislative body has a right to require community-relevant information from State bodies and individual authorities. Head of the community, within his/her responsibilities, promotes implementation of measures for conservation and sustainable use of minerals, forests, water resources, atmospheric air, as well as flora and fauna species.

63. Has your country developed mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of

indigenous and local communities with specific provisions for the full, active and effective participation of women in all elements of the programme of work? (decision V/16, annex)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are being developed	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all elements of the programme of work.	

Support to implementation

64. Has your country established national, subregional and/or regional indigenous and local community biodiversity advisory committees?	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes	

65. Has your country assisted indigenous and local community organizations to hold regional meetings to discuss the outcomes of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and to prepare for meetings under the Convention?	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details about the outcome of meetings)	
Further information on the outcome of regional meetings.	

66. Has your country supported, financially and otherwise, indigenous and local communities in formulating their own community development and biodiversity conservation plans that will enable such communities to adopt a culturally appropriate strategic, integrated and phased approach to their development needs in line with community goals and objectives?	
a) No	
b) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the support provided.	
<p>To implement the “Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction” project the Government of Armenia received 8.4 million USD in form of loan from World Bank and 5 million USD in form of GEF grant. The activities of the project are aimed at development of mechanisms for sustainable management of natural resources, development of participatory management plans and reduction of poverty through their implementation.</p> <p>“Community-based Management of Watersheds” component of the project is aimed at increase of local income in Gegharkunik and Tavush marzes through application of sustainable agricultural practices, development of ecotourism, as well as development of natural resources sustainable use and equitable income generation plans. Local authorities and representative of communities are permanently involved in the project activities.</p>	

Box XLVII.

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

Article 9 - Ex-situ conservation

67. ? On Article 9(a) and (b), has your country adopted measures for the *ex-situ* conservation of components of biological diversity native to your country and originating outside your country?

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

Further information on the measures adopted for the *ex-situ* conservation of components of biodiversity native to your country and originating outside your country.

There are 6 fish breeding facilities currently operational in Armenia, which carry out artificial reproduction of valuable endemic, as well as introduced fish species. The measures to conserve Lake Sevan fish species under extinction are of the most priority actions identified in "2002-2006 complex program of rehabilitation, conservation, reproduction and use of Lake Sevan ecosystem". Particularly the following measures are taken: development of mother composition, collection of caviar, incubation, breeding and dropping back into the lake of Sevan salmon (the most valuable endemic fish species of Lake Sevan) and its sub-species.

Artificial reproduction and breeding of introduced and local fish species are implemented in privatized ponds as well. This mitigates more or less the pressure over natural populations as well as promotes conservation of the gene fund of such species.

Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Science hosts hybrid species of Armenian Mouflon and domestic sheep. Their use is possible to restore the Mouflon variety that contains rather rich genetic information.

About 6,000 local and introduced plant species are grown and conserved in Armenian botanical gardens and dendroparks.

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

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

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

In order to conserve the gene fund of valuable endemic fish species – Sevan Salmon, a set of reintroduction measures has been taken by the Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of Armenian NAS in 1980s. The measures mainly included reproduction of the Salmon species, which was under the treat of extinction, in Sev Lake, Kari Lake, Akna Lake, and in Mantash and Kechut reservoirs. The information on the results of those measures is not reliable due to absence of regular monitoring.

In the framework of "Restoration of Bezoar Goat in its natural habitat" project re-habitation of Bezoar Goat is initiated from the territory of Armenia to Georgia (Borjomi-Khalagauli National Park). Regular observations are implemented for re-introduced Syrian Skhutoragort species in Azat reservoir

| in Kotayk marz of Armenia. |

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

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

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

“Law on Fauna” and “Law on Flora” stated that any acquiring of biological resource out of natural environment should be implemented on the basis of a special permit given by the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia. Those permits are issued taking into consideration data on inventory and present status of the given resource. Species included in Red Books can be used *ex-situ* or for scientific purposes only by the Governmental decision. Thus, the threat for ecosystems and individual populations is being decreased.

Box XLVIII .

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

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

Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

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

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

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

A comprehensive legislative framework for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use was developed in 2000-2005. During the decision-making process all stakeholder agencies are involved in solving of a relevant problem. A number of inter-agency advisory councils were established. In decision-making at national level the local authorities and in some cases even more broad public (scientists, students, NGOs) is involved. Prior to decision-making on the project proposals that impact environment, the environmental expertise is implemented and the proposals are being agreed

with all relevant subdivisions of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia.

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

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

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

Use of biological resources in Armenia is regulated by a number of Laws, Civil Code, Land Code, Forest Code, as well as a great number of by-laws and regulations. All those documents contain provisions on sustainable use of biological resources, as well as enforcement mechanisms for the cases of illegal and unsustainable use.

Licensed hunting is one of the mechanisms of sustainable management of fauna resources. Assessment of the bioresources in a given ecosystem is implemented based on the scientific research. As a result the allowable quantities for hunting are identified. Licenses are issued based on those quantities. The license itself contains the allowable quantities, permitted tools for hunting, locations and other information. Such management puts hunting practices under the control.

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

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

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

Traditional practices that have direct impact on biodiversity of natural ecosystems of Armenia include use of grasslands, pastures and forest resources, hunting and fishing.

“National Action Plan to Combat Desertification” promotes traditional use of community pastures.

Development and application of the community-based programs and regulatory mechanisms for wood waste utilization are intended in the framework of the Action plan for promoting resolution of the issues Related to illegal forest logging.

“Strategy for Sustainable Development of Agriculture” contains a number of incentive measures for development of fishery facilities. Amateur fishing has been recently developed in fisheries. This mitigated the pressure on the natural ecosystems.

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

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
<p>Further information on the measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biodiversity has been reduced.</p> <p>In the framework of "Regional Program on Agriculture Development of Mountainous Countries" of ICARDA, several new technologies for partial (surface) and general improvement of natural pastures and grasslands were developed in order to improve the feed diversity pastures under great pressure. Technology of partial improvement is currently applied for degraded pastures of Gegharkunik and Tavush marzes.</p> <p>Sustainable management methods are applied in 9500 ha pastures of 59 communities of two marzes under the "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project. Animal grazing at those pastures is implemented in a row. To mitigate pressures at the pastures nearby the settlements as well as to use the farthest pastures about 200 cattle watering facilities have been restored and constructed. Currently those works are completed in 45 communities. As a result of the project 3300 ha grassland areas will be improved. Currently 1770 ha grasslands are already fertilized.</p> <p>"National Action Plan to Combat Desertification" includes activities on development of legislation on compensation to population impacted by natural disasters or located in the areas impacted by desertification, identification of the legal status of such areas, and possible provision of privileges to population.</p>	

74. ? Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessment of potential indicators and incentive measures is under way	X
c) Yes, indicators and incentive measures identified (please describe below)	
<p>Further comments on the identification of indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p> <p>BSAP suggests awarding grants for development and application of environmentally safe technologies, as well as developing and implementing tax privileges for the organizations using such technologies. The Government Resolution #880 (January 16, 2005) has the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of plans on financial mechanisms for implementation of the main environmental conventions, including improvement of bioresources fee system, provision of favorable credits, promotion of private sector involvement, establishment of environmental trust funds - development of methodological approaches for economic assessment of natural resources, that will fully consider environmental value of the resource in the developed economic tools (system of environmental fees, compensation regimes, penalties for caused harm and overuse of resource) 	

75. ? Has your country implemented sustainable use practices, programmes and policies for the sustainable use of biological diversity, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation? (decision V/24)

a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, programmes and policies are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on sustainable use programmes and policies.	
<p>Three components of the "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project, namely "Community-based Management of Watersheds", "Improved Management of State Forests" and "Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Area Management", are aimed at poverty reduction of local population in two marzes – Gegharkunik and Tavush through development and application of mechanisms for sustainable management of natural resources.</p> <p>By the Government Resolution #100 (January 22, 2004) on "Approving the list of activities for 2004-2006 for implementation of strategic program on poverty reduction" the concepts of sustainable use of bioresources and particularly forest resources were defined and the activities for its implementation were adopted.</p>	

76. ? Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please describe below)	
Further comments on the development of mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity.	
<p>BSAP envisaged cooperation with private sector and promoting investments from Diaspora for financing of environmental activities. The Government Resolution #880 (January 16, 2005) included provisions on improvement of financial mechanisms for implementation of the three environmental conventions, including incentives for private sectors investments.</p> <p>By the Government Resolution #891 (2004) Forest Restoration and Development Fund has been established, which is aimed at supporting processes of restoration and development of forests in Armenia. The financial means of the mentioned fund are generated from both governmental and private sectors, including support provided from Armenian Diaspora.</p>	

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

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

Biodiversity and Tourism

79. ? Has your country established mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please specify below)	
d) Yes, existing mechanisms are under review	
Further comments on the establishment of mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity.	
Mechanisms for assessment and monitoring of tourism impact on biodiversity are not developed in Armenia yet. However, some work has been implemented on the development of such mechanisms in "Sevan" and "Dilijan" National Parks within the "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project.	

80. ? Has your country provided educational and training programmes to the tourism operators so as to increase their awareness of the impacts of tourism on biodiversity and upgrade the technical capacity at the local level to minimize the impacts? (decision V/25)	
a) No	X
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please describe below)	
Further comments on educational and training programmes provided to tourism operators.	
The educational workshops titled "Development of protected areas and regional economies through ecotourism in South Caucasus" with participation of ecotourism and extreme tourism operators from Armenia are aimed at development of tourism in protected areas and adjacent territories. The trainings provided to tour-operators informed them on mechanisms and activities implemented in the sphere of environment protection and sustainable tourism (ecotourism) management.	

81. Does your country provide indigenous and local communities with capacity-building and financial resources to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product

development and management? (decision VII/14)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are being considered	X
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments in the capacity-building and financial resources provided to indigenous and local communities to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management.	
<p>“Trans-Caucasian Tourism Initiative” implements a project, which promotes the involvement of local self-governing bodies in the development of policy in the field of tourism. Two villages are involved in the project, where the assessment of community capacities for tourism services as well as development of operational guidance is implemented. Tourism Information Centers were established, selection and training of their staff is conducted.</p> <p>In the framework of “Implementation of pilot projects for sustainable development in mountainous areas of the Caucasus – Local Agenda 21” project implemented by REC programs on community sustainable development in two mountainous villages are being implemented, as well as pilot programs for tourism development are being prepared.</p>	

82. Has your country integrated the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development in the development or review of national strategies and plans for tourism development, national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, and other related sectoral strategies? (decision VII/14)	
a) No, but the guidelines are under review	
b) No, but a plan is under consideration to integrate some principles of the guidelines into relevant strategies	
c) Yes, a few principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	X
d) Yes, many principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	
Further information on the sectors where the principles of the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development are integrated.	
<p>“Development of programs promoting sustainable ecotourism” section of NBSAP includes the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify proper territories for ecotourism taking into consideration vulnerability of ecosystems - prepare indicators and procedures for ecotourism development in protected areas and their buffer zones - prepare indicators and procedures for ecotourism development in different landscape zones - evaluate the impact of recreational activities on biodiversity of Lake Sevan basin - prepare indicators and procedures for recreational activities in Lake Sevan basin - develop and disseminate procedures to comply ecotourism development to environmental norms and attitudes towards the natural ecosystems - Develop information and demonstrational materials on biodiversity of eco tourist sites (including protected areas) and behavior in that sites for visitors. 	

Box XLIX.

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

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

Article 11 - Incentive measures

83. ? Has your country established programmes to identify and adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?

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

Further comments on the programmes to identify and adopt incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The Government of Armenia has approved or endorsed a number of strategic programs and concepts that contain sections or provisions aimed at ensuring conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components both in medium-term and long-term. They include:

- National Action Plan to combat Desertification in Armenia (2002),
- State Strategy and National Action Plan for Development of Nature Protected Areas in Armenia (2002),
- Strategic Program of Poverty Reduction (2003),
- Action plan for mitigating actions to help address the problems associated with illegal logging (2005),
- List of activities to meet the obligations of the Republic of Armenia towards a number of environmental conventions (2004),
- National Forest Program of Armenia (2005).

84. ? Has your country developed the mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas? (decisions III/18 and IV/10)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, review of impact of mechanisms available (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the mechanism or approaches to incorporate market and non-market values of biodiversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes.	
The following mechanisms and tools of environmental policy are aimed at conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components in Armenia:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application of paid nature resources use system by the adoption of "Law on Environmental and Natural Resources Use Fees" in 1999, which is aimed at ensuring effective, comprehensive utilization of the state-owned bioresources as well as creating equal economic conditions for different users of natural resources; - In 2004 Forest Restoration and Development Fund has been established by the Government Resolution #891. The main goal of the Fund is promoting forest restoration activities and ensuring favorable conditions for forest development in Armenia - Since 2005 guaranteed amounts began to be collected at the special environment conservation account of the Central Bank of Armenia that would be used only for the re-cultivation, tree planting, green zone development at the areas impacted by the licensed use of entrails. As of February 1, 2005 the special account has total amount of AMD 58,600,000. - In 2005 by the Government Resolution an "Environmental Purposeful Fund" has been created and in one year the total amount of benevolent assets from legal and physical entities has reached AMD 37,800,000. Out of this sum AMD 17,350,000 has been already spent for implementation of a number of important environmental programs and activities. - Environmental fees paid by large metallurgical companies have been spent for financing environmental activities (including measures on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use) at the impacted communities according to the recently adopted "Law on Purposeful Use of Environmental Fees Paid by Companies" 	
The total allocations from the 2005 state budget for environmental programs amounted to 10,694,200 AMD.	

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

86. Does your country take into consideration the proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures as contained in Annex I to decision VI/15 when designing and implementing incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision VI/15)	
a) No	X

b) Yes (please provide details below)

Further information on the proposals considered when designing and implementing the incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

87. Has your country made any progress in removing or mitigating policies or practices that generate perverse incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (decision VII/18)

a) No	
b) No, but identification of such policies and practices is under way	X
c) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified but not entirely removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified and removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
Further information on perverse incentives identified and/or removed or mitigated.	

Box L.

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

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

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Article 12 - Research and training

88. ? On Article 12(a), has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components?

a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the programmes for scientific and technical education and training in the measures for identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Scientific technical activities and capacity building process in the field of identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components are implemented within the framework of ecological education. The "Law on Ecological Education of the Population" (2001) serves as legislation basis for those activities. Law defines six levels for ecological education: primary, secondary, specialized, higher, post-graduate, and for the general public.

In 2003 Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia developed "Strategic Program on Ecological Education of the Republic of Armenia" which includes an Action Plan taking into consideration various levels of ecological education.

Teaching and capacity building on biodiversity-related issues is implemented in the higher educational institutions of Armenia, where special courses on identification of biodiversity and its components, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is being taught at specialized departments (botany, zoology, ecology, etc.). Detailed specialized knowledge and skills are provided by scientific-research institutes through post-graduate study. Learning and training on biodiversity abroad, especially in the countries of Europe and USA, is currently widespread among Armenian young specialists.

Scientific technical education and training is also implemented in the framework of various project implemented by international organizations and their Armenian representations (World Bank, UNDP, GEF, OSCE, etc.).

In the framework of "Improved Management of State Forests" component of the "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project 11 scientific-technical trainings with total participation of 91 individuals have been conducted in the period of 2003-2005 (Yerevan, Tavush marz, Zikatar regional training centre). The trainings were devoted to forest biodiversity, methodology of rapid assessment of forest biodiversity, sustainable forest management, planning for forest management, and other issues. Scientific and technical study-tours have been also conducted to such countries as Sweden, Denmark, Latvia, Austria, Germany and Czech Republic).

Specialized trainings for staff of "Sevan" and "Dilijan" National Parks and local communities are currently underway under the "Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Area Management" component of the "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project. Those training are mainly devoted to such issues as inventory of flora and fauna species, biodiversity monitoring, mapping, application of GIS, etc.

A comprehensive analysis of needs assessment, methodology development, and existing capacities in the educational and scientific-technical sphere for the three global environmental conventions have been implemented in the framework of "Environmental Education and Public Awareness" component of the "Armenian National Capacity Self-assessment for Global Environmental Management" project. It also included assessment of the capacities at various levels of educational system, evaluation of the existing status of environmental education and trends of its further development.

89. ? On Article 12(b), does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

a) No

X

b) Yes (please provide details below)

Further information on the research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Scientific research on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is generally implemented through state financing. However, due to lack of financing, only limited scientific research has been done by the institutions incorporated into the Biological Section of the NAS (Institute of Botany, Institute of Zoology, Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology, etc.).

90. ? On Article 12(c), does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources?

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further information on the use of scientific advances in biodiversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
Outcomes of the scientific research on diversity of flora and fauna (Red books, inventory, geographical distribution, status of habitats of Armenian flora species, investigation of behavior of fauna species, etc) are used while developing methodologies for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including forest management planning, development of protected area management plans, sustainable management of natural resources, development and application of methodologies for biodiversity monitoring system.	

Box LI.

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

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

Article 13 - Public education and awareness

91. Is your country implementing a communication, education and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation in support of the Convention? (Goal 4.1 of the Strategic Plan)

a) No	
b) No, but a CEPA strategy is under development	X
c) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a limited extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the implementation of a CEPA strategy and the promotion of public participation in support of the Convention.

To implement provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia closely collaborates with the local governments, NGOs and mass media. A great number of projects related to biodiversity conservation and public awareness are implemented by more than 10 NGOs.

92. Is your country undertaking any activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness as contained in the annex to decision VI/19? (decision VI/19)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on CEPA.

Public hearings on several draft laws, or proposed environmental impact of large-scale projects, as well as round tables, broad discussions are being organized and conducted under the umbrella of Aarhus Convention not only in Yerevan city but also at local level - in different marzes of the

Republic.

Division on Public Relations has been established within the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia, the web sites of the Ministry and Aarhus Center has been updated and improved. They now contain information on all projects and programs implemented by the Ministry.

As an output of the "Ecological information, education and public awareness raising" project funded by TACIS, the draft "Regulations on ecological information collection and dissemination" was developed. The document is currently in the stage of finalization with the comments of stakeholders.

"Armenian Center of Bird Lovers" implemented transboundary project, titled "Establishment and stimulate ecological movement in the South Caucasus" with the assistance of REC-Caucasus and Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development.

93. Is your country strongly and effectively promoting biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level? (decision VI/19)

a) No

b) No, but some programmes are under development

c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)

d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)

X

Further comments on the promotion of biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level.

National Report on Biodiversity were prepared by the Ministry of Nature Protection and disseminated to different stakeholder organizations. The mentioned reports are also uploaded to internet pages for broader public use.

Information and Analytic Center of the Ministry of Nature Protection is actively operating. One of its tasks is provision of the summary information on the projects implemented by the Ministry to the public.

Agitation for biodiversity conservation is also done in the framework of various projects during the meetings with public through dissemination of leaflets, organization of round tables and through mass media.

In the framework "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project under the activity "Information dissemination on biodiversity conservation and protected areas in Gegharkunik and Tavush marzes" a number of workshops with local mass media were organized, relevant topics were identified and timetable for implementation of selected action was developed. About 30 various reference materials have been published, video films devoted to national parks have been shot, community-based awareness programs have been developed, internet sites of "Sevan" and "Dilijan" national parks are under construction. Presentation of information materials, movies and community-based awareness programs were conducted.

Campaigning for biodiversity conservation in the country is being also implemented through regional organizations. With the assistance of REC-Caucasus, the "Eco-News" Environmental Journalists Union has implemented "Mass media and public participation: achievements, problems and perspectives of environmental journalism" project. The main objectives of the project included strengthening of environmental journalism, raising of environmental awareness among mass media, as well as promotion of cooperation between mass media and NGOs in the field of environmental issues and solving of lo-

cal and regional environmental problems. In the framework of the project ecological tours for journalists have been organized with emphasis on the issues related to conservation of biodiversity in protected areas.

In 2004 in the framework of technical assistance by European Union the project titled "Environmental Information, Education and Awareness Raising" has been implemented.

94. Does your country promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the efforts to promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level.	
Activities on public awareness raising and information dissemination are actively implemented at local level in forms of organization of public hearings, round tables, establishment of regional environmental information centers, dissemination of booklets/brochures on relevant themes, conduction of lectures, shooting of video films, etc.	

95. Is your country supporting national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness? (decision VI/19)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities supported (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many activities supported (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the support of national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness.	
Each year the following internationally recognized dates are observed in Armenia: Earth Day; International Bird Day; Water Conservation day; Biodiversity Day (May 22). In addition "Kura-Araks basin conservation day" (regional level); "Debed-Khrami basin conservation day" (regional level); "Lake Sevan Day" (national level) are observed as well.	

96. Has your country developed adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness?	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness.	
Proper capacities exist in Armenia for public awareness raising and information dissemination. Those capacities include governmental structures. NGOs, coalitions, newsgroups, etc. Activities of this sphere are implemented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Environmental Protection, Bioresources Management Agency, Information-Analytical Center under the Ministry on Nature Protection, as well as State Nature Museum of Armenia and administration of Protected areas. - Majority of environmental NGOs - Environmental coalitions, such as "Armenian Forests", "Protection of Yerevan Green Zones", "Global Water Partnership", "Public Council of Armenia for Sustainable Development", "Ecological Council", and others - "Electronic forum of environmental NGOs", "Global Info" 	

- Electronic network of the environmental NGO of the Caucasus – CENN, etc.

97. Does your country promote cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness at the national, regional and international levels? (decisions IV /10 and VI/19)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the promotion of cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness, at the national, regional and international levels.	
<p>Government of the Republic of Armenia continues cooperation with international organizations. Armenia cooperates with USAID in the sphere of water resources management. USAID included the conservation and sustainable use of water ecosystems into its strategic plan for 2004-2008 as an issue of priority importance. These issues cover the also water biodiversity component.</p> <p>Implementation of the "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project funded by WB and GEF is currently underway which has several sub-components on public awareness raising.</p> <p>Since 2000 the Government of Armenia assists the REC-Caucasus in its activities.</p> <p>In 2001 as a result of cooperation with WWF international NGO the "Biodiversity of the Caucasus Ecoregion" report which is devoted to biodiversity of Caucasian Ecoregion.</p>	

98. Is your country undertaking some CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention?	
a) No (please specify reasons below)	
b) Yes, some activities undertaken for some issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, many activities undertaken for most issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for all issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention.	

99. ? Does your country support initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes as well as into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision IV/10 and Goal 4.4 of the Strategic Plan)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biodiversity conservation in their practice and education programmes as well as their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	



100. Is your country communicating the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and establishing appropriate linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in the implementation of your national CEPA programmes and activities? (decision VII/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some programmes developed and activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes developed and many activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the communication of the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and the establishment of linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.	
<p>In 2003 a Caucasian regional seminar took place with the participation of members of NGOs and educational institutions of Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Russian Federation on the preparations towards the UN Education For Sustainable Development decade. In this framework Armenia has participated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at the First regional workshop of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Task Force in 2004, at the Second workshop of the same group in 2005, - at the working group meeting to develop UN ECE strategy "Education For Sustainable Development" - at the first workshop of UN ECE experts (2005) to develop indicators for education <p>In 2005 an inter-agency committee has been established to coordinate the further activities related to the UN Education For Sustainable Development decade.</p>	

Box LII.

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

Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

101. ? On Article 14.1(a), has your country developed legislation requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, legislation is still in early stages of development	
c) No, but legislation is in advanced stages of development	X
d) Yes, legislation is in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, review of implementation available (please provide details below)	

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

Ecological expertise on the possible harmful impact of proposed projects upon the biodiversity is implemented according to the "Law on Environmental Expertise" adopted in 1995. The following Laws and Government Resolutions contain direct or indirect provisions on mandatory environmental impact assessment in above mentioned cases:

- Government Resolution #608 (May 2, 2003) "On approving procedures for development, expertise, approval and changing of the construction proposal"
- Government Resolution #96 (February 2, 2002) "On approving procedures for expertise of urban construction documents"
- "Law on Amendments in the Administrative Violations Code of the Republic of Armenia" (2002)
- Water Code (2002)
- Entrails Code (2002)

The threshold values of harmful impact on environment including biodiversity, for the projects that require ecological expertise are currently under review. New "Law on Environmental Expertise" was drafted and passed public hearings in 2005. It aims at application of contemporary Environmental Impact Assessment procedures in Armenia.

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

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	X
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the mechanisms developed to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity.

Distinct inventory of ecological consequences of national programs and policies that can cause harmful impact on biodiversity has not implemented yet. One of the reasons is lack of mechanisms for post-project assessment of ecological impacts although respective provisions are included in the "Law on Environmental Expertise"

Inventory of ecological consequences (harm caused) of the natural disasters is implemented partially. "Law on Environmental Control" (2005) envisaged enforcement mechanisms for control over activities with possible negative impact on biodiversity.

103. ? On Article 14.1(c), is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction?

a) No	
b) No, but assessment of options is in progress	X
c) Yes, some completed, others in progress (please provide details below)	
d) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on the bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biodiversity outside your country's jurisdiction.

In the framework of Armenia-Iranian economic cooperation, based on mutual agreement, preparatory works are being implemented for construction of Iran-Armenia gas pipeline. Scope of works, selection of location, and distribution of the junctions of the pipeline is implemented by participation of local and international specialists. This promotes reduction of the pipeline sections crossing forested areas, which, consequently leads to minimization of harmful impact on biodiversity not only in Armenia but also outside of its borders.

In order to ensure biosafety and prevent negative impacts on biodiversity a new proposal for construction of Iran-Armenia highway has been developed and approved. The proposed highway has less environmental impact, and rounds almost the whole territory of "Shikahogh" state reserve and minimizes the impact on mountainous forest ecosystem not only within the territory of Armenia but also outside of its borders.

104. ? On Article 14.1(d), has your country put mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your territory to biological diversity in the territory of other Parties or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction?

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	X
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place based on current scientific knowledge	

105. ? On Article 14.1(e), has your country established national mechanisms for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on national mechanisms for emergency response to the activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biodiversity.

The following national emergency response mechanisms are developed and applied in Armenia for such activities and events that cause direct and inevitable danger to biodiversity:

- Rescue and rehabilitation mechanisms for negative impact on environment including biodiversity from technical and anthropogenic disasters, accidents
- Hydro meteorological mechanism for emergency responding to natural disasters, such as droughts, showers, heavy snow, landslides, flooding, etc.
- Mechanisms for climate predictions
- Mechanisms for emergency warning of population

Effectiveness of national emergency response mechanisms is ensured by the Emergency Management Administration with the participation of territorial divisions of Environmental inspection of the Ministry of Nature Protection.

Improvement of national emergency response mechanism is currently implemented in the framework of "State long-term program on seismic risk reduction" through extension of monitoring network particularly from the point of regional biosafety provision.

106. Is your country applying the Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environment-Impact-Assessment Legislation or Processes and in Strategic Impact Assessment as contained in the annex to decision VI/7 in the context of the implementation of paragraph 1 of Article 14? (decision VI/7)

a) No	
b) No, but application of the guidelines under consideration	X
c) Yes, some aspects being applied (please specify below)	
d) Yes, major aspects being applied (please specify below)	

Further comments on application of the guidelines.

National environmental legislation contains provisions on biodiversity conservation, particularly:

- "Law on Environmental Control" (2005)
- "Law on Tariffs for Compensation of Harm Causes to Flora and Fauna due to Environmental

Legislation Violations" (2005)

- "Law on Amendments in the RA Law on Environmental Fees" (2005)

The mentioned legislation provides an opportunity to regulate all the issues of environmental and natural resource use related to control over biodiversity conservation as well as compensation for the harm caused to flora and fauna. The mentioned laws are harmonized with the "Administrative Violations Code of the Republic of Armenia" and are aimed at strengthening control and enforcement for biodiversity conservation.

The integrated indicators for description of the negative influence caused to biodiversity are in the process of development. Those indicators will be integrated into the information system on prevention/reduction of the harm caused to biodiversity and decision-making.

107. On Article 14 (2), has your country put in place national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity? (decision VI/11)

a) No

b) Yes (please specify the measures)

X

Further comments on national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity.

In Armenia a national uniform system for application of administrative and criminal measures for responsibility enforcement, regulatory and compensation of the harm caused to biodiversity exists. Categories (levels) of environmental violations towards flora and fauna are defined, which include also valuable and rare species, and Red Book species. Regulations for determination of the harm to biodiversity, levels of compensation for the caused harm and regulations for enforcement are defined as well.

However, the measures taken on compensation of the harm caused to biodiversity are still insufficient. The process of selection of indicators for ecological-economic estimations, particularly on impacts of harmful pollution/discharges and on selection of the locations for economic and recreational sites, is unsatisfactory. The development and application of the processes of ecological insurance, ecological audit and ecological certification are of priority issues for Armenia in this sphere.

108. Has your country put in place any measures to prevent damage to biological diversity?

a) No

b) No, but some measures are being developed

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

d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)

X

Further information on the measures in place to prevent damage to biological diversity.

There are several measures operational in Armenia for preventing harm to the biodiversity. They include:

- Control on fauna and flora by State Environmental Inspection
- Existence of legislative framework for and actual implementation of compensation mechanisms for harm caused to biodiversity;
- Conduction of environmental impact assessment for the activities defined by the "Law on Environmental Expertise";

- Maintenance of "Ecological passports" for harmful industrial sites;
- Inventory of biodiversity components, maintenance of protected area cadastres;
- Zoning of protected areas by ecological risks and safety indicators;
- Establishment of the biodiversity monitoring network;
- Provision of ecological knowledge an public awareness raising and in the field of biodiversity conservation.

109. Is your country cooperating with other Parties to strengthen capacities at the national level for the prevention of damage to biodiversity, establishment and implementation of national legislative regimes, policy and administrative measures on liability and redress? (decision VI/11)

a) No

b) No, but cooperation is under consideration

c) No, but cooperative programmes are under development

d) Yes, some cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)

e) Yes, comprehensive cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)

X

Further comments on cooperation with other Parties to strengthen capacities for the prevention of damage to biodiversity.

Box LIII.

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

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

Article 15 - Access to genetic resources

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

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

X

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

Currently access to genetic resources became rather easy. Only the species recorded in the Red Book of Armenia have limited access. Legislative basis for regulation of this sphere does not exist in Armenia, so there are no clear mechanisms for access to genetic resources based on preliminary justified agreements and agree conditions.

Armenia is not a signatory of the Convention on Plant Genetic Resources, which envisaged unlimited access to agricultural crops listed in Appendix 1. Further involvement of the country in the joint regional project and activities implemented by international organizations envisages free access to genetic resources and information on them among the participating countries.

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

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

Further information on the measures to 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.

Works with the international organization providing samples for sort testing purposes has been done through contracts on material transfer, where the conditions of the parties' participation are addressed in details. For the further information on the genetic material transfer for scientific research refer to the Targets 10.1 and 10.2.

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

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

Further information on the type of measures taken.

The mentioned conditions are discussed in details during the implementation of joint scientific projects. Those discussions are resulted, as a rule, at equitable sharing of genetic resources between national collections, free presentation of the primary assessment of the material collected during joint scientific expeditions, joint publications, etc (refer to the Targets 10.1 and 10.2).

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

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

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

In the framework of "Assessment of Priority Capacity Needs for Biodiversity Conservation and Establishment of CHM Structures" project (2002) the "Strategy for access to genetic resources and equitable benefit sharing" has been developed. It contains provision on the necessity of application of a comprehensive system for access to genetic resources and use of the benefits, defined by the Convention on Plant Genetic Resources.

The mentioned Strategy has been endorsed by the Ministry of Nature Protection for presentation to the general public for discussions and review.

Taking into consideration the list of the agricultural crops included into the Appendix 1 of the Convention on Plant Genetic Resources, activities on unlimited access to mentioned resources can be implemented in Armenia only after signing the Convention.

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

a) No	
b) No, but steps being taken to do so (please provide details below)	X (refer to question 113)
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

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

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

a) No	
b) No, but potential policies or measures have been identified (please specify below)	X
c) No, but relevant policies or measures are under development (please specify below)	
d) Yes, some policies or measures are in place (please specify below)	

e) Yes, comprehensive policies or measures adopted (please specify below)	
Further information on policies or measures that address the role of IPR in access and benefit-sharing arrangements.	
<p>The issues of intellectual property in the field of access to genetic resources and benefit sharing in Armenia are not regulated by a special legislative framework. "Law on Conservation of Selection achievements" (1999) regulates issues on obtaining and legal maintenance and use of new sorts of crops. The selectioner, that is the author of the sort, has been awarded by licence with the right of utilization of the selection achievement. The Law considers a possibility of the use of selection achievement by other individuals or parties with non-commercial purposes only – as a raw material for obtaining and testing of the new sorts.</p> <p>"Law on Seeds", which has been adopted in 2005, defines an identification document (passport) on the origin for the certified seeds. Armenia is a member of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) since 1993.</p>	

116. Has your country been involved in capacity-building activities related to access and benefit-sharing?	
a) Yes (please provide details below)	
b) No	
Please provide further information on capacity-building activities (your involvement as donor or recipient, key actors involved, target audience, time period, goals and objectives of the capacity-building activities, main capacity-building areas covered, nature of activities). Please also specify whether these activities took into account the Action Plan on capacity-building for access and benefit-sharing adopted at COP VII and available in annex to decision VII/19F.	
<p>Armenia is a member of Expert Panel on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing under the CBD Secretariat and has participated at discussions of issues on ABS as well as in development of Operational Guidance.</p> <p>Armenia participates at the inter-regional IPGRI – ECP/GR project. Under this framework development of the national electronic catalog of seed collections is currently underway. It will be then integrated into the respective European catalog (EURISCO). This project will greatly facilitate mutual access to information on ex-situ collections at European level. During the implementation of the ECP/GR project the working groups prepared and present characteristics and passport data on samples of wheat and labiates maintained in collections to international data bank. This will promote access to and benefit sharing from genetic resources.</p> <p>Armenia is a member of the regional network plant genetic resources of the Central Asian and South Caucasian countries. As a result of the operation of the network, data on crops and their wild relatives (both in nature and in national and international collections) and their habitats have been collected. This greatly easens the availability and accessibility of the information on genetic diversity in the country.</p>	

Box LIV.

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

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

Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology

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

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

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

The "Re-introduction of Bezoar Goat in its natural habitats" project funded and coordinated by WWF has made a significant advance in the field of use of genetic resources and technology transfer. According to the Government Resolution (since the species is recorded in the Red Book) 15 individuals of Bezoar goat have been hunted and maintained in ex-situ conditions in Armenia. In 2006 they will be given to Georgia in order to re-introduce in Borjomi-Khalagauli National Park. It is intended to re-introduce deerstag from Georgia into Dilijan National Park. The existing technologies on mentioned genetic resources are jointly accessible for both cooperating parties.

In 2005 a Memorandum on Cooperation between Armenia and WWF was signed, which includes all necessary provisions.

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) No | X |
| b) No, but potential measures are under review | |
| c) Yes, some measures are in place | |
| d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place | |
| e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place | |

f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative arrangements are in place	
g) Not applicable	

119. ? On Article 16(4), has your country taken measures so that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of Government institutions and the private sector of developing countries?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	

Further information on the measures taken.

The privatized fisheries of Ararat marz and Jermuk town assist in the ex-situ conservation of the Gegharkuni and summer bakhtak sub-species of the Lake Sevan salmon by maintaining the motheral flock of the mentioned sub-species. Ministry of Nature Protection uses privately-owned genetic resources to meet the objectives of the "Collection, incubation, obtaining larvae, growth and young fish let out of the summer bakhtak sub-species to the Lake Sevan" activity.

Box LV.

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

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

Programme of Work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation

120. Has your country provided financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation? (decision VII/29)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the provision of financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation.

Faculty of Biology of Yerevan State University prepares master-degree students in food safety and biotechnologies (average 10 specialists per year).

121. Is your country taking any measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation? (decision VII/29)	
a) No	X
b) No, but some measures being considered	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation.	

122. Has your country made any technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building? (annex to decision VII/29)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, basic assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, thorough assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building.	
In the framework of the "Armenian National Capacity Self-assessment for Global Environmental Management" project the functions, capacities, needs and level of cooperation among the existing stakeholder organizations in the field of new technology development, application and transfer have been assessed. This analysis has been implemented in corresponding cross-cutting sectors by identifying next steps for promoting investments in new technology use and transfer for each of them	

123. Has your country made any assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies? (annex to decision VII/29)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies.	
In the framework of the "Development of National Biosafety Framework of Armenia" project assessment of the risks related to application of new biotechnologies was implemented and some recommendations were made on institutional capacity building for risk assessment and risk management,	

taking into consideration existing constraints in financial, technical and human resources.

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

a) No

b) No, but some programmes are under development

X

c) Yes, some programmes are in place and being implemented (please provide details below)

d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)

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

By the Government Resolution #880 (January 18, 2005) the list of cross-cutting activities of the three environmental conventions was adopted. It contains an activity on "Construction of a system of technology development, transfer, and application for promoting implementation of the Conventions, including design of national information clearing house mechanisms and electronic databases"

In the framework of the "In situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives through Strengthening of Information Management and Use of Modern Technologies" project a national information system on crop wild relatives is to be constructed until 2008, which will be integrated into the international information system with participation of other four countries.

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

a) No

b) No, but a few measures being considered

c) Yes, some measures taken (please specify below)

X

d) Yes, many measures taken (please specify below)

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

In the framework of the "Development of National Biosafety Framework of Armenia" project the draft "Law on Living Modified Organisms" was prepared, which provides a ground for development of national, administrative, legislative and institutional systems in the field of biosafety. Particularly, the rights and obligations of the National authorized body for LMO use, transfer, transport, import, export and risk assessment monitoring will be legislatively bounded.

Box LVI.

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

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

Article 17 - Exchange of information

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

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

The following question (127) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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

a) No

b) Yes, but they do not include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on

c) Yes, and they include categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on

Box LVII .

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

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

To develop databases on biodiversity the "Armenian National Capacity Self-assessment for Global Environmental Management" project conducted a series of trainings and installed GIS equipment in stakeholder institutions.

Design of databases has been prepared by the assistance of "Development of databases, GIS and programic documents for establishment of biosphere reserves in the South Caucasus" project financed by UNESCO Japan Fund. Their actual construction will be implemented through projects financed by WWF such as "Preparation of baseline data on invertebrates for national Red Book and development of IUCN Red List for Caucasus" project.

It is worthy to mention also published materials of joint scientific research, such as volumes on South Caucasus fauna, joint research on the fauna of Nagorno-Karabakh, proceedings of regional and international conferences.

Publication of multi-volume "Flora of Armenia" reference book is underway in Russian. Preparation of the "Index on Armenian Plants" reference book is initiated in Armenian, Russian and English.

The following thematic databases has been developed or are in the process of development in Armenia scientific institutions:

- Armenian Flora
- Red Book of Armenia
- Endemic species of Armenian flora
- Macro-fungi

- Terrestrial vertebrate animals of state reserves and national parks
- Collection of republican bacteriological depository
- Wild wheat and edible plants of Armenia
- Crop wild relatives
- Electronic catalog of Armenian seed collections

Article 18 - Technical and scientific cooperation

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

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

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

Armenia with its rich and unique biodiversity, rich genetic resources is considered a country of great interest for international and regional cooperation. The main areas of international scientific-technical cooperation include in-situ research on biodiversity, endemic flora and fauna species and their characteristics, as well as possibilities for use of genetic resources. Broad and free access to collections for scientific and educational purposes is ensured in Armenia, which promotes research on country's genetic resources at local and international levels. Therefore, it is worthy to mention that a number of environmental projects emphasize their activities on development of mechanisms for flora and fauna investigations, their conservation, and sustainable use of bioresources. Such projects are intended to implement with Germany, Czech Republic, Iran, and Georgia. They are focused on establishment of new protected areas, particularly from transboundary perspective. Armenia, along with other 4 countries, namely Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Bolivia and Madagascar, is involved in the "In-situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives through Strengthening of Information Management and Use of Modern Technologies" project due to rich genetic resources maintained in the country (refer also to question 9).

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

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

130. ? On Article 18(5), has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention?

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide some examples below)	

Examples for the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention.

131. Has your country established links to non-governmental organizations, private sector and other institutions holding important databases or undertaking significant work on biological diversity through the CHM? (decision V/14)

a) No	X
b) No, but coordination with relevant NGOs, private sector and other institutions under way	
c) Yes, links established with relevant NGOs, private sector and institutions	

The following question (132) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

132. Has your country further developed the CHM to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation? (decision V/14)

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) No | |
| b) Yes, by using funding opportunities | |
| c) Yes, by means of access to, and transfer of technology | |
| d) Yes, by using research cooperation facilities | |
| e) Yes, by using repatriation of information | |
| f) Yes, by using training opportunities | |
| g) Yes, by using promotion of contacts with relevant institutions, organizations and the private sector | |
| h) Yes, by using other means (please specify below) | |

Further comments on CHM developments to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation.

133. Has your country used CHM to make information available more useful for researchers and decision-makers? (decision V/14)

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) No | X |
| b) No, but relevant initiatives under consideration | |
| c) Yes (please provide details below) | |

Further comments on development of relevant initiatives.

From the viewpoint of data access and information exchange on biodiversity, the establishment of Biodiversity Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) structures in 2002 can be considered an important step. It resulted to the construction on "Biodiversity of Armenia" internet site (URL: <http://www.biodiv.am>). However, the activities of this field are currently halted due to lack of such function in the charter of the respective subdivision of the Ministry of Nature Protection. Thus, nomination of CHM National Focal Point and conduction of awareness raising activities on the importance of CHM at different levels are priority actions. The recommended further steps to restore operability of CHM structure in the country are: (1) periodical update of the internet site; (2) development of the information system on Armenian biodiversity; (3) integration of the constructed information system into the CHM national web site

134. Has your country developed, provided and shared services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of the CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions? (decision V/14)

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) No | X |
| b) Yes (please specify services and tools below) | |

Further comments on services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions.

To rehabilitate CHM activities in the country it is necessary to update the content information of the website constructed under the "Assessment of Priority Capacity Needs for Biodiversity Conservation

| and Establishment of Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) Structures" project. |

Box LVIII.

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

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

Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

135. ? On Article 19(1), has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research?

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

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

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

Box LIX.

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

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

Article 20 – Financial resources

Box LX.

Please describe for each of the following items the quantity of financial resources, both internal and external, that have been utilized, received or provided, as applicable, to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, on an annual basis, since your country became a Party to the Convention.

a) Budgetary allocations by national and local Governments as well as different sectoral ministries	Field	By years (thou. USD)					
	Conservation of forests	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
		9,4	282,2	212,1	242,1	203,9	127,8
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
		201,5	206,6	198,8	177,4	350,9	1336,5
	Conservation of protected areas	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
		2,5	83,6	69,0	85,6	128,0	233,8
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
		126,2	260,2	253,8	302,2	331,2	410,5
	Reproduction and inventory of fish resources	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
		No data	No data	No data	No data	34,7	11,1
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	0,0	16,6	12,2	17,3	26,2	29,5	

b) Extra-budgetary resources
(identified by donor agencies)

Field	By years (thou. USD)					
Conservation of forests	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
	24,5	864,3	749,9	819,7	610,8	720,9
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	1233	1157	1347	1852	2148	2160
Conservation of protected areas	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	No data	No data	No data	89,3	148,5	211,9
Forest Restoration and Development Fund	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	-	-	-	-	-	651,1

c) Bilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	By years (thou. USD)						
	Loan projects	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
		0,0	0,0	76,6	357	1437	3458
	International projects	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
		0,0	0,0	190,0	220,0	261,0	108,8
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
		218,3	603,4	161,3	443,1	174,4	496,0
	Including					Year	'000 USD
	"Preparation of First National Report on Biodiversity, and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan" (UNDP-GEF)					1997-1999	174,8
	"Development of full project proposal for conservation And sustainable use of Agro-biodiversity in Armenia" (UNDP-GEF)					1998-1999	97,5
	"Assessment of Priority Capacity Needs for Biodiversity Conservation and Establishment of Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) Structures" (UNDP-GEF)					2001-2002	143,1
	"Development of the vision for Ecoregional Plan for Environmental Protection in Caucasus and Preparation of Priorities for nature and biodiversity conservation" project development phase (BMZ)					2002-2003	166.6
	"Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction"- project development phase (WB)					2000-2001	549.8
	"Development of National Biosafety Framework" (UNEP-GEF)					2003-2004	156.0
	"In-situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives through Strengthening of Information Management and Use of Modern Technologies" (UNDP-GEF)					2005	226.0
	Local Agenda - 21					2003-2005	200.0
	"Strengthening of the conservation regime in 'Khosrov forest' state reserve" WWF-CEPF					2003-2005	33.0
"Strengthening of the conservation regime in 'Shikahogh' state reserve" WWF-CEPF					2003-2005	41.0	
"Assistance in establishment of 'Arevik' protected area in Northern Armenia" CEPF					2005	150.0	
d) Regional channels (identified by donor agencies)							

e) Multilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)																	
f) Private sources (identified by donor agencies)	None																
g) Resources generated through financial instruments, such as charges for use of biodiversity	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>1999</th> <th>2000</th> <th>2001</th> <th>2002</th> <th>2003</th> <th>2004</th> <th>2005</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Natural resource fees (thou. USD)</td> <td>83,2</td> <td>208,7</td> <td>158,4</td> <td>153,3</td> <td>193,2</td> <td>252,9</td> <td>200,1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Natural resource fees (thou. USD)	83,2	208,7	158,4	153,3	193,2	252,9	200,1
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005										
Natural resource fees (thou. USD)	83,2	208,7	158,4	153,3	193,2	252,9	200,1										

Box LXI.

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

--

137. ? On Article 20(1), has your country provided financial support and incentives to those national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes, incentives only (please provide a list of such incentives below)	
c) Yes, financial support only	
d) Yes, financial support and incentives (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on financial support and incentives provided.

The following incentive mechanisms are in action for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components in Armenia: exemption

1. Tax privileges and/or other incentives.

a/. Exemption from land tax: According to "Law on Land Taxation" (1994), the state reserves and reservations, national parks, municipal parks, botanical gardens and lands under state forests are exempt from land tax.

b/. Privileges on income tax: According to "Law on Income Taxation" (1997), the agricultural products, including products and industries related to conservation of biodiversity or its components, are exempt from income tax. These include: seeds of trees and bushes; seedlings of trees and bushes; bushes; fish industries; bee breeding

c/. Privileges on VAT: According to "Law on Value Added Tax" (1997), the realization of agricultural products (seedlings and saplings of trees and bushes, young fish, etc.), produced in Armenia is exempt from VAT.

2. Financial mechanisms.

from state budget sources

a/. Support of the state to State non commercial organizations implementing biodiversity conservation, (protected areas, forest fund, etc.)

b/. Financing of the activities aimed at restoration of Lake Sevan ecosystem (construction of hydrotechnical structures for increasing the level of the lake, activities to combat desertification, activities to restore endemic fish species, etc.)

from non-state budget sources

a/. Forest Restoration and Development Fund

b/. Special Environmental Conservation account of the Central bank

c/. Environmental Purposeful Fund

d/. Financial mechanisms envisaged at "Law on Purposeful Use of Environmental Fees Paid by Companies".

The next question (138) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

138. ? On Article 20(2), has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?

a) No

b) Yes (please indicate the amount, on an annual basis, of new and additional financial resources your country has provided)

Further comments on new and additional financial resources provided.

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

139. ? On Article 20(2), has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable it to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?

a) No

X

b) Yes

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

141. ? Has your country considered any measures like tax exemptions in national taxation systems to encourage financial support to biodiversity? (decision V/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but exemptions are under development (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, exemptions are in place (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on tax exemptions for biodiversity-related donations. <u>Tax privileges and/or other incentives:</u> the Protected areas and organizations implementing conservation of lands under state forests are exempt from land tax. Some privileges are intended to be applied for "Sevan" and "Dilijan" National Parks that should be included in their Management Plans currently under development. Particularly, it is intended to implement activities that ensure more community-based and participatory approach in the issues related to natural resources use, including development of mechanisms for economic incentives.	

142. Has your country reviewed national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance allocated to biodiversity, with particular attention paid to positive incentives and their performance as well as perverse incentives and ways and means for their removal or mitigation? (decision VI/16)	
a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes (please provide results of review below)	X
Further comments on review of national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance. The dynamics and trends of the financing of activities aimed at environment conservation (including conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components) are regularly evaluated by NEAP Special Working Group under the OECD umbrella.	

143. Is your country taking concrete actions to review and further integrate biodiversity considerations in the development and implementation of major international development initiatives, as well as in national sustainable development plans and relevant sectoral policies and plans? (decisions VI/16 and VII/21)	
a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, in some initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	X

d) Yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	
Further comments on review and integration of biodiversity considerations in relevant initiatives, policies and plans.	
Similar actions were envisaged in the National Environmental Action Plan (1998). They will be reviewed and updated during the preparation of the second NEAP (2006-2007).	

144. Is your country enhancing the integration of biological diversity into the sectoral development and assistance programmes? (decision VII/21)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, into some sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, into major sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity into sectoral development and assistance programmes	
"Strategic Paper on Food Safety Policy of the Republic of Armenia" was approved by a Governmental Protocol #3 (January 25, 2005). Its VIII section, namely "Policy of natural resources effective use", contains the following provision "The main objective of conservation and sustainable use of biore-sources is prevention or reduction of the harmful impact on biodiversity".	

The next question (145) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

145. Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which area your country has provided financial support to developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.	
A r e a s	Support provided
a) Undertaking national or regional assessments within the framework of MEA (decision VI/8)	
b) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)	
c) Enhance national capacity to establish and maintain the mechanisms to protect traditional knowledge (decision VI/10)	
d) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation (decision V/26)	
e) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)	
f) Implementation of the Bonn Guidelines (decision VI/24)	
g) Implementation of programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (decision V/5)	
h) Preparation of first report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources (decision VI/17)	
i) Support to work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and development of regional and sub regional networks or processes (decision VI/27)	
j) Development of partnerships and other means to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the programme of work on dry and sub humid lands biological diversity (decision VII/2)	

k) Financial support for the operations of the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VII/9)	
l) Support to the implementation of the Action Plan on Capacity Building as contained in the annex to decision VII/19 (decision VII/19)	
m) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity (decision VII/27)	
n) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas (decision VII/28)	
o) Support to the development of national indicators (decision VII/30)	
p) Others (please specify)	
Further information on financial support provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.	

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

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

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

m) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity			
n) Others (please specify)			
Further information on a pplication for financial support.			

Box LXII .

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

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

D. THEMATIC AREAS

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

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

Challenges	Programme of Work					
	Agricultural	Forest	Marine and coastal	Inland water ecosystem	Dry and sub humid lands	Mountain
(a) Lack of political will and support	2	1	-	1	3	2
(b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	2	2	-	2	3	2
(c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	3	2	-	1	3	2
(d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	3	3	-	3	3	3

(e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	3	3	-	3	3	3
(f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	2	2	-	2	3	2
(g) Loss of traditional knowledge	3	2	-	2	3	2
(h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	2	3	-	2	3	3
(i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	2	3	-	1	3	2
(j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	2	2	-	2	3	2
(k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	2	2	-	1	3	3
(l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	3	3	-	3	3	3
(m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	3	3	-	3	3	3
(n) Lack of economic incentive measures	3	3	-	3	3	3
(o) Lack of benefit-sharing	3	3	-	3	3	3
(p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	2	1	-	1	3	2
(q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	3	3	-	2	3	3
(r) Lack of effective partnerships	2	2	-	2	3	2
(s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	2	3	-	2	3	3
(t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	3	2	-	2	3	3
(u) Poverty	3	3	-	3	3	3
(v) Population pressure	2	3	-	3	3	3
(w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	3	3	-	3	3	3
(x) Lack of capacities for local communities	3	3	-	3	3	3

(y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	3	3	-	3	3	3
(z) Weak law enforcement capacity	3	2	-	2	3	3
(aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	3	2	-	2	3	3
(bb) Others (please specify)						

Inland water ecosystems

148. Has your country incorporated the objectives and relevant activities of the programme of work into the following and implemented them? (decision VII/4)				
Strategies, policies, plans and activities	No	Yes, partially, integrated but not implemented	Yes, fully integrated and implemented	N/A
a) Your biodiversity strategies and action plans		X		
b) Wetland policies and strategies	X			
c) Integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans being developed in line with paragraph 25 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development	X			
d) Enhanced coordination and cooperation between national actors responsible for inland water ecosystems and biological diversity		X		
Further comments on incorporation of the objectives and activities of the programme of work				
Objectives and actions on water biodiversity conservation are entirely included in one of the NBSAP strategic components. The timeline for the actions is provided as well. However, not all the actions are implemented and the deadlines are not fully met. Some of the actions are of continuous nature.				
No separate strategy was developed for management of Ramsar sites. It constitutes a part of general strategy for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.				

149. Has your country identified priorities for each activity in the programme of work, including timescales, in relation to outcome oriented targets? (decision VII/4)	
a) No	
b) Outcome oriented targets developed but priority activities not developed	X
c) Priority activities developed but not outcome oriented targets	

d) Yes, comprehensive outcome oriented targets and priority activities developed	
Further comments on the adoption of outcome oriented targets and priorities for activities, including providing a list of targets (if developed).	
<p>Legislative basis for management of water ecosystems and wetlands is developed in the country. Special institutions are established for conservation of those ecosystems and their biodiversity. Inventory of the most significant ecosystems is almost completed. Restoration of the ecosystem of the largest lake of the country – Lake Sevan ecosystems is one of the priority issues recognized by the Government of Armenia. Everyday work is carried out for this purpose. There are no obvious results yet. However, tendency for de-eutrophication of the lake is evident, the light transparency and the water level of the lake are increased, previous fish spawning areas are covered by water, etc. A great number of activities were implemented for restoration of endemic extinct species. Information and awareness raising campaigns among local population are actively implemented. The objectives are presented in more details in Target 1.1 of this report.</p>	

150. Is your country promoting synergies between this programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level? (decision VII/4)	
a) Not applicable (not Party to Ramsar Convention)	
b) No	
c) No, but potential measures were identified for synergy and joint implementation	
d) Yes, some measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	X
e) Yes, comprehensive measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	
Further comments on the promotion of synergies between the programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level.	
<p>Since the Lake Sevan is designated as Ramsar site in Armenia and at the same time “Sevan” National Park is one of protected areas, than activities of conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the lake ecosystem are obviously promoting cooperation between CBD and Ramsar Convention. The second designated Ramsar site of Armenia – Lake Arpi, is considered target site for biodiversity conservation and is included in the newly establishing protected areas network.</p> <p>Capacity building envisaged in the Joint Work plan of two Conventions is implemented through conduction of training sessions and international workshops. Particularly. The “Professional and Entrepreneur Orientation” NGO organized and conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Ecological and economic assessment of the Armenian wetlands: a step towards development of national policy on wetland” workshop; - “Management of wetlands” regional trainings for technical staff of newly independent states in Europe; - “Wetland management and poverty reduction through public awareness raising and trainings in mountainous regions of Armenia – Lake Arpi and Aragats mountain”; - “Current issues on conservation and rational use of wetlands and their biodiversity” international seminar; 	

- "Current issues on conservation and effective use of wetlands and their biodiversity in newly independent states in Europe" international seminar.

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

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

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

152. Has your country promoted the application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems? (decision VII/4)

a) No, the guidelines have not been reviewed	X
b) No, the guidelines have been reviewed and found inappropriate	
c) Yes, the guidelines have been reviewed and application/promotion is pending	
d) Yes, the guidelines promoted and applied	

Further comments on the promotion and application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

Box LXIII.

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

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

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**Marine and coastal biological diversity
General**

153. Do your country's strategies and action plans include the following? Please use an "X" to indicate your response. (decisions II/10 and IV/15)	
a) Developing new marine and coastal protected areas	
b) Improving the management of existing marine and coastal protected areas	
c) Building capacity within the country for management of marine and coastal resources, including through educational programmes and targeted research initiatives (if yes, please elaborate on types of initiatives in the box below)	
d) Instituting improved integrated marine and coastal area management (including catchments management) in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loads into the marine environment	
e) Conservation of areas important for reproduction, such as spawning and nursery areas	
f) Improving sewage and other waste treatment	
g) Controlling excessive fishing and destructive fishing practices	
h) Developing a comprehensive oceans policy (if yes, please indicate current stage of development in the box below)	
i) Incorporation of local and traditional knowledge into management of marine and coastal resources (if yes, please elaborate on types of management arrangements in the box below)	
j) Others (please specify below)	
k) Not applicable	
Please elaborate on the above activities and list any other priority actions relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.	

Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

154. Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) Early stages of development	
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management.	

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

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

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

Marine and Coastal Living Resources

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

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

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

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

Activities	Not implemented nor a priority	Not implemented but a priority	Currently implemented	Not applicable
a) Ecological assessment and monitoring of reefs				
b) Socio-economic assessment and monitoring of communities and stakeholders				
c) Management, particularly through application of integrated coastal management and marine and coastal protected areas in coral reef environments				
d) Identification and implementation				

of additional and alternative measures for securing livelihoods of people who directly depend on coral reef services				
e) Stakeholder partnerships, community participation programmes and public education campaigns				
f) Provision of training and career opportunities for marine taxonomists and ecologists				
g) Development of early warning systems of coral bleaching				
h) Development of a rapid response capability to document coral bleaching and mortality				
i) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded coral reef habitats				
j) Others (please specify below)				
Please elaborate on ongoing activities.				

Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

158. Which of the following statements can best describe the current status of marine and coastal protected areas in your country? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.	
a) Marine and coastal protected areas have been declared and gazetted (please indicate below how many)	
b) Management plans for these marine and coastal protected areas have been developed with involvement of all stakeholders	
c) Effective management with enforcement and monitoring has been put in place	
d) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas is under development	
e) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas has been put in place	
f) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas managed for purpose of sustainable use, which may allow extractive activities	
g) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas which exclude extractive uses	
h) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas is surrounded by sustainable management practices over the wider marine and coastal environment.	
i) Other (please describe below)	
j) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of marine and coastal protected areas.	

Mariculture

159. Is your country applying the following techniques aimed at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity? Please check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) Application of environmental impact assessments for mariculture developments | |
| b) Development and application of effective site selection methods in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management | |
| c) Development of effective methods for effluent and waste control | |
| d) Development of appropriate genetic resource management plans at the hatchery level | |
| e) Development of controlled hatchery and genetically sound reproduction methods in order to avoid seed collection from nature. | |
| f) If seed collection from nature cannot be avoided, development of environmentally sound practices for spat collecting operations, including use of selective fishing gear to avoid by-catch | |
| g) Use of native species and subspecies in mariculture | |
| h) Implementation of effective measures to prevent the inadvertent release of mariculture species and fertile polypoids. | |
| i) Use of proper methods of breeding and proper places of releasing in order to protect genetic diversity | |
| j) Minimizing the use of antibiotics through better husbandry techniques | |
| k) Use of selective methods in commercial fishing to avoid or minimize by-catch | |
| l) Considering traditional knowledge, where applicable, as a source to develop sustainable mariculture techniques | |
| m) Not applicable | |

Further comments on techniques that aim at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.

Alien Species and Genotypes

160. Has your country put in place mechanisms to control pathways of introduction of alien species in the marine and coastal environment? Please check all that apply and elaborate on types of measures in the space below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) No | |
| b) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from ballast water have been put in place (please provide details below) | |
| c) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from hull fouling have been put in place (please provide details below) | |
| d) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from aquaculture have been put in place (please provide details below) | |
| e) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from accidental releases, such as aquarium releases, have been put in place (please provide details below) | |
| f) Not applicable | |

Further comments on the current status of activities relating to prevention of introductions of alien species in the marine and coastal environment, as well as any eradication activities.

Box LXIV.

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

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

Agricultural biological diversity

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

a) No

b) No, but strategies, programmes and plans are under development

X

c) Yes, some strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)

d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)

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

See Goal 3 Target 3.1

162. ? Has your country identified 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? (decision V/5)

a) No

b) No, but potential measures are under review

c) Yes, some measures identified (please provide details below)

d) Yes, comprehensive measures identified (please provide details below)

Further information on ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the *In-situ* and *Ex-situ* conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.

Genetic technologies restricting development of agrobiodiversity are not used in Armenia. The technologies applied in agriculture are used only for such processes as agricultural plants breeding, rapid reproduction of decorative cultures, obtaining new, non-viral sorts of agricultural crops, etc. The research and activities are not broad in this sphere, so they can not restrict in-situ and ex-situ conservation of agrobiodiversity.

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

Programme element 1 – Assessment	
163. Has your country undertaken specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity such as on plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are in progress (please specify components below)	X
c) Yes, assessments completed (please specify components and results of assessments below)	
Further comments on specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity.	
<p>A number of strategic and programmatic documents contain provisions on the necessity of assessment of agricultural biodiversity and its components – plant (including forests) and animal resources (refer also to Goal 3, Target 3.1). Some projects/activities implemented in this field are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives Through Enhanced Information Manage and Field Application; - Conservation and utilization in breeding of wild relatives of cereals in Armenia USDA-CRESS-International cooperation For Agricultural Research In Central Asia And The Caucasus, - Inventory and assessment of fauna and flora resources in “Sevan” and “Dilijan” National Par (within the “Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction” project) - Inventory of forest biodiversity as a constitute activity of development of forest management plans in 5 forest industries of Tavush marz (within the “Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction” project) - Inventory of flora species of “Khosrov” and “Shikahogh” state reserves (from state budget resources) <p>Recording and inventory of agricultural animals are planned to start in 2006 by the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>	

164. Is your country undertaking assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity referred to in Annex I of the Convention (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance)?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments completed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments completed (please provide details below)	
Further comments on assessment of biodiversity components (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance).	
<p>Evaluation of the inter-connections between agricultural practices and conservation of biodiversity components has not been implemented. During the implementation of short-term scientific projects on application of new preparations to combat crop diseases and for pest control (implemented by “Program on Support to Agriculture”, World Bank, USDA), comparative analysis of the efficiency of</p>	

old and new preparations was carried out. However, due to technical, methodological and financial constraints their possible impacts on environment have not been assessed.

165. Has your country carried out an assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for food production and food security?

a) No

b) Yes, assessment is under way

c) Yes, assessment completed (please specify where information can be retrieved below)

X

Further comments on assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities.

In the framework of "Community-based Management of Watersheds" component of "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project, during the development of community management plans in Gegharkunik and Tavush marzes several assessments of traditional knowledge and community skills on conservation and use of agrobiodiversity are executed.

166. Has your country been monitoring an overall degradation, status quo or restoration/rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity since 1993 when the Convention entered into force?

a) No

b) Yes, no change found (status quo)

c) Yes, overall degradation found (please provide details below)

d) Yes, overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below)

X

Further comments on observations.

Coordinated monitoring on general degradation of agricultural biodiversity is not implemented. However, some project has been and are implemented in various fields of agriculture that evaluated the level of agrobiodiversity degradation resulted of anthropogenic economic impacts and climatic factors.

Compared with 1993 decrease in the populations of a great number of wild plants, endemic species and crop wild relatives has been recorded. The reasons caused such decrease include land privatization, increase of construction works, reduction in forested and green areas due to illegal logging, and other factors. Restriction of the diversity of such species as cereals and grapes due to genetic erosion processes was recorded. Relative distribution of some crops was changed resulting to reduction of areas of edible and technical crops (fruits, grapes) and increase of cereals and potato arable lands.

Programme element 2 - Adaptive management

167. Has your country identified management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive, and mitigate the negative, impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods?

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) No | |
| b) No, but potential practices, technologies and policies being identified | |
| c) Yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below) | X |
| d) Yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below) | |

Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies.

Refer to points 2.1 and 3.1 for management and applied programs on mitigation of harmful impact of agriculture on biodiversity.

According to the adopted documents, the priority issues of different fields of agriculture include the following provisions on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use:

- use of preparations that are relatively harmless for environment;
- use of integrated management methods to combat crop diseases and for pest control;
- use of biological methods of plant protection;
- conservation and restoration of natural pastures and grasslands;
- development of comprehensive programs on use of farthest pastures;
- regulation of distribution and use of genetically modified crops
- extension of the production of ecologically pure agricultural products
- conservation of the gene fund of crop wild relatives and agricultural animals for extension and improvement of their breeding.

Programme element 3 - Capacity-building

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

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

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

In the framework of "Community-based Management of Watersheds" component of "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project Community Management Plans were developed for about 100 communities. Those plans include actions on involvement of local communities in the activities on agrobiodiversity management. Particularly, under the "Training on watershed management and support to scientific information exchange" task, demonstration and training on wheat and barley breeding in water drought conditions is implemented. In addition, demonstration and training on sustainable management practices of community pastures, restoration and improvement of community grasslands, sustainable management of irrigation systems are conducted.

Development of community forest programs is envisaged in the “Action plan for mitigating actions to help address the problems associated with illegal logging”. The implementation of those programs will include establishment of associations of natural resources users for sustainable management of agriculture and agrobiodiversity.

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

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

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

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

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

Programme element 4 – Mainstreaming

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

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

Further comments on mainstreaming and integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes.
See Targets 4.1 and 8.2

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

a) No	X
-------	---

b) Yes, by supporting institutions in undertaking relevant assessments	
c) Yes, by developing policy and planning guidelines	
d) Yes, by developing training material	
e) Yes, by supporting capacity-building at policy, technical and local levels	
f) Yes, by promoting synergy in the implementation of agreed plans of action and between ongoing assessment and intergovernmental processes.	
Further comments on support for institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms.	

173. In the case of centers of origin in your country, is your country promoting activities for the conservation, on farm, <i>In-situ</i> , and <i>Ex-situ</i> , of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including their wild relatives?	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on of the conservation of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture in their center of origin.	
Conduction of the awareness raising trainings among farmers is envisaged under the "In-situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives through Strengthening of Information Management and Use of Modern Technologies" project. The trainings will be devoted to use of crop wild relatives as valuable raw material in selection practices.	

Box LXV.

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

Box LXVI.

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

Forest Biological Diversity General

174. Has your country incorporated relevant parts of the work programme into your national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes?

a) No	
b) Yes, please describe the process used	X
c) Yes, please describe constraints/obstacles encountered in the process	
d) Yes, please describe lessons learned	
e) Yes, please describe targets for priority actions in the programme of work	

Further comments on the incorporation of relevant parts of the work programme into your NBSAP and forest programmes

General concepts and provisions of the "Forest biodiversity" working program are included in a number of strategic components of the NBSAP (in-situ conservation, ex-situ conservation, sustainable use, identification and monitoring, etc) as well as in "Forest National Policy and Strategy of Armenia", "National Forest Program of Armenia», "Action plan for mitigating actions to help address the problems associated with illegal logging" documents. A set of activities are envisaged to implement that are aimed at conservation of forest biodiversity, reduction of forest logging, restoration of the areas impacted by logging, development of new forests.

Box LXVII.

Please indicate what recently applied tools (policy, planning, management, assessment and measurement) and measures, if any, your country is using to implement and assess the programme of work. Please indicate what tools and measures would assist the implementation.

Box LXVIII.

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

Forest management plans for forestry enterprises of Gegharkunik and Tavush marzes are developed within the "Improved Management of State Forests" component of the "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project. This activity had participatory approach: local communities were actively involved in development of management plans. The concepts of their rights protection are included in the "Decree on forest development and forest management plans preparation for the state forests of the Republic of Armenia". Since the Forest Code adopted in 2005 envisaged establishment of community forests, the works on development of community forest management plans have already started in a number of communities.

Box LXIX.

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

Since 1990 the Armenian State Agricultural Academy prepares specialists of forest sector through two specializations—"forest, garden and park industry" (agro-biological aspects) and "Forest Engineering" (Engineering aspects). In 2001 those two specializations were integrated into one "Forest industry and green zoning of settlements" specialization, which comply with the current interests of forest industry in Armenia. In 2003 Department of Forest Sciences is established in Armenian State Agricultural Academy. The Department coordinates the above mentioned specialization, prepares specialists on forest sector for Armenia, as well as cooperates with Sweden Agricultural Academy in

educational-methodological and technical spheres and capacity building. An educational centre of the Department of Forest Sciences has been established in Kotayk marz, where visiting specialists from Sweden provide practical educational trainings for students pursuing master degree.

Zikatar regional training centre was established under "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project for capacity building in forest sector. During the period of 2003-2005, the center trained 91 specialists in the following subjects:

- Sustainable forest management
- GIS and forest management,
- Forest restoration and organization of seed-plot industry,
- Community-based forest management
- Organization of logging for sanitary and commercial purposes

Box LXX.

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

Expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity

Programme element 1 – Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing

175. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) No (please provide reasons below) | X |
| b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below) | |
| c) Yes (please provide details below) | |

Comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impact on forest management, constraints, needs, tools, and targets).

176. Has your country undertaken measures to reduce the threats to, and mitigate its impacts on forest biodiversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions</p> <p>National Forest Program of Armenia identified all dangers that causes degradation of forest ecosystems and loss of their biodiversity. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fragmentation and loss of the habitats, particularly due to use of forest lands and minerals in agricultural purposes. - overgrazing, - unsustainable forest management, including illegal logging, - overuse of timber and non-timber resources, - introduction of alien species - road construction, construction of hydropower stations, - unregulated recreational activities, - pollution of the environment.
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to reduce threats to, and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

177. Is your country undertaking any measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>National Forest Program of Armenia envisages implementation of short-term, mid-term and long-term activities that are aimed at inventory of forest biodiversity, establishment of monitoring system, development of information bank, conservation of rare and endangered species, assessment of the impact of economic and recreational activities on forest ecosystems and their biodiversity, etc.</p> <p>In 2004 the Government of Armenia approved the "Action plan for mitigating actions to help address the problems associated with illegal logging". The implementation of the Action plan will improve processes of forest monitoring and control and forest licensing.</p> <p>In 2004 and 2005 forest inventory has been implemented on 45,000 and 125,000 ha territories respectively. Forest management plans have been developed for 5 forest enterprises. Centre for Forest Monitoring has been established within the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>

b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

178. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Promoting sustainable use of forest biodiversity obtained a legislative basis by adoption of "Forest Code of Armenia" in 2005 and priority activities are defined in "National Forest Program" (2005), particularly on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reduction of forest illegal logging, - implementation of community-base forest programs, - capacity building in the field of monitoring and identification, - forests licensing, - increase of the volumes of effective use of forest by-products, - development of ecotourism and recreational activities, - development of hunting industry
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the promotion of the sustainable use of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

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

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

Programme element 2 – Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities "Forest Scientific Experimental Center" SNCO has been established by Government Resolution #1587 (September 26, 2002), which implements the following functions: - forest development activities - forest-ecological scientific experimental research and scientific applied testing of conservation and reproduction of forest genetic resources; - development of information bank on forest resources; - development of methods of effective use of forest resources; - development of collection of valuable and rare species for biodiversity conservation - scientific information exchange on forests, capacity building, practical training of specialists of forest sector
b) No		Please provide reasons below

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

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities

		Government Resolution #46 (January 19, 2006) approved new set of fees for use of bioresources, including timber use fees depending on type of tree (oak-tree, ash-tree, maple, pine-tree, lime-tree, beech-tree), herb, edible, technical, decorative plants, forest areas for grazing, etc. This categorization of fees will allow decision-makers and forest users to implement proper management without harm to biodiversity
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on review of socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

182. Is your country undertaking any measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities Problems of forest sector are emphasized by activities of a number of NGOs. Round tables, hearings, workshops, seminars are organized with the participation of decision-makers, stakeholders and general public to discuss directions for forests improvement, including issued of conservation of forest biodiversity. A great number of materials are published to raise awareness on the issues on forest sector.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

Programme element 3 – Knowledge, assessment and monitoring		
183. Is your country undertaking any measures to characterize forest ecosystems at various scales in order to improve the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities

		In the framework of "Assessment of Global Forest Resources" project implemented by the FAO Forest Department, "Assessment of Forest Resources of Armenia" Report has been developed in 2005. The report summarizes the following data for the years 2000-2005: status of forests and areas covered by forests; types of ownership of forests; functions, characteristics, and biomass properties of the forests; trends of biomass changes; diversity of tree species; tree logging; employment in forest sector; and other issues.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on characterization of forest ecosystems at various scales (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

184. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve knowledge on, and methods for, the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Capacity buildings trainings are organized at Regional training centre in Zikatar forest for the specialists of forest sector with the use of contemporary methodologies for assessment of biodiversity status and trends. Educational curricula on biodiversity assessment includes training on the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - forest management plan development, - use of GIS, - national procedures for indirect assessment of biodiversity: advantages and limitations, - assessment based on forest species, etc. <p>National Forest Program of Armenia has provided broad attention to the issues of education and capacity building in the forest sector and included a number of respective actions.</p>
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on improvement of knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>The issues of forest biodiversity conservation and restoration are emphasized in the documents entitled "National Forest Policy and Strategy of the Republic of Armenia" (2005) and "National Forest Program of the Republic of Armenia" (2005), which have been adopted by the Government (Resolutions #38 and #1232 respectively). Problems addressed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decrease of biodiversity in forest ecosystems, - Degradation of forest landscapes, - Sharp decrease of the habitats of rare and endangered species (walnut-tree, wild berries) - Absence of biodiversity monitoring and information data bases, - Lack of specialized knowledge on biodiversity conservation among the staff involved in forest sector - Irregular scientific research on biodiversity <p>The following directions are identified as priority objectives for forest sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring biodiversity monitoring and construction of information databases - Ensuring reliable and effective conservation of biodiversity - Restoration of degraded forest landscapes and their conservation, - Development of ecotourism, - Restoration of degraded forests.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the improvement of the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the improvement of the infrastructure for data and information management (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).	

Box LXXI.

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

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

187. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work? (decisions V/23 and VII/2)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on scientific, technical and financial support, at the national and regional levels, to the activities identified in the programme of work.	
<p>“Erebuni” state reserve located in semi-desert arid lands as well as “Sands of Goravan” reservation, the only desert territory of the Republic, are included in the Protected Area system of Armenia and are financed from state budget (refer also to Target 3.1).</p> <p>in 2002-2004 a scientific thematic project funded from state budget on assessment of Protected Area System in Armenia has been carried out at the Institute of Zoology of NAS. Recommendations on the improvement of the system were developed. Three of the areas, mainly with dryland ecosystems, have been selected as prospective territories for further development of the Protected Area system in Armenia.</p>	

188. Has your country integrated actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands integrated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD.	
A number of actions of the NBSAP are aimed at resolution of the mentioned issues related to dry and	

sub-humid lands, particularly, establishment of new protected areas in different type of landscapes including semi-desert, steppe, and saline territories, is envisaged. Extension of “Vordan Karmir” reservation, as well as conservation and restoration of mediterranean type dry forests, restoration of degraded landscapes (including dry lands), and monitoring activities are proposed.

The “State Strategy and National Action Plan for Development of Nature Protected Areas in Armenia” envisages incorporation of various landscape zones into the protected area system, with emphasizing integration of ecosystems in open landscapes. 4 out of 12 new protected areas proposed by the Action Plan include drylands from semideserts to mediterranean type dry forests.

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

a) No

b) Yes, some linkages established (please provide details below)

X

c) Yes, extensive linkages established (please provide details below)

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

Synergetic and cross-cutting issues of CBD, FCCC and CCD are assessed in analyzed in the framework of “Armenian National Capacity Self-assessment for Global Environmental Management” project. Respective Action Plan was prepared for joint implementation of activities. The Plan was adopted by the Government of Armenia (Resolution #880, 2005) and include actions on development of monitoring and scientific research, information exchange, assessment of biological resources, promotion of sustainable use of pastures, mitigation of negative impacts from climate change on arid ecosystems, etc. The most important and urgent issue – establishment of comprehensive monitoring and information system under three environmental conventions – is re-formulated in project proposal and submitted to GEF for financing. In 2005 the PDF A phase of the “Institutional and legislative capacity building on optimization of information and monitoring system for global environmental management in Armenia” project started.

Programme Part A: Assessment

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

a) No

b) No, but assessment is ongoing

c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)

X

d) Yes, comprehensive assessment undertaken (please provide details below)

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

First National Report on Biodiversity provided qualitative assessment of current status of biodiversity in Armenia, including overall description of the flora and fauna composition of the arid and semi-arid ecosystems.

“National Action Plan to Combat Desertification” assessed the overall status of lands in Armenia, including that of natural drylands. However the biodiversity of those lands is not assessed yet.

“First National Communication on Climate Change” provided analysis of the status of arid ecosystems as well as assessed the possible impact of climate change on those ecosystems.

Programme Part B: Targeted Actions

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

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

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

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

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

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

Box LXXII.

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

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

f) Lack of understanding of importance of the issues related to drylands and their biodiversity is the greatest difficulty faced. It should be mentioned that desert and steppe areas of the country are presented only by 480 ha within the protected area system, while the overall territory covered by protected areas is more than 300,000 ha. No programmatic document considers uniqueness of those ecosystems and vulnerability of their biodiversity.

Mountain Biodiversity

Programme Element 1. Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing

193. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity

Mountainous regions of the country face hard natural and climatic conditions. They lack water and agricultural lands as well as face unequal distribution of other resources. According to the existing legislation the areas located between 1700-2000 m a.s.l. are considered "mountainous" and the areas of higher than 2000m a.s.l. are defined as "high mountainous".

The constraints for sustainable development of mountainous and high mountainous regions are large in number and diverse in nature. No comprehensive analysis of the issues of development of those regions is implemented yet. As a result, no comprehensive policy is developed or implemented. Considering the importance of the issue, the Government of Armenia adopted a number of resolutions aimed at investigating social economical and historical cultural peculiarities of those regions, identifying problems faced and ways to overcome them towards further development. Some of those resolutions include:

- Government Resolution #756 (November 27, 1998) "On categorization of the settlements of the Republic of Armenia by altitudes"
- Government Resolution #246 (April 21, 1999) "On concept program of priority issues of bordering and high mountainous regions of Armenia"
- Decree of the Prime Minister of Armenia #222 (March 22, 2001) "On approving of (a) the charter of the inter-agency commission on investigation of the issues of mountainous settlements development, (b) 2001-2002 activity plan of the commission"
- Government Resolution #994 (August 8, 2003) "On approving (a) strategic program on poverty reduction in Armenia"
- Government Resolution #100 (January 22, 2004) "On Approving the list of activities for 2004 - 2006 for implementation of strategic program on poverty reduction"

Priority risks for biodiversity of mountainous regions currently include: unsustainable use of natural pastures and grasslands, land alienation for industrial, transport and urban construction, pollution of water and land resources, etc. Improvement and sustainable use of pastures and grasslands are intended in a number of project documents, including: NBSAP, National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, National Strategy for Sustainable development of Agriculture, "Community-based Management of Watersheds" component of the "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project. Global climate change is one of potential treats. Possible impact of climate change on high mountainous ecosystems and their biodiversity is discussed in the "First National Communication on Climate Change". The following impacts are predicted: decrease in the total area of pastures and their effectiveness by 4-10% (including reduction of the area of moist valuable pastures of alpine and sub-alpine zones of mountainous and high mountainous regions by up to 20%); reduction of the harvest from mountainous grasslands by 7-10%.

194. Has your country taken any measures to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity	
<p>The fourth section of the "Strategy of Sustainable Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia" (2004) contains provisions on sustainable use, restoration and melioration of the pastures, including improvement of alpine pastures, modeling of optimal size for cattle breeding industries with regard to zoning, creation of favorable conditions for the farthest pastures, improvement and melioration of pastures, monitoring of pasture use, etc. Please refer to Target 1.1 for further information on the implementation of above -mentioned activities.</p> <p>The following activities have been carried out in mountainous community pastures of Gegharkunik and Tavush marzes under the "Community-based Management of Watersheds" component of the "Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction" project: restoration of the existing roads through fields, installation of water discharge pipelines for the roads running through the fields, construction of cattle watering facilities for cattle, prevention of water erosion, etc. In order to reduce anthropogenic impact on mountainous forests (forest logging) the demonstrations of the construction of biogas production systems is being implemented in the mentioned marzes. Please refer to the Target 4.2 and Questions 174-185 for further information on forest biodiversity conservation activities.</p> <p>According to the "State Strategy and National Action Plan for Development of Nature Protected Areas in Armenia" in order to conserve rich biodiversity of mountainous regions it is intended to establish one state reserve, 2 national parks, 2 natural parks, and a number of reservations in the period before the year 2010. This process is currently underway.</p> <p>The draft Strategy for Sustainable Development of Mountainous and High Mountainous Areas emphasizes the necessity of development and implementation of a number of projects related to implementation of scientific research and monitoring of the impact of global changes upon the biodiversity of mountainous regions. It is intended to establish a mountain biosphere reserve on the basis of "Shikahogh" state reserve .</p>	

195. Has your country taken any measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems	
<p>"National Action Plan to Combat Desertification in Armenia" anticipates development and application of target programs for mountainous settlements, zones and areas as well as re-inhabitation of high mountainous abandoned villages as a ground for development of recreational activities.</p>	

In 2005 by the assistance of UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the draft Strategy for Sustainable Development of Mountainous and High Mountainous Areas has been developed with a separate chapter on "Strategy of Effective Use of Natural Resources and Environment Protection". The main objectives, tasks and priorities of the sustainable development of mountainous areas at the environmental field were identified and the investment portfolio for sustainable use of bioresources was developed.

The mountainous areas are rather rich with recreational resources due to landscape diversity, curing features of the climate, existence of mineral water sources and areas covered by forests, etc. However, the potential of recreational resources is not used effectively yet and all the processes to improve this situation are carried out very slowly due to lack of appropriate resources. Refer to the Targets 1.1, 2.1, 4.1 for further information on activities related to sustainable use of biodiversity of the high mountainous Sevan Lake.

196. Has your country taken any measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources, including preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge?

a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	X
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources

Programme Element 2. Means of implementation for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing

197. Has your country developed any legal, policy and institutional framework for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing this programme of work?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant frameworks are being developed	X
c) Yes, some frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the legal, policy and institutional frameworks for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing the programme of work on mountain biodiversity.

The investment portfolio of the draft Strategy for Sustainable Development of Mountainous and High Mountainous Areas includes proposal on establishment of National Centre for sustainable development of mountainous regions.

198. Has your country been involved in regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some cooperation frameworks are being considered	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

Regional cooperation is underway in the framework of several international projects, such as particularly:

- Reducing Transboundary Pollution of Kura-Aras River Basin.
- Improvement of Regional Water Resource Management in South Caucasus
- Joint Management of Transboundary Rivers

In order to joint conservation of the biodiversity of high mountainous ecosystem adjacent to Armenian and Georgian borders the "Establishment of transboundary protected area in Javakhk region" project intends to establish a series of Protected areas that can be integrated in future into one biosphere reserve.

In the framework of the "Development of regional strategy for long-term conservation and sustainable use of the biological resources in Caucasus" project (funded by McArthur foundation) the Caucasian Regional Conservation Program has been developed by the coordination of WWF. It is currently in the stage of concurrence and includes sections with a number of activities on conservation of biodiversity of mountainous regions.

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

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

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

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

Refer to the questions 19-23 of this report.

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

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

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

The investment portfolio of the draft Strategy for Sustainable Development of Mountainous and High Mountainous Areas includes proposals on development and implementation of "Mountainous Areas of Armenia: Assessment of Present Status and Development Trends in Light of Global Changes at Regional Context" scientific-applied project.

201. Has your country taken any measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems	

Box LXXIII .

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

E. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

202. Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention? (decision V/20)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the regional and subregional activities in which your country has been involved.	

203. Is your country strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, enhancing integration and promoting synergies with relevant regional and subregional processes? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on regional and subregional cooperation and processes.	

The following question (204) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

204. Is your country supporting the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, included in existing cooperation frameworks (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities ongoing (please provide details below)	
Further comments on support for the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes.	

205. Is your country working with other Parties to strengthen the existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) Yes	X

206. Has your country contributed to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on contribution to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms.	

Box LXXIV.

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

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

F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT

Box LXXV.

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

The format of this report is from our point of view very long and complicated. The questions of the report are in a number of cases very general and difficult to understand. From our point of view the questions regarding the 2010 target should be asked one year after the 2010 to see if Parties have achieved all goals and targets but in more simple way.

The Boxes are too much detailed. Information we would give to these boxes are often part of our answers in notifications and it is not necessary to make the report more complicated filling these boxes in. Problems rose with clarification of some questions during the work with stakeholders. About half of the questions are duplicated. About one third of the questions need further clarifications.

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