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

A first draft of the national report has been prepared by the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. This draft report was sent to forestry stakeholders / experts for comments.

The final version of the report has been discussed within and has been adopted by the Austrian National Commission on Biodiversity. Members of this Commission are representatives of Federal Ministries, the Provincial Governments, interest groups (e.g. Forest Owner Associations, Federal Chamber of Commerce), Federal Agencies involved in biodiversity issues (e.g. Federal Environment Agency, Federal Office and Research Centre for Forests), NGOs (e.g. WWF, Greenpeace Austria, Arch Noah) as well as representatives from the scientific community (e.g. University of Vienna, Austrian Academy of Science).

Information has been gained from a case-study on the "Evaluation of the Implementation of CBD Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity and the IPF- and IFF- Proposals for Action in Austria" commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and carried out by the University of Agricultural Sciences Vienna. An extended executive summary of this study will be available soon.

**VOLUNTARY REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON
FOREST BIODIVERSITY**

Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity

Annex to Decision VI/22

1. Has your country identified priority goals, objectives and activities included in the expanded programme of work for implementation at the national level?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes (please provide a list of priorities identified)	X
Further comments on identification of priority goals, objectives and activities	
The above mentioned study on the implementation of the FBD Work Programme in Austria identifies several areas (goals, objectives, activities), which should be addressed in the further implementation of the Work Programme. However, the process of setting up priority goals, objectives and activities has not been finalized yet and is being carried out within the National Commission on Biodiversity in order to include them in the National Strategy on Biodiversity and the Austrian Forest Dialogue, aiming at elaborating a National Forest Programme.	
2. From the list of priorities, did some or all of them produce the expected impacts after their implementation (i.e. a success)?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes (please specify success stories)	
Further comments on impacts of implementation of priority activities	
As the implementation of the Work Programme is still in process it's too early to comment on impacts at this stage.	
3. Were there any challenges/impediments to the implementation of priority activities that could have negatively affected their chance of success?	
a) yes (please specify the activities and the main challenges/impediments)	
b) no	
Further comments on challenges/impediments to implementation of priority activities	
see answer question 2	
4. Is your country collaborating with other Governments and regional and international organizations and processes to implement regional or international activities in the expanded programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited collaboration (please provide details)	
c) yes, significant collaboration (please provide details)	X
Further comments on collaboration with other Governments and regional and international organizations and processes to implement regional or international activities in the expanded programme of work	

Collaboration takes place within the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). Austria has signed and followed up a number of resolutions with specific relevance to FBD. Most recently Austria signed the Vienna Resolution V4 "Conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity in Europe" of the MCPFE which strives for co-ordinated implementation of the CBD Expanded Programme of Work and contains a framework for co-operation between MCPFE and "Environment for Europe" Process through the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS). The framework agreement identifies areas for co-operation between the two processes, which currently are going to be operationalized by identifying activities for its implementation.

Being a member of the European Union, Austria collaborates with other EU member states as regards biological diversity. Several activities contained in the Programme of Work are implemented by common activities (e.g. protection of community forests against atmospheric pollution, forest fires, etc.).

Programme Element 1: Conservation, Sustainable Use and Benefit-sharing

5. Has your country developed practical methods, guidelines and/or indicators to apply the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) relevant methods, guidelines and indicators under development	X
c) some methods, guidelines and indicators developed (please provide details)	
d) a comprehensive set of methods, guidelines and indicators developed (please provide details)	
Further comments on the practical methods, guidelines and indicators to apply the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management	
<p>A case study on the application of the ecosystem approach in Austrian forests has been carried out and published by the Austrian Federal Environment Agency (HECKL/LEXER/VACIK/WOLFSLEHNER/HACKL, 2003, http://www.biodiv.at/chm/berichte/BE153/BE153.pdf). An English summary of this study has been made available to the CBD Secretariat and included in its list of case studies. Results of the aforementioned study as well as the ecosystem approach in general are being considered in the National Forest Dialogue which shall lead to the development of a National Forest Programme.</p> <p>Further more, the MCPFE/PEBLDS framework agreement also includes further work on the implementation of the ecosystem approach on regional level.</p> <p>In general there is no officially approved set of methods, guidelines and indicators to apply the ecosystem approach within forestry yet. Nevertheless, in many respects existing approaches and tools of sustainable forest management can be regarded as contributions to the implementation of major requirements of the ecosystem approach within the sector of forestry.</p>	

6. Has your country taken any measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, and mitigate their negative impacts on forest biodiversity in accordance with international law?	
a) no	
b) relevant measures under development	
c) yes, some measures taken (please outline the measures)	X
d) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please outline the measures)	
Further comments on the measures taken	
<p>An action plan on invasive alien species – based on the CBD/COP6 Guiding Principles - is in process (to be finalized end of 2003). An inventory on IAS in Austria (ESSL & RABITSCH, 2002) has been carried out as well as activities to raise the awareness on the problem of IAS (booklet, expert meeting, homepage).</p> <p>According to the Austrian Forest Act (amended in 2002) only a certain spectrum of tree-species is allowed to be planted. The invasive or potentially invasive nature of some of these species is currently discussed within the development of the action plan. According to the Austrian inventory of IAS, alien species are termed “potentially invasive” if they do not account for nature conservation-related problems in Austria for the time being but are known to cause such problems in neighbouring or biogeographically adjacent countries.</p> <p>Nature protection laws of the federal provinces also have a range of restrictions concerning the spread of alien species.</p>	
7. Has your country taken any measures to mitigate the impact of pollution on forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) relevant measures under development	
d) yes, some measures taken (please provide details)	X
e) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details)	
Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate the impact of pollution on forest biodiversity	
<p>The Austrian Forest Act regulates the atmospheric pollution, which is damaging forests. The respective paragraphs are dedicated to prevent measurable damages to the forest soil or plant cover (forest vegetation)</p> <p>A Forest Damaging Monitoring System has been carried out by the Federal Forest Research Centre (BFW).</p> <p>The National Environmental Plan recommends measures to reduce atmospheric pollution damaging forests.</p> <p>Various scientific studies have been funded and undertaken during the last two decades in order to investigate the effects of pollution such as acidification on forest ecosystem health and stability. In spite of considerable progress having been achieved, the exact impacts of atmospheric pollution on many species groups are still widely unknown on account of complex chemical synergies and antagonisms, metabolic processes, different reactions of individual species, the large number of chemical substances being released, etc.</p> <p>Emission levels of many forest-effective air pollutants have been considerably reduced during the last decades.</p>	

8. Has your country taken any measures to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) relevant research and monitoring programmes under development	
c) some research and monitoring activities being undertaken but no measures taken	
d) yes, some measures taken (please outline the measures)	X
e) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please outline the measures)	
Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity	
<p>The Austrian Climate Strategy to meet the Kyoto goals contains a cluster of forestry-related measures in order to increase overall forest ecosystem stability and adaptivity.</p> <p>Guidelines for the financial support of reforestation and afforestation measures are strongly oriented towards the potentially natural vegetation since 1999.</p> <p>Several studies have been carried out also dealing with priority restoration measures in forests which show destabilisation symptoms induced by climate change.</p>	
9. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression (where fire is a natural disturbance agent)?	
a) no	
b) relevant measures being considered	
c) relevant measures under development	
d) yes, some measures undertaken (please specify)	x
e) yes, many measures being undertaken (please specify)	
Further comments on the measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression	
<p>Up to now – because of the temperate climate conditions - forest fires did not constitute a serious problem in Austria. However, due to extraordinary climate conditions during the last years, we had several forest fires in Austria.</p> <p>Legislative regulations exist with regard to the prevention of forest fires (including the possibility for authorities to set a time-limited smoking prohibition in forests).</p> <p>The State covers to some extent the forest fire insurance costs.</p> <p>Comprehensive statistical data about forest fires are available.</p>	

10. Is your country mitigating effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur?	
a) no	
b) monitoring and assessment of effects ongoing	
c) potential measures identified	
d) yes, some adopted and being implemented (please provide details)	x
e) yes, comprehensive measures adopted and being implemented (please provide further details)	
Further comments on measures adopted to mitigate effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur	
<p>The predominant portion of the Austrian forests is utilized for timber production purposes. In these forests the dynamics of natural ecological processes, succession cycles and natural disturbances, as they are typical of primeval and natural forests, are restricted or suppressed (e.g. natural collapsing of very old stands, gaps created by the collapse of individual trees or of small clusters of trees, natural regeneration of areas affected by windthrows or other natural catastrophes, high percentage of old wood and dead wood, etc.). Also the natural flood dynamics of floodplain forests has been considerably reduced by regulation of river systems and the building of hydro-electric power plants.</p> <p>Examples of measures that have been taken to mitigate these effects include, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation of a network of nature forest reserves aiming at, inter alia, investigating natural ecological processes and developing respective methods of close-to-nature silviculture. • In protected areas under nature conservation legislation, such as national parks, natural succession cycles and related disturbances are fostered. • The Austrian Forest Act amended in 2002 grants exceptions to certain regulations in forests within nature protection areas which can be used to allow more natural processes to take place. For instance, after bark beetle attacks or windthrows it is now possible to leave a larger amount of dead wood in these forests without instantly having to remove it. • Activities to restore some of the regulated floodplain forest ecosystems are taking place. • Deregulations of river systems and close-to-nature river regulation techniques are being applied. • "Soft", close-to-nature techniques of torrent and avalanche control are being applied which allow natural ecological disturbances to a limited extent. 	
11. Is your country preventing and mitigating losses of forest biodiversity due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses?	
a) no	
b) potential measures identified	
c) yes, some measures undertaken	X
b) yes, comprehensive measures undertaken	

12. Is your country restoring forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes?	
a) no	
b) potential measures identified	
c) yes, some measures implemented in some areas (please provide details)	X
d) yes, comprehensive measures implemented in major areas (please provide details)	
Further comments on the measures to restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes	
<p><u>Futher information on 11.c):</u></p> <p>e.g., Environmental Impact Assessments for infrastructure projects, case studies with recommendations to conserve and restore connectivity (VÖLK et al., 2001; GRILLMAYER et al., 2002), identification of supraregional wildlife ecological corridors, guidelines for roadplanners with respect to wildlife passages.</p> <p><u>Ad 12:</u></p> <p>Subsidies for close to nature silviculture measures (inter alia, for reforestation and afforestation measures according to the potentially natural vegetation) are granted by the government.</p>	
13. Is your country promoting forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species?	
a) no	
b) relevant forest management practices under development	
c) yes, some practices adopted and promoted (please provide details)	
d) yes, some practices being implemented (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species	
<p>Red Lists of threatened species exist for some species groups on national and subnational level in which the status, trend and conservation needs of those species are assessed. These Red Lists also contain endemic species.</p> <p>Up to now, no overall protection strategy or programme for threatened or endemic species exist on a national level. However, there are certain single-species conservation programmes in place in some federal provinces.</p> <p>Austrian Biodiversity Strategy for the Implementation of the CBD defines objectives and measures for threatened and endemic species.</p> <p>The Austrian Forest Act (amended in 2002) puts stronger emphasis on the conservation of biological diversity.</p> <p>On sites to be included in the EU-Network Natura 2000 appropriate measures (establishment of management plans) need to be taken also in order to conserve endemic and threatened species.</p>	
14. Is your country ensuring adequate and effective protected forest area networks?	
a) no	
b) networks of protected areas being planned	
c) some protected areas established but networks not in place	
d) networks of protected areas taking shape	

e) major networks of protected areas established	X
15. Is your country promoting sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant policy and programme under development	
c) yes, some policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	X
d) yes, comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on the policies and programmes for promoting sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biodiversity	
<p><u>Information on 14.e):</u></p> <p>Austrian Natural Forest Reserve Programme; protected areas according to the EU-Directives establishing the Natura 2000 network also contain forest sites.</p> <p>A study categorizing all Austrian forests within nature protection areas according to the Criteria of the MCPFE and examining the qualities and intensities of the protection regimes according to ordinance has been carried out and finished.</p> <p><u>ad 15.:</u></p> <p>Natural Forest Reserve Programme</p> <p>Austrian Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>National Environmental Plan</p> <p>Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Restrictions regarding the management of forests in protected areas are possible according to ordinance.</p> <p>In the Austrian Forest Act stipulates the sustainable management of forests as an overall objective. This also includes the long-term conservation of forest biological diversity.</p> <p>With regard to the harvesting of non-timber forest resources, high levels of forest damage caused by ungulates are a problem in some regions. Therefore activities to promote sustainable hunting management are carried out.</p> <p>Also voluntary, market based forest certification is contributing to the promotion of sustainable management of forests. In Austria 3,9 Mio ha of forests are certified according to the regional approach of PEFC; some sites are certified according to the FSC-system.</p>	
16. Is your country preventing losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources?	
a) no	
b) potential measures identified	
c) some measures undertaken (please provide details)	X
d) comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details)	
Further comments on the measures to prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timbering forest resources	

<p>The Austrian Forest Act stipulates sustainable forest management in general and includes several provisions to this end.</p> <p>E.g.: Clear-cutting is restricted by the Austrian Forest Act. Generally forbidden are clear cuttings that would permanently reduce soil productivity, influence water regulation considerably in a negative way, enhance soil erosion, or impair the function of protective forests. Clear cuttings with a size of more than 0,5 hectares need permission by the forest authorities. Large clear-cuttings (more than 2 hectares) are only allowed in exceptional cases.</p> <p>Concerning non-timber forest resources, a project has been carried out aiming at the development of a set of criteria and indicators for sustainable hunting and thus contributing to the prevention of losses caused by unsustainable hunting. On the Austrian CHM (www.biodiv.at) a living document has been installed in order to allow hunters to assess the sustainability of their hunting management practices by using the above mentioned criteria and indicators. Currently, these criteria and indicators are in the process of further development.</p> <p>Also some provincial regulations set out restrictions concerning the use of non-timber forest resources (e.g. with regard to the picking of mushrooms).</p>	
<p>17. Is your country taking any measure to enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity?</p>	
a) no	
b) not applicable	
c) relevant policy and programme under development	x
d) yes, some policies and programmes in place (please specify)	
<p>Further comments on the policies and programmes to enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity</p>	
<p>As far as indigenous communities are concerned, this objective is not relevant for Austria.</p> <p>As far as participation of local communities in the forest management in general is concerned, the applicability of this objective is restricted due to the property structure of Austrian forests and due to private property rights which are clearly regulated by property-related federal laws.</p> <p>However, there are several examples for participation of (local) citizens in the forest management, e.g. platforms for the management of protective forests, the Austrian Forest Dialogue which shall lead to a National Forest Programme, and the implementation process of Natura 2000 (EU nature conservation legislation).</p> <p>Cultural diversity as an instrument to enhance forest biological diversity plays a role in the context of, inter alia, forests used for grazing and of other traditional forest use systems.</p>	
<p>18. Has your country developed effective and equitable information systems and strategies and promoted implementation of those strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity?</p>	
a) no	
b) relevant information system and strategy under development	
c) relevant information system in place	
d) relevant strategies in place (please provide details)	
e) relevant information system and strategies in place (please provide details)	x
<p>Further comments on the strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity</p>	

Austrian Programme for the conservation of genetic resources

In situ-conservation: establishment and stewardship of the nature forest reserve programme as well as of protected areas under nature conservation legislation.

Ex situ-conservation: gene conservation forests, seed plantations, clone archives, scientific work by the Federal Forest Research Center on forest genetics.

Federal Act on Seed Material for Forestry Purposes (Forstliches Vermehrungsgut-/Saatgut-Gesetz) (BGBl. Nr. 419/1996 und Nr. 512/1996) and corresponding ordinances.

A comprehensive study on the hemeroby of Austrian forest ecosystems (ecological state of forests with regard to potentially natural forest communities) has been performed and has been published in 1998 (GRABHERR et al., 1998).

In the frame of the Austrian Forest Inventory data on the potentially natural forest communities are collected.

A Red List of threatened forest biotope types has been published by the Austrian Federal Environment Agency (ESSL et al., 2002).

19. Is your country promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge?

a) no

b) relevant policies and programmes under development

c) some policies and programmes in place (please specify)

d) comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please specify)

Further comments on the policies and programmes for promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge

Austria has not yet dealt with this objective in detail. Respective activities of the European Community shall be undertaken in the near future on which national implementation will largely depend.

If your country wishes to provide additional information on implementation of this programme element, please do this in the following space.

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Programme Element 2: Institutional and Socio-economic Enabling Environment

20. Is your country improving the understanding of the various causes of forest biodiversity losses?	
a) no	
b) a limited analysis being undertaken	
c) a thorough analysis being undertaken	
d) yes, some analyses completed and results available (please outline some findings from these analyses)	x
e) yes, comprehensive analysis completed and results available (please provide some findings from these analyses)	
Further comments on the analysis of the various causes of forest biodiversity losses	
<p>A comprehensive study on the hemeroby of Austrian forest ecosystems (ecological state of forests with regard to potentially natural forest communities) has been performed and has been published in 1998 (GRABHERR et al., 1998). The study focuses more on the present state of conditions and explores specific causes of biodiversity losses to a lesser extent.</p> <p>The Austrian Forest Inventory has adopted parameters which are appropriate to describe biodiversity aspects during its last two inventory periods. Appropriate technical analysis and interpretation of these biodiversity-related data may contribute to increasing the understanding of some causes of biodiversity losses to a limited extent, although this is not the main task of the inventory.</p> <p>A Red List of threatened forest biotope types has been published by the Austrian Federal Environment Agency (ESSL et al., 2002) which gives information on types and causes of threats.</p> <p>A case study on the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in Austrian forests investigates threats to forest biodiversity on the basis of a comprehensive review of literature, but without undertaking empirical scientific research. Local case studies are used to illustrate the statements.</p>	
21. Has your country integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) yes, integrated into policies and programmes in some sectors (please provide details)	x
d) yes, integrated into policies and programmes in major sectors (please provide details)	
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes	
<p>The Austrian Forest Act stipulates sustainable forest management as an overall objective. This includes the long-term conservation of forest biological diversity.</p> <p>National Forest Programme (in process): aims at furthering sectoral integration</p> <p>Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development: stipulates the sectoral integration</p> <p>Austrian Biodiversity Strategy for the Implementation of the CBD</p> <p>National Environmental Plan</p> <p>Hunting Laws of the Federal Provinces</p> <p>In other sectors than forestry, agriculture, hunting and nature conservation, cross-sectoral integration is not present to the same extent.</p> <p>Practical implementation of cross-sectoral integration has not been fully able to keep up with progress on the conceptual, legislative or strategy level.</p>	

22. Has your country developed good governance practices, reviewed and revised and implemented forest and forest-related laws, tenure and planning systems, to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) review and revision completed	
d) some good governance practices and related laws developed and implemented (please provide details)	
e) a comprehensive set of practices and laws developed and implemented (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the practices and laws developed and implemented to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity	
<p>A range of acts and ordinances exist, e.g. forest act</p> <p>A comprehensive evaluation of the intergration of biodiversity-related objectives into forestry-related legislation, programmes and strategies has been carried out by the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management within the framework of an evaluation of the state of implementation of the Programme of Work for Forest Biological Diversity and the IPF/IFF proposals for action (PÜLZL, 2003).</p> <p>Legislation for Environmental Impact Assessment exists on a national level, as well as for Spatial Impact Assessment in some federal provinces.</p> <p>The European Union has issued a guideline for Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment. The jurisdictional implementation of this guideline into national legislation is in process and shall be finished until June 2004.</p>	
23. Is your country promoting forest law enforcement and addressing related trade?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) potential measures identified	
d) yes, some measures in place to strengthen law enforcement and address related trade	X
e) yes, comprehensive measures in place to strengthen law enforcement and address related trade	
24. Is your country mitigating the economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) review under way	X
c) potential measures identified	
d) yes, some measures taken (please provide details)	
e) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details)	
Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biodiversity	

A well established legal and institutional framework for sustainable forest management seeks to balance economic, ecological and social aspects.

In particular in mountainous alpine regions the cost-revenue situation might be critical. Some reasons for this cost-revenue squeeze are: globalized timber markets and increased pressure from international competition requires cutting down of costs, forestry in high mountain regions which cover a large portion of Austrian territory is particularly cost-intensive, some competing foreign timber producing countries have lower ecological standards with less legislative constraints to timber production ("eco-dumping"), constantly decreasing timber prizes, high degree of dependency from unpredictable timber markets which are highly dependent on consumer demands, etc.

Negative impacts of such developments on forest biological diversity cannot be excluded. In Austria various subsidy programmes are in place that try to counteract these tendencies by providing financial incentives for close-to-nature silvicultural measures.

Forest biological diversity and associated non-monetary benefits have not been integrated in national accounting systems yet.

25. Is your country increasing public support and understanding of the value of forest biodiversity and its goods and services at all levels?

a) no	
b) relevant programme under development	
c) yes, some programmes in place	X
d) yes, comprehensive programmes in place	

If your country wishes to provide additional information on implementation of this programme element, please do this in the following space.

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Programme Element 3: Knowledge, Assessment and Monitoring

26. Has your country reviewed and adopted a minimum forest classification system, based on harmonized and accepted forest definitions and addressing key forest biodiversity elements?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) review completed	
d) a forest classification system adopted	x
27. Has your country developed national forest ecosystem classification systems and maps that use agreed international standards and protocols?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes, classification systems in place	x (forest ecosystem types according to Annex I of the faun-flora-habitat-direction of the EU)
28. Has your country developed specific forest ecosystems surveys in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) relevant surveys being planned	
d) relevant surveys completed (please provide details)	
e) results of relevant surveys available (please provide details)	
Further comments on the surveys of specific forest ecosystems in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity	
<p>Natural Forest Reserve Programme: Establishment and stewardship of Natural Forest Reserves: One main objective is to monitor and investigate natural ecosystem processes in order to develop close-to-nature silvicultural measures.</p> <p>Implementation of Helsinki Resolution H2 of the MCPFE</p>	

29. Is your country advancing the development and implementation of international, regional and national criteria and indicators based on key regional, subregional and national measures within the framework of sustainable forest management?	
a) no	
b) relevant programme under development	
c) some criteria and indicators developed (please provide details)	x
d) comprehensive indicators developed (please provide details)	
Further comments on the development and implementation of criteria and indicators	
<p><u>Regional level:</u> MCPFE criteria & indicators for SFM.</p> <p>The 4th MCPFE (2003, Vienna) adopted an improved set of biodiversity related indicators.</p> <p>A set of national criteria and indicators has not been adopted yet. However, various initiatives strive towards the development of a national set:</p> <p>At the Institute for Silviculture of the University of Applied Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), a project dealing with the national implementation of the respective MCPFE resolutions is in process: Implementation and relevance of the Pan-European Guidelines for sustainable forest management – Evaluation on operational level considering different objectives and framework conditions.</p> <p>Furthermore, the following projects have been carried out:</p> <p>“Testing of Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management in Austria within the international CIFOR Project” (Federal Environment Agency, 1996).</p> <p>“Environmental Indicators for Austria. Regional and national Testing Parameters for Monitoring the State of the Environment on the Way to Sustainable Development. Conference Papers Vol. 26 (Federal Environment Agency, 1999).</p> <p>With regard to non-timber forest resources, an assessment set of criteria and indicators for sustainable hunting has been developed within the framework of a participatory stakeholder process: “Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Hunting”, Monography of the Federal Environment Agency Vol. 158 (FORSTNER et al., 2001, www.biodiv.at/chm/jagd).</p>	
30. Has your country conducted key research programmes on the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?	
a) no	
b) research programs under development	
c) yes, some research programs conducted	X
d) yes, comprehensive research programs conducted	

31. Is your country enhancing and improving the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biodiversity, benefiting from the opportunities offered through the Clearing House Mechanism of CBD?	
a) no	x
b) capacity building programme under development	
c) yes, some programmes in place (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on the programmes to enhance and improve the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biodiversity	

If your country wishes to provide additional information on implementation of this programme element, please do this in the following space.

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