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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

Australia's Second National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity is based on the *Review of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity*. The Review was conducted in 2000 and included public consultation and agreement by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC). The draft national report was also circulated for comment to a wide range of stakeholders including State and Local Governments, relevant industry groups and non-government organisations.

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

Australia is one of the 17 most biologically diverse nations in the world. Being an island nation, Australia's isolation is largely responsible for the unique diversity at both species and ecosystem levels. This isolation also provided a barrier from alien species and largely preserved Australia's biodiversity.

Australia has suffered severe declines and extinctions, especially in the past 200 years. There have been fluctuations in decline during this period, but the rates have been greatest in the past 50 years.

Australia is taking an active role in the conservation and preservation of the unique biodiversity it contains, with a recent review of efforts noting many advances that occurred in the past five years (see attached).

Australia is a federation of six self-governing States - New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania - and two self-governing mainland Territories - the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory. The Federal Government's powers and responsibilities are defined in the Australian Constitution. The State and Territory Governments are responsible for all other matters that come under their respective jurisdictions.

The State and Territory Governments have established systems of Local Government. Australia has about 750 Local Government councils, accountable to diverse metropolitan, regional, rural and indigenous communities. Local Government is responsible for the provision of local services such as environmental health regulation, local road building and maintenance, traffic management, municipal waste management, land use planning and development control, pollution control and monitoring, local parks and open space, recreation facilities and community services.

The Federal Government's powers encompass, among other things, interstate trade and commerce, taxation, postal and telecommunications services, defence, external affairs, banking, immigration and social welfare.

With this in mind, Australia's response to particular questions has addressed both Federal, State and Local initiatives.

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

Marine and coastal biological diversity

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

Agricultural biological diversity

5. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	
b) Medium	x
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	

6. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	x
c) Limiting	
d) Severely limiting	

Forest biological diversity

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

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

Inland water ecosystems

Water availability, flow modification, degradation of water quality, and habitat modification are all key issues affecting conservation of aquatic biodiversity. Australia faces ongoing challenges such as growth in demand on limited water resources, pollution and rising salinity levels in inland waterways. Implementation of inland water ecosystem conservation has a high priority in Australia with progress being made in wetland conservation and water quality monitoring.

In 2000 the Australian Prime Minister announced a National Action Plan to address salinity and deteriorating water quality of Australia's inland water ecosystems. The Action Plan involves new expenditure by Federal, State and Territory Governments in the order of \$1.4 billion over the next seven years. Other inland water ecosystem initiatives include the *Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement (2000)* between the Federal Government and the State Governments of Queensland and South Australia, *The Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan (2000)*, The National River Health Program, and the Murray-Darling 2001 program in collaboration with Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia and the Basin States.

Marine and coastal biodiversity

Australia places considerable priority on the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity. Australia's oceans policy is oversighted by the National Oceans office which drives the development of regional marine plans for Australia's exclusive economic zone. The Office also coordinates the overall implementation of *Australia's Oceans Policy*.

Other activities which promote conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity include the development of *the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (1999)* and numerous draft recovery and draft management plans. Nearly all inshore and coastal planning management is continued by State and Local Governments. Australia's enthusiasm to share knowledge and information on marine and coastal management with other parties highlights the importance placed on this area.

Agriculture biodiversity

Australian Governments have emphasised through policies and programs such as the National Landcare Program, and most recently the Natural Heritage Trust and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality initiatives, that improvements in farm management and natural resource management bring with them corresponding improvements in resource and environmental conditions including biodiversity. With Landcare membership reaching an estimated 38 percent of Australia's broadacre and dairy farms this represents a strong force towards ecologically sustainable management.

Forest biodiversity

In Australia, State and Territory Governments have primary responsibility for forest management while the Federal Government coordinates a national approach to environmental and industry development issues.

Progress is well advanced in developing ecologically sustainable forest management practices. The *National Forest Policy Statement (1992)* and the Regional Forest Agreements are the primary means by which the objectives of the Strategy will be accomplished in forest habitats. As many of these initiatives have only recently commenced implementation, monitoring will be required to determine the extent to which ecologically sustainable forest management practices are achieved.

The Regional Forest Agreement process developed under the *National Forest*

Policy Statement (1992) has largely been completed over the past five years. The Federal Government has entered into agreements with the States of Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia. These 20-year agreements establish a transparent and coordinated program for ecologically sustainable forest management, monitoring and reporting on ecologically sustainable management of forests and the preservation of biological diversity that will be completed in May 2002.

As a result of the progress of the *National Forest Policy Statement (1992)* the implementation the forest biodiversity work program has shifted from a high priority in previous years to having a medium relative priority at this time.

Biodiversity of dry and sub humid lands

Australia's domestic initiatives in addressing the global problem of combating desertification are well established. The continent's erosion prone soils and climatic extremes have necessitated a coordinated and strategic approach to sustainable natural resource management. This approach focuses on collaborative approaches between all levels of Government, industry and community in developing solution.

The high priority of this work program is indicated through a number of National Strategies, including *The National Strategy for Rangelands Management*, *National Weeds Strategy*, *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity*, and the *National Drought Policy*. In the *Murray-Darling Basin Initiative*, the Federal Government in partnership with relevant State Governments is addressing biodiversity of dry and sub humid lands in the Basin, using integrated catchment management principles including community consultation.

Article 5 Cooperation

11. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	x	c) Low	
12. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate	x	c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>The <i>National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity</i> (and the associated Review) is the main vehicle for the implementation of this article. The objectives of the Convention have permeated through to all levels of the Australia Government. State Biodiversity Strategies, such as <i>Victoria's Biodiversity - Directions in Management</i> compliment the national strategy. State regional initiatives include <i>The Biodiversity Plan for the South East of South Australia</i>, and at a Local Government level <i>The National Local Government Biodiversity Strategy</i>. Other processes include the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> and national programs in cooperation with the States, such as the Natural Heritage Trust.</p>					

13. Is your country actively cooperating with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	x
b) international programmes (please give details below)	x
c) international agreements (please give details below)	x

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

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

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

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

Decision V/21. Co-operation with other bodies

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

13. Australia has been a strong contributor to International Agreements, Programs and Bilateral Cooperation. Current examples of active involvement have been provided for each of the three categories.

Bilateral Cooperation

- China-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (CAMBA)(1986)
- Japan-Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA)(1974)

International Programs

AusAID, the Australian agency for international development, takes into account biodiversity values when considering aid projects and focuses its resources on projects that are ecologically sustainable. AusAID supports global and regional biodiversity efforts by ensuring biodiversity is considered in its overseas aid program. Currently the agency is funding \$26 million of biodiversity related projects and activities. These involve strengthening human and institutional resources, direct efforts to conserve

biodiversity and supporting multicultural and regional efforts. AusAID has also provided funding support for the implementation of international conservation agreements.

The Federal Government has provided considerable funding to the Global Environment Facility, which provides funds for developing countries to use for environmental projects. Australia is also actively involved with the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), the South Pacific Regional Program (SPREP) and the World Bank.

International Agreements

- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)(1971)
- Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage(1972)
- Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (1972)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)(1973)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)(1979)
- Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (1980)
- Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa(1994)

14. Australia's status as an island nation means that it does not share terrestrial boundaries with other nation states. Consequently the management of transboundary watersheds, catchments and river basins are between states, rather than international parties. These agreements include the Murray Darling Basin Agreement, *The Lake Eyre Intergovernmental Agreement (2000)*, *Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan (2000)* and the *National Action Plan for Water Quality and Salinity (2001)*. More broadly the Federal and State Governments finalised the *Intergovernment Agreement on the Environment (1992)* which embedded ecologically sustainable development.

International bilateral agreements on migratory birds are held with both Japan and China. The *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment (JAMBA)(1974)*, and the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment(CAMBA) (1986)*, are in place to protect migratory bird species and their habitat.

15. As an island nation Australia is largely exempt from sharing National borders. Australia's six marine parks are within Australian waters, although there is a Memorandum of Understanding between Australia and Indonesia in relation to fishing by Indigenous Indonesians at Ashmore and Carter Reefs. The Australian Antarctic Territories share boundaries with France, Norway and New Zealand. The Madrid Protocol, to which Australia is a signatory, was formed under the Antarctic Treaty to provide a comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems.

Article 6 General measures for conservation and sustainable use

18. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>		
19. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Please see the attached <i>Review of the National Strategy for the Conservation on Australia's Biological Diversity</i>. Since the adoption of the <i>National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity</i> in 1996 there have been a number of significant changes to the policy, legislative and regulatory environments for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The most significant Federal Government initiatives are the Natural Heritage Trust, the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> and, most recently, the natural resource management policy initiative from which the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality was drawn.</p>							

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity has as its main goal to protect biological diversity and maintain ecological processes and systems. It stresses that a high priority must be placed on developing and implementing integrated approaches to conservation that both conserve biodiversity and meet other community expectations. Since the Strategy was developed, a number of processes have been put in place to address these conservation objectives. These include the Natural Heritage Trust, the Regional Forest Agreement process under the National Forest Policy Statement, the Council of Australian Governments' Water Reform framework and *Australia's Oceans Policy*. More recently the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the National Framework for the Management and Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation (ANZECC, 1999) have been developed to strengthen regulatory and institutional mechanisms for managing biodiversity, the quality and extent of Australia's native vegetation and threatening processes. The National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality in Australia is also expected to have a positive impact on biodiversity conservation.

The Natural Heritage Trust has contributed AUD\$1.449 billion over six years, between 1996-97 and 2001-02, to significant achievements in the protection of native ecosystems. The mid-term review of the Trust identified a need to broaden policy to include alliances with businesses and philanthropic organisations to more effectively deal with the magnitude and complexity of the problems confronting biodiversity.

Article 7 Identification and monitoring

30. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	x	b) Medium		c) Low			
31. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate	x	c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Substantial progress has been made in identifying important biodiversity components. Nationally applicable indicators for biodiversity have now been endorsed through an intergovernment process for development of indicators on State of the Environment reporting. A major milestone will be Australia's second National State of the Environment Report, to be released in late 2001. This report and supporting technical volume on biodiversity will use the indicators.</p> <p>However, greater emphasis needs to be given to the acquisition of knowledge, gathered through comprehensive biological surveys in marine, estuarine and freshwater habitats and through taxonomic work in herbaria, museums and other institutions. Soil micro-organisms and their ecosystem functions also need to be investigated across a range of habitats.</p>							

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

35. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	x
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	

36. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at ecosystem level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	x
c) for major ecosystems	
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	

37. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at genetic level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) minor programme in some sectors	x
c) major programme in some sectors	
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	

38. Has your country identified activities with adverse affects on biodiversity (7c)?	
a) limited understanding	
b) threats well known in some areas, not in others	
c) most threats known, some gaps in knowledge	x
d) comprehensive understanding	
e) reports available	

39. Is your country monitoring these activities and their effects (7c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	x
e) reports on implementation available	

40. Does your country coordinate information collection and management at the national level (7d)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	
c) advanced stages of programme development	x
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	

Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment

41. Has your country identified national indicators of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	x

42. Is your country using rapid assessment and remote sensing techniques?	
a) no	
b) assessing opportunities	
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a major extent	x
e) reports on implementation available	

43. Has your country adopted a "step-by-step" approach to implementing Article 7 with initial emphasis on identification of biodiversity components (7a) and activities having adverse effects on them (7c)?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	x
c) yes	

44. Is your country cooperating with other Contracting Parties on pilot projects to demonstrate the use of assessment and indicator methodologies?	
a) no	
b) yes (if so give details below)	x

45. Has your country prepared any reports of experience with application of assessment methodologies and made these available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

46. Is your country seeking to make taxonomic information held in its collections more widely available?	
a) no relevant collections	
b) no action	
c) yes (if so, please give details below)	x

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

41. A key set of 65 environmental indicators for biodiversity have been recommended for Australian State of the Environment reporting at the national scale. Of these, 14 relate to pressures on biodiversity, 17 to the condition of biodiversity, and 34 to responses to loss of, to perceived threats to, biodiversity.

44. BioRap methodologies and tools have been trialed in Papua New Guinea to give a rapid assessment of local biodiversity resources.

46. Australia is in the process of compiling a virtual herbarium and virtual museum that will be accessible on the internet in the near future.

48. The Australian state of Victoria assisted with expertise in the development of IR Iran Biodiversity Strategy in 1998.

Decisions on Taxonomy

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

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

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

62. Has your country provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields?	
a) no	x
b) some	
c) many	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

58. Australia's capacity to strengthen taxonomy is based on the activities of the Australian Biological Resources Study. The Australian biological information facility, located on the ABRS website (www.anbg.gov.au/abrs/index.html), allows countries of origin to access information housed in Australian collections.

59. Most institutions responsible for biodiversity inventories on taxonomic activities are administered by State Governments with differing levels of support between Governments.

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

70. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	x	b) Medium		c) Low			
71. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	x	b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Australia has 14 places inscribed on the list under the Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Seven of these places are listed because of biodiversity values of universal significance. The biodiversity values of World Heritage places are strongly protected under the <i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>At the national level the goal of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserves for Australia is endorsed by the Federal and State and Territory Governments, as signatories to the National Strategy for Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity and the National Forest Policy Statement. Successive Governments have supported three processes to work towards a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserves - the National Reserve System Program, the Regional Forest Agreement Process and the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas. The national percentage of land in the reserve system is 7.84, however this varies between States and Territories (6% New South Wales, 15% Victoria, 4% Queensland, 22% South Australia, 6% Western Australia, 32% Tasmania, 52% Australian Capital Territory, 4% Northern Territory). Historically, terrestrial systems are better represented than marine. Progress is being made on the reserve system, however more needs to be done, including attention to ecological management of the reserve system.</p>							

72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?	
a) system under development	
b) national review of protected areas coverage available	
c) national protected area systems plan in place	
d) relatively complete system in place	x
73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	
b) no, under development	
c) yes	
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	x

74. Does your country regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use (8c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	x
e) reports on implementation available	
75. Has your country undertaken measures that promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings (8d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	x
76. Has your country undertaken measures that promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas (8e)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	x
c) potential measures under review	
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	
77. Has your country undertaken measures to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	x
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
78. Has your country undertaken measures to promote the recovery of threatened species (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	x
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

79. Has your country undertaken measures to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology (8g)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	x
80. Has your country made attempts to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components (8i)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	x
e) reports on implementation available	
81. Has your country developed and maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations (8k)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	x
82. Does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity (8l)?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a significant extent	x
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
83. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for <i>in situ</i> conservation particularly to developing countries (8m)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
84. Does your country receive financial and other support for <i>in situ</i> conservation (8m)?	
a) no	x
b) yes (if so, please give details below)	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Two of the key initiatives in Australia in recent years to conserve in situ biodiversity are the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the Endangered Species Program, as part of the Natural Heritage Trust.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* represents fundamental reform of federal environment laws in Australia. In particular, it is the first comprehensive attempt to define the environmental responsibilities of the Federal Government.

The Act enables the Federal Government to join with the States (including Territories) in providing a national scheme of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, recognising the prime responsibility of the States for environmental management and delivery of on-ground natural resource management.

The Act focuses Federal interest on matters of national environmental significance, puts in place a streamlined environmental assessment and approvals process for Federal Government decision making and establishes an integrated regime for biodiversity conservation and the management of important protected areas.

The objects of the Act are:

- to provide for the protection of the environment, especially those aspects of the environment that are matters of national environmental significance;
- to promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources;
- to promote the conservation of biodiversity;
- to promote a co-operative approach to the protection and management of the environment involving governments, the community, land-holders and indigenous peoples;
- to assist in the co-operative implementation of Australia's international environmental responsibilities;
- to recognise the role of indigenous people in the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia's biodiversity; and
- to promote the use of indigenous peoples' knowledge of biodiversity with the involvement of, and in co-operation with, the owners of the knowledge.

The Threatened Species Scientific Committee was established under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999*. Its principal task is to advise the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage on the amendment and updating of lists for nationally threatened species, threatened ecological communities and key threatening processes. It also advises the Federal Minister on the making or adoption of recovery plans and threat abatement plans for endangered species.

The Endangered Species Program is part of the Natural Heritage Trust, which was established to stimulate activities in the national interest to achieve the conservation, sustainable use and repair of Australia's natural environment.

The Endangered Species Program aims to prevent further extinctions of Australian fauna and flora, and to restore endangered species and ecological communities to a secure status in the wild.

The purpose of the Endangered Species Program is to:

- promote the recovery of species and ecological communities that are endangered and vulnerable;
- prevent other species and ecological communities from becoming endangered;
- reduce conflict in land management through readily understood mechanisms relating to the conservation of species and ecological communities that are endangered or vulnerable;
- provide for public involvement in, and promote public understanding of, the conservation of such species and ecological communities; and
- encourage co-operative management for the conservation of such species and ecological communities.

To achieve these aims, the Program provides a core resource for the conservation of nationally threatened species and ecological communities, primarily through funding on-ground community action to protect habitat through the preparation and implementation of recovery and threat abatement plans.

In addition to Federal legislation there has been a major effort to better protect Australia's threatened species and ecological communities through a range of programs and strategic and regulatory measures, together with increased cooperative efforts between all levels of government and the wider community. Although many habitats have not yet been comprehensively surveyed to clarify whether nationally threatened species and ecological communities are present or not, for instance with groundwater ecosystems, our knowledge of the occurrence and needs of nationally threatened taxa and ecological communities has rapidly expanded.

Whilst considerable progress has been made in addressing the threat posed by some threatening processes such as invasive species and by certain fishing practices, the nature and extent of impact of many threats remain uncertain. The cumulative impact of widespread ongoing land clearing and habitat degradation, together with other threats such as inappropriate water and fire management practices, salinity and disease, have led to the extinction of some species and continue to threaten many other species and ecological communities with the same fate. The protection of threatened species and communities will continue to be an ongoing task requiring a long-term commitment by all levels of government and the wider community.

Article 8h Alien species

86. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
87. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>The <i>Environmental Indicators for National State of the Environment Reporting: Biodiversity</i> states those exotic and alien organisms outside cultivation or captivity is a major pressure on biodiversity. The report goes on to state that the number of such organisms outside cultivation and captivity is reasonably well known for vertebrates, higher plants and some invertebrates, but knowledge is poor for most other organisms except the more obvious problem organisms such as <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> in south-western Australia. The main legislative role of the Federal Government in invasive species management has traditionally been barrier control through the <i>Quarantine Act 1908</i> and the assessment of environmental impacts on native species through the <i>Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982</i>. Local and State Governments have a range of legislative and regulatory mechanisms covering invasive species. The management of invasive species within Australia is primarily the responsibility of individual landowners or land managers. There has been a focus in the past on managing invasive species that threaten economic production rather than environmental values. However, this is changing as States and Territories, through threat abatement processes, aim to reduce invasive species pressure on threatened or endangered flora, fauna and ecological communities. There has also been a shift towards classifying invasive species by their impact on biodiversity in addition to their economic effects, such as 'environmental weeds'. There has been considerable activity on terrestrial and marine invasive species in all jurisdictions with a number of success stories. Despite this, invasive species continue to pose a major threat to biodiversity and ongoing vigilance is essential. Alas, management of alien species has the potential to consume large proportions of resources allocated to land and water management.</p>							

88. Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) only major species of concern	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) only new or recent introductions	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) a comprehensive system tracks new introductions	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) a comprehensive system tracks all known introductions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

89. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) no	
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed	x
c) most alien species have been assessed	
90. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	x
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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

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

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

93. Is your country applying the interim guiding principles for prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species in the context of activities aimed at implementing article 8(h) of the Convention, and in the various sectors?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) limited implementation in some sectors	
d) extensive implementation in some sectors	x
e) extensive implementation in most sectors	
94. Has your country submitted case-studies to the Executive Secretary focusing on thematic assessments?	
a) no	
b) in preparation	
c) yes	x

95. Has your country submitted written comments on the interim guiding principles to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
96. Has your country given priority to the development and implementation of alien invasive species strategies and action plans?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
97. In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed or involved itself in mechanisms for international co-operation, including the exchange of best practices?	
a) no	
b) trans-boundary co-operation	
c) regional co-operation	
d) multilateral co-operation	x
98. Is your country giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
99. Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
100. Has your country developed effective education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) some initiatives	
c) many initiatives	x
101. Is your country making available the information which it holds on alien species through the CHM?	
a) no	
b) some information	
c) all available information	x
d) information available through other channels (please specify)	
102. Is your country providing support to enable the Global Invasive Species Programme to fulfil the tasks outlined in the decision and its annexes?	
a) no	
b) limited support	x
c) substantial support	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Refer to Australia's Thematic Report on Alien Species.

88. Australia has identified all known introductions but does not track them.

Article 8j Traditional knowledge and related provisions

103. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium		x		c) Low	
104. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	x	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>There has been some advance over the last few years in the inclusion of indigenous knowledge, and cooperation with indigenous people, in land management and cultural heritage activities, especially on sites with significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There is still a need to ensure that ethnobiological knowledge is preserved within indigenous communities. To date cooperative ethnobiological programs are limited and do not appear well-coordinated Australia-wide. Indigenous people often are aware of native plants which have particular medicinal or culinary qualities. If this knowledge is exploited for commercial benefit, then access regimes should ensure the benefits arising from indigenous knowledge are shared with the relevant indigenous communities. This issue remains one of concern for indigenous communities.</p>							
105. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure that the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are respected, preserved and maintained?							
a) no measures							
b) some measures in place						x	
c) potential measures under review							
d) comprehensive measures in place							
106. Is your country working to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices?							
a) no							
b) early stages of development							
c) advanced stages of development						x	
d) programme or policy in place							

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

107. Has your country developed national legislation and corresponding strategies for the implementation of Article 8(j)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	x

108. Has your country supplied information on the implementation of Article 8(j) to other Contracting Parties through media such as the national report?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	x
c) yes - CHM	x
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

109. Has your country submitted case-studies to the Executive Secretary on measures taken to develop and implement the Convention's provisions relating to indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

110. Is your country participating in appropriate working groups and meetings?	
a) none	
b) some	
c) all	x

111. Is your country facilitating the active participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities in these working groups and meetings?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

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

112. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in the annex to the decision, and identified how to implement those tasks appropriate to national circumstances?	
a) no	
b) under review	x
c) yes (please provide details)	

113. Is your country integrating such tasks into its ongoing programmes, taking into account the identified collaboration opportunities?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	x
d) yes - to a significant extent	
114. Is your country taking full account of existing instruments, guidelines, codes and other relevant activities in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	x
d) yes - to a significant extent	
115. Has your country provided appropriate financial support for the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	x
116. Has your country fully incorporated women and women's organizations in the activities undertaken to implement the programme of work contained in the annex to the decision and other relevant activities under the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
117. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	x
118. Has your country provided case studies on methods and approaches concerning the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge, and the control of that information by indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
d) yes - through the national CHM	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	x

119. Does your country exchange information and share experiences regarding national legislation and other measures for the protection of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - with specific countries	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	x
120. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and maintenance of knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) some measures	x
d) extensive measures	
121. Has your country supported the development of registers of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, in collaboration with these communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) development in progress	x
d) register fully developed	
122. Have representatives of indigenous and local community organizations participated in your official delegation to meetings held under the Convention on Biological Diversity?	
a) not relevant	
b) not appropriate	
c) yes	x
123. Is your country assisting the Secretariat to fully utilize the clearing-house mechanism to co-operate closely with indigenous and local communities to explore ways that enable them to make informed decisions concerning release of their traditional knowledge?	
a) no	x
b) awaiting information on how to proceed	
c) yes	
124. Has your country identified resources for funding the activities identified in the decision?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) partly	x
d) fully	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

106. The Australian State of Queensland is currently developing a policy on access to and use of biological and genetic resources for biodiscovery and bioprospecting purposes; the Queensland BioAccess Policy. During the development of the Queensland BioAccess Policy, the Queensland Government will explore measures to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices in relation to biological resources and biodiscovery.

The Queensland Government has addressed this issue in the Code of Ethical Practice for Biotechnology Organisations in Queensland, to be released shortly. The Code will commit biotechnology organisations operating in Queensland that obtain and use traditional knowledge from indigenous persons or communities to negotiate reasonable benefit sharing arrangements with those persons or communities in the event that the knowledge contributes to successful discovery and commercialisation.

107. The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999* refers to involvement of indigenous Australians in biodiversity conservation, although the legislation was not specifically developed to reflect the objectives of Article 8(j).

114. Three of the seven objects of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, under section three, relate to indigenous involvement into Australia's biodiversity. These being:

- to promote a co-operative approach to the protection and management of the environment involving governments, the community, land-holders and indigenous peoples; and
- to recognise the role of indigenous people in the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia's biodiversity; and
- to promote the use of indigenous peoples' knowledge of biodiversity with the involvement of, and in co-operation with, the owners of the knowledge.

As a result of this legislation a number of initiatives have been adopted. Formal joint management of Kakadu, Uluru and Booderee National Parks with indigenous Australian's has been established. This has lead to indigenous employment in the parks and a majority of the boards comprising of indigenous Australian's.

Implementation of Article 8(j) is being achieved by two pilot projects entitled *Ethnobiological Project - Indigenous Knowledge of Biodiversity 2000 - 2001*. The project aims are to develop protocols and guidelines/ methodologies for the protection and transmission of traditional ethnobiological knowledge between generations.

In addition, the Indigenous Advisory Committee incorporates indigenous knowledge of the land into the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, whilst the Indigenous Protected Areas Program encourages indigenous land management. Sustainable land management is integral for indigenous cultural protection and sustainable use of biol resources.

115. Australia is currently at a policy development stage with regard to the program of work. The program has been funded to a significant extent for this stage of progress. Two communities are part of the *Ethnobiological Project - Indigenous Knowledge of Biodiversity 2000 - 2001*.

116. Women are an integral part of the transfer of ethnobiological knowledge

to younger generations and are therefore incorporated into the program in areas such as food and craft.

117. Active cooperation occurs with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). ATSIC are the main link between the Federal Government and indigenous communities. ATSIC represented Australia at the Ad hoc Open Ended Intersessional working group in Seville in 2000.

118. Case Studies were provided to the World Intellectual Property Organisation fact finding mission on Indigenous Property and Traditional Knowledge.

119. Information has been exchanged through *Access to Biological Resources in Commonwealth Areas (2000)* (Voumard Report).

120. The Queensland Government will explore measures to promote the conservation and maintenance of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities during the development of the Queensland BioAccess Policy.

123. Traditional indigenous knowledge is not a well developed area in Australia. The CHM website in forms what has been achieved with the available knowledge.

124. Again, the program is in the policy development stage.

Article 9 Ex situ conservation

125. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium		x		c) Low	
126. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	x	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Australia has established and is maintaining a wide range of measures and facilities for <i>ex-situ</i> conservation through Federal, State and Territory agencies, tertiary institutions and scientific organisations. <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation facilities include zoos, aquaria, botanic gardens, seed banks and collections of tissue cultures and micro-organisms. The current measures are sufficient to meet the objective of complementing <i>in-situ</i> measures for the conservation of plants, animals and micro-organisms. However, they may not be sufficient to protect against unpredictable events that may threaten specific species or rare genotypes. Ongoing effort is required to maintain Australia's <i>ex-situ</i> collections, both in terms of maintaining living specimens and also the information held about the items in the collections.</p>							

127. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity native to your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	x
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
128. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity originating outside your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	x
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
129. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	

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

Article 10 Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

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

139. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making (10a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	x
e) review of implementation available	
140. Has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity (10b)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	x
141. Has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements (10c)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	x
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

142. Has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced (10d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	x
d) comprehensive measures in place	

143. Does your country actively encourage cooperation between government authorities and the private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological diversity (10e)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	x
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
e) review of implementation available	

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

144. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on tourism and its impacts on biological diversity, and efforts to effectively plan and manage tourism?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	x
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
145. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on biodiversity-related activities of the CSD (such as SIDS, oceans, seas and freshwater resources, consumption and production patterns)?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	x
c) yes - correspondence	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	x

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

146. Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	x
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	
147. Has your country assisted other Parties to increase their capacity to implement sustainable-use practices, programmes and policies at regional, national and local levels, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) to a limited extent	x
d) to a significant extent (please provide details)	

148. Has your country developed mechanisms to involve the private sector and indigenous and local communities in initiatives on sustainable use, and in mechanisms to ensure that indigenous and local communities benefit from such sustainable use?	
a) no	
b) mechanisms under development	x
c) mechanisms in place (please describe)	
149. Has your country identified areas for conservation that would benefit through the sustainable use of biological diversity and communicated this information to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	x
b) yes	

Decision V/25. Biological diversity and tourism

150. Has your country based its policies, programmes and activities in the field of sustainable tourism on an assessment of the inter-linkages between tourism and biological diversity?	
a) no	x
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	
151. <i>Has your country submitted case-studies on tourism as an example of the sustainable use of biological diversity to the Executive Secretary?</i>	
a) no	x
b) yes	
152. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Ecotourism?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
153. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

140. Land clearing is a notable exception.

146. The States of Australia have developed programs to assist better land management and protective schemes. These programs are increasingly adopting a more integrated approach to include biodiversity enhancement as an equal goal. Examples include Bushcare, under the Natural Heritage Trust, and Waterwatch.

153. Activities that are relevant to biodiversity are planned for the International Year of Mountains, however the International Year of Mountains is to be held in 2001 so these activities have not yet taken place.

Article 11 Incentive measures

156. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium		x		c) Low	
157. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	x	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>The Australian Government remains committed to the use of incentive measures in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Significant investment from the Natural Heritage Trust has been directed to innovative community based programs that work to conserve biodiversity at a local and regional level. Incentives are currently being provided and will continue to be provided through a range of programs jointly managed in partnership between the National and State and Territory Governments. Other incentive measures include recent changes to the Australian tax system, the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>, Bushcare (The National Vegetation Initiative), Local Government rate rebates and concessions, regional strategic planning and partnerships with indigenous people.</p>							

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

Decision III/18. Incentive measures

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

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

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

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

166. Australia has identified threats to biodiversity and underlying causes of biodiversity loss. However, there are unknown elements that exist that have the potential to cause future threats to biodiversity, such as greenhouse, climate change and invasive species.

171. Australia has developed a comprehensive package of measures to address the issue of climate change. Policies and programs have been developed to address the full range of greenhouse gas sources and sinks. Australia conducts ongoing monitoring and evaluation of existing activities as a means of determining policy and program effectiveness. For further information on Australia's response to climate change, refer to the Australian Greenhouse Office internet site, www.greenhouse.gov.au

Australia ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 1992, however we are yet to ratify the Kyoto Protocol under the Convention.

Article 12 Research and training

173. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	x	c) Low	
174. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	x
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>Significant advances have been made over the last few years in knowledge of biodiversity but there is still a long way to go. It is estimated that more than 90 per cent of Australia's mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs and some 70 per cent of Australia's flowering plants, conifers, ferns and other vascular plants are identified and described, but only about 50 per cent of the invertebrates and lower order plants are identified. Scientists know even less about other organisms such as fungi and bacteria. Considerable research is needed to understand ecosystem processes particularly those in the soil and in marine, estuarine and fresh water ecosystems.</p>					
175. Has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?					
a) no					
b) early stages of development					
c) advanced stages of development					
d) programmes in place					x
176. Has your country provided support to other Parties for education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?					
a) no					
b) yes					x
177. Does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (12b)?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					
c) yes - significant extent					x
178. Does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources (12c)?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					
c) yes - significant extent					x

If a developed country Party -

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

a) no	
b) yes, where relevant	x

Further comments on implementation of this Article

176. Limited funding is provided by Australia for specific educational and training projects.

179. Australia has supported a number of specific initiatives in the Asia Pacific region to assist developing countries with scientific and technical training in identification, conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

In partnership with Wetlands International - Oceania, Australia supports wetland training and capacity building activities in a number of Pacific Island and East Asian countries. The *Ramsar Pacific Islands Liaison Officer* project has delivered training in wetland inventory, assessment and wise use with an emphasis on mangroves and freshwater lakes. The *Shorebird Flyway Officer Project* has delivered training in migratory shorebird identification, conservation and management planning for wetland site managers in East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Australia is also providing funding support to the Northern Territory University for the *Asia Pacific Wetland Managers Training Program*. The overall aim of the training program is to provide wetland managers with the skills necessary to achieve sustainable use of wetlands with a focus is on tropical areas of the Asia-Pacific region. Courses have been delivered in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Irian Jaya, and Vietnam covering training in wetland ecology and management and hands-on training in practical wetland management skills, such as control of invasive species.

Article 13 Public education and awareness

180. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	x	b) Medium		c) Low			
181. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	x	b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>The involvement of all Australians is vital to conserving Australia's biodiversity. Increasing public awareness of Government initiatives, particularly the programs of the Natural Heritage Trust, encourages greater community involvement in those programs and other community environmental activities. Programs such as Coastcare, Bushcare and Endangered Species fund on-ground community action to protect Australia's unique biodiversity. The Government's National Action Plan for environmental education provides an overarching framework for environmental education activities in Australia. In this respect, the long-term understanding of the importance of biodiversity depends on its inclusion in the curricula of all formal education sectors. The national curriculum profile, for example, which is developed cooperatively by the Federal Government, States and Territories, and educational institutions, now includes biodiversity as part of an interdisciplinary approach. However, key biodiversity concepts and issues need to be emphasised and explored more fully by students. At the same time, the focus of biodiversity education needs to be broadened from the primary and secondary school focus to encompass the TAFE and tertiary sectors. Stronger connections are needed between biodiversity education and career development in the environmental field.</p>							

182. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through media?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x
183. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through the inclusion of this topic in education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	x
c) yes - significant extent	

184. Does your country cooperate with other States and international organizations in developing relevant educational and public awareness programmes (13b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x

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

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

186. Has your country allocated appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?	
a) limited resources	
b) significant but not adequate resources	x
c) adequate resources	

187. Does your country support initiatives by major groups that foster stakeholder participation and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

188. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	x
d) yes	

189. Has your country made available any case-studies on public education and awareness and public participation, or otherwise sought to share experiences?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

190. Has your country illustrated and translated the provisions of the Convention into any local languages to promote public education and awareness raising of relevant sectors?	
a) not relevant	x
b) still to be done	
c) under development	
d) yes	

191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x

<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
192. When requesting assistance through the GEF, has your country proposed projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	

Decision V/17. Education and public awareness

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

193. Australia is supportive of a variety of capacity-building programs for education and public communication. The Community Biodiversity Network (www.cbn.org.au) is a Government funded program that comprises of a network of community based organisations that aim to increase community understanding of biodiversity and promote community involvement in biodiversity conservation.

Major public awareness initiatives include National Science Week (9 - 13 May 2001) that is based on a biodiversity theme, Earth Alive Biodiversity Month in September 2001 and Water Week in October 2001, with a Water for Life theme and focus on biodiversity.

Further public information is available at the Community Information Unit at Environment Australia. Publications include Environment Australia biodiversity publications, Biodiversity Technical Papers, Biodiversity Series papers, the *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity*, and general information booklets and publications.

Article 14 Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

194. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
195. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting <input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>Under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> Federal environmental assessment and approval processes will be triggered by proposed activities that have, or are likely to have, a significant adverse effect on matters of national environmental significance. The range of matters reflects an appropriate role for the Federal Government in the environmental assessment and approvals process and recognises constitutional capacity, including that State Governments are responsible for the majority of land planning and management decisions. The national environmental significance matters under the Act are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage properties; • Ramsar wetlands of international significance; • listed threatened species and communities • listed migratory species; • Commonwealth marine areas; and • Nuclear actions (including uranium mining). <p>Actions on Commonwealth land that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment, actions outside Commonwealth land that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment of Commonwealth land, and actions taken by the Commonwealth that are likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere in the world, may also require approval under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p>					

196. Is legislation in place requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity (14 (1a))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) legislation in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) review of implementation available	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

197. Do such environmental impact assessment procedures allow for public participation (14(1a))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x
198. Does your country have mechanisms in place to ensure that the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account (14(1b))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	x
199. Is your country involved in bilateral, regional and/or multilateral discussion on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	x
c) yes - significant extent	
200. Is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) no, assessment of options in progress	
c) some completed, others in progress	x
b) yes	
201. Has your country mechanisms in place to notify other States of cases of imminent or grave danger or damage to biological diversity originating in your country and potentially affecting those States (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	x
e) no need identified	

202. Has your country mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your State to biological diversity in other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	x
e) no need identified	x
203. Has your country national mechanisms in place for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	x
204. Has your country encouraged international cooperation to establish joint contingency plans for emergency responses to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
c) no need identified	

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

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

Decision V/18. Impact assessment, liability and redress

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

213. Does your country use strategic environmental assessments to assess not only the impact of individual projects, but also their cumulative and global effects, and ensure the results are applied in the decision making and planning processes?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	x
c) to a significant extent	
214. Does your country require the inclusion of development of alternatives, mitigation measures and consideration of the elaboration of compensation measures in environmental impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	x
c) to a significant extent	
215. Is national information available on the practices, systems, mechanisms and experiences in the area of strategic environmental assessment and impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) yes (please append or summarise)	x

Further comments on implementation of this Article

201. A number of cooperative and formal programs are in place. There are, for example, formal notification procedures under the International Plant Protection Convention and under the International Office of Epizootics.

203. Mechanisms are in place for agricultural ecosystems. They are in the advanced stages of development for marine systems, whilst there are no mechanisms in place for environmental plant pests and diseases.

204. There is a need within this area for cooperative activities, particularly in agricultural ecosystems.

208. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) address the loss of biodiversity, and cover the interrelated socio-economic, cultural and human-health aspects when relevant to the individual case.

212. Expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures is already maintained at a State and Federal level in Australia.

213. Strategic assessments are specifically provided for within the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. However, due to the nature of cases, it is expected that this process will represent only a relatively small percentage of the total number of environmental impact assessments carried out in Australia.

215. A large number of environmental impact assessments have been prepared in Australia under Federal, State and Territory legislation. It is not possible to list all the practices, systems, mechanisms and experiences. However, a great deal of information is available on the Federal Government website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc>. State and Territory Government websites also contain significant information on environmental impact assessment processes.

The Federal Government has responsibility for matters of national environmental significance. States and Territories have major responsibilities for land use planning and management. Within this legislative scheme the Australian EIA Network Internet site (www.environment.gov.au/epg/eianet) managed by Environment Australia provides information links between jurisdictions and provides general information on environmental impact assessment practice and procedures within Australia. Where appropriate the site provides links to other country sites. The purpose and content of the site will be reviewed during 2001.

Article 15 Access to genetic resources

216. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
217. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Under Australia's Federal system of Government, access to biological resources is a matter for the individual jurisdictions. At Federal level a public inquiry has been held on access to biological resources in Commonwealth areas and new regulations are being developed under Section 301 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999. The Commonwealth Government is working with State and Territory Governments towards the establishment of a nationally consistent approach and individual State Governments are developing appropriate policy and legislation. Current examples of State involvement include Western Australian legislation regarding access to biological resources and the Queensland Government development of the BioAccess Policy. The Queensland BioAccess Policy will facilitate access to and use of the State's biological resources on equitable benefit sharing terms, maximising opportunities for Queensland. The Policy will also address the negotiation of benefit sharing arrangements with other States, Territories or countries for access and use of their biological or genetic resources by Queensland Government agencies.</p>							
218. Has your country endeavoured to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties (15(2))?							
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>						
b) yes - limited extent	<input type="checkbox"/>						
c) yes - significant extent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
219. Is there any mutual understanding or agreement in place between different interest groups and the State on access to genetic resources (15(4))?							
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>						
b) yes - limited extent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
c) yes - significant extent	<input type="checkbox"/>						
220. Has your country an open participation planning process, or any other process in place, to ensure that access to resources is subject to prior informed consent (15(5))?							
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>						
b) early stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>						
c) advanced stages of development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
d) processes in place	<input type="checkbox"/>						

221. Has your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Contracting Parties (15(6))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	x
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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

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

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

226. Is your country collaborating with all relevant stakeholders to explore, develop and implement guidelines and practices that ensure mutual benefits to providers and users of access measures?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x
227. Has your country identified national authorities responsible for granting access to genetic resources?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
228. Is your country taking an active role in negotiations associated with the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources

229. Has your country designated a national focal point and one or more competent national authorities to be responsible for access and benefit-sharing arrangements or to provide information on such arrangements?	
a) no	
b) yes	
c) yes, and Executive Secretary notified	x
230. Do your country's national biodiversity strategy, and legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, contribute to conservation and sustainable use objectives?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	x
c) to a significant extent	
Parties that are recipients of genetic resources	
231. Has your country adopted administrative or policy measures that are supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) other arrangements made	x
c) yes	

232. Does your country co-operate with other Parties in order to find practical and equitable solutions supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention, recognizing the complexity of the issue, with particular consideration of the multiplicity of prior informed consent considerations?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	x
233. In developing its legislation on access, has your country taken into account and allowed for the development of a multilateral system to facilitate access and benefit-sharing in the context of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) legislation under development	
c) yes	x
234. Is your country co-ordinating its positions in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes	x
235. Has your country provided information to the Executive Secretary on user institutions, the market for genetic resources, non-monetary benefits, new and emerging mechanisms for benefit sharing, incentive measures, clarification of definitions, <i>sui generis</i> systems and "intermediaries"?	
a) no	
b) some information provided	x
c) substantial information provided	
236. Has your country submitted information on specific issues related to the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
237. Has your country provided capacity-building and technology development and transfer for the maintenance and utilization of ex situ collections?	
a) no	
b) yes to a limited extent	
c) yes to a significant extent	x

Further comments on implementation of this Article

220. Regulations are being developed under section 301 (Access to Biological Resources) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

222. The Australian National Botanical Gardens has adopted Common Policy Guidelines.

223 & 226. Australia has provided the Secretariat with the Commonwealth public inquiry on Access to Biological Resources in Commonwealth Areas.

227. Australia does not recognise a unique or single national competent authority for access and benefit sharing.

229. The Executive Secretary has been notified that Max Kitchell, First Assistant Secretary, Natural Heritage Division, Environment Australia, is the national focal point. The Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Industry, Science and Resources also have certain responsibilities in respect to access to biological resources within Australia.

232. Australia has taken an active role in all relevant intergovernmental fora dealing with issues of access, benefit sharing, technology transfer and capacity building. This includes participation in the Conference of the Parties to the CBD and any related activities under its auspices, FAO negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. Australia also makes a significant contribution in these areas through its aid program and through various regional activities.

Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology

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

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

243. Has your country taken measures so that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of government institutions and the private sector of developing countries (16(4))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	x
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation?	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation?	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements?	x
244. Does your country have a national system for intellectual property right protection (16(5))?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
245. If yes, does it cover biological resources (for example, plant species) in any way?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x

Decision III/17. Intellectual property rights

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

245. In Australia, both patents and plant breeder's rights are available for inventions that utilise biological resources provided that they meet certain statutory requirements. Patents are available for inventions involving biological material with the exception of human beings and the biological processes for their generation. In addition, plant breeder's rights are also available for new plant varieties. Intellectual property rights are not available for biological resources as they occur in nature. There needs to be some intervention in order to claim a valid intellectual property right over them.

Article 17 Exchange of information

247. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	x	b) Medium		c) Low			
248. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	x	b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Australia gives a high priority to exchange of information. National standards for herbarium and museum data, vegetation data and general spatial data, coupled with nationally applicable indicators for biological diversity (under State of the Environment reporting), are greatly facilitating the seamless exchange of information between jurisdictions. A recent major achievement is the development of a publicly available spatial database on nationally threatened and migratory species and ecological communities to support the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999</i>.</p> <p>A range of environmental information is available on the internet including the Clearing House Mechanism (chm.environment.gov.au), the Environmental Resources Information Network (www.environment.gov.au/erin/index.html) and the Australian Biodiversity Information Facility as part of the Australian Biological Resources Study (www.anbg.gov.au/abrs/abif.htm). It also includes data and products of the National Resource Information Centre (www.affa.gov.au/corporate_docs/data.html), the National Forest Inventory (www.brs.gov.au/nfi), and the National Land and Water Resources Audit (www.nlwra.gov.au).</p> <p>The Environment Australia (Department of Environment and Heritage) website is located at www.environment.gov.au, with links to State and Territory Environment Departments at www.environment.gov.au/library/govtdepts.html, that contain a wealth of publicly available biodiversity information managed by the States. Further information for natural resources is available through the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia website (www.affa.gov.au) and its Bureau of Rural Sciences site (www.affa.gov.au/outputs/ruralscience.html).</p> <p>A virtual herbarium and virtual museum are currently being developed.</p>							

249. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources (17(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) restricted by lack of resources	
c) some measures in place	
d) potential measures under review	
e) comprehensive measures in place	x

<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
250. Do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries (17(1))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	x
c) yes - significant extent	
251. If so, do these measures include all the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), including technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	x
c) yes - significant extent	

Article 18 Technical and scientific cooperation

252. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium	x	c) Low			
253. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate	x	c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>Australia is held in high regard internationally for its demonstrated expertise in biodiversity information management, especially principles and protocols related to collaborative networks, custodianship and metadata. The Australian Biodiversity Information Facility and the Clearing House Mechanism are examples of this expertise.</p> <p>The Australian Biodiversity Information Facility (ABIF) is an initiative of the Australian Biological Resources Study. It aims to deliver reliable and comprehensive basic information on Australia's biodiversity to the widest range of users, free of charge. ABIF is a collaborative project with all contributions of data fully acknowledged. ABIF consists of an array of checklists and censuses of various groups of organisms, searchable electronically. The core of each module is a list of accepted names for that group of organisms within Australia</p> <p>The Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) promotes scientific and technical cooperation at all levels among Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. As well, it facilitates access to and exchange of information on biodiversity around the world. At the national level, the CHM serves the information needs of those organisations involved in implementing the provisions of the Convention and the <i>National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity</i>.</p>							
254. Has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (18(1))?							
a) no measures							
b) some measures in place							
c) potential measures under review							
d) comprehensive measures in place						x	
255. Do the measures taken to promote cooperation with other Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention pay special attention to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution building (18(2))?							
a) no							
b) yes - limited extent						x	
c) yes - significant extent							

256. Has your country encouraged and developed methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention (18(4))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) methods in place	x

257. Does such cooperation include the training of personnel and exchange of experts (18(4))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	x
c) yes - significant extent	

258. Has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention (18(5))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	x
c) yes - significant extent	

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

259. Is your country cooperating in the development and operation of the Clearing House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
260. Is your country helping to develop national capabilities through exchanging and disseminating information on experiences and lessons learned in implementing the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x
261. Has your country designated a national focal point for the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
262. Is your country providing resources for the development and implementation of the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes, at the national level	
c) yes, at national and international levels	x

263. Is your country facilitating and participating in workshops and other expert meetings to further the development of the CHM at international levels?	
a) no	
b) participation only	
c) supporting some meetings and participating	x

264. Is your CHM operational	
a) no	
b) under development	
c) yes (please give details below)	x
265. Is your CHM linked to the Internet	
a) no	
b) yes	x
266. Has your country established a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary CHM steering committee or working group at the national level?	
a) no	x
b) yes	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

264. Australia's CHM website has been operational since December 1999. The website offers biodiversity information and links to other Parties and offers guidance.

266. Rather than set up new committees Australia has incorporated the CHM into existing decision making processes.

Article 19 Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

268. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
269. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>In 1999 the Government established Biotechnology Australia and the Federal Government's Biotechnology Ministerial Council to coordinate Government biotechnology activities and to develop a national biotechnology strategy. The Biotechnology Consultative Group (BIOCOG), a panel of experts from industry and the scientific and research community, to provide independent advise to the Government, was also established.</p> <p>From here the National Biotechnology Strategy was formulated. The strategy seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalise on our existing advantages in biotechnology; • Achieve sustainable growth for established and new industry sectors; • Strengthen coordination among Federal Government activities and partnerships with State Governments; • Build on industry commitment and active participation; • Develop a catalytic role for government; and • Provide a basis for ongoing consultation and strategy development. <p>A new body, the Australian Biotechnology Advisory Council (ABAC), will soon replace BIOCOG to provide high level independent advice to the Ministerial Council on biotechnology development, including research and development, international links, commercial developments, public interest issues and ethical issues.</p>							

270. Has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research (19(1))?	
a) no measures	x
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures:	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	

271. Has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties (19(2))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	x
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Labelling of Genetically Modified Foods

On 28 July 2000, the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council (ANZFS) agreed to new labelling rules for genetically modified (GM) foods.

The new food standard will require the labelling of food and food ingredients where novel DNA and/or novel protein is present in the final food at concentrations greater than one percent. It also requires labelling of food and ingredients where the food has altered characteristics, with the exemption of highly refined food such as sugars and oils, processing aids and food additives, flavours in which the concentration is less than one percent and foods at restaurants and takeaways.

To give food manufacturers and importers time to ascertain the status of their products and revise their labels, the new standard will take effect twelve months from gazettal, that is, in December 2001.

Australia and New Zealand now have one of the most rigorous labelling requirements for GM foods in the world.

Gene Technology Act 2000

The Federal Government established the Interim Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (IOGTR) in May 1999 to coordinate the development of a national regulatory system for genetically modified organisms. The IOGTR undertook an extensive consultation process to establish the *Gene Technology Act 2000*, which will come into force on 21 June 2001. State legislation, and an inter-Governmental agreement, are to be put in place prior to the Act's commencement, to ensure a truly national scheme.

The object of the Gene Technology Act 2000 is:

"To protect the health and safety of people, and to protect the environment, by identifying risks posed by or as a result of gene technology, and by managing those risks through regulating certain dealings with GMOs."

The *Gene Technology Act 2000* prohibits all dealings with GMOs unless the dealing is either exempt (assessed as very low risk contained work), a notifiable low risk dealing, a licensed dealing or a registered dealing. Further information on the Act can be found at www.ioqtr.gov.au.

Article 20 Financial resources

273. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
274. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							

275. Has your country provided financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention (20(1))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - incentives only	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - financial support only	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) yes - financial support and incentives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If a developed country Party -	
276. Has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention, as agreed between you and the interim financial mechanism (20(2))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
277. Has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable you to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention (20(2))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a developed country Party -	
278. Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
279. Has your country used financial resources related to implementation of the Convention from bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Decision III/6. Additional financial resources

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

Decision V/11. Additional financial resources

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

287. Has your country compiled information on the additional financial support provided by the private sector?	
a) no	x
b) yes (please provide details)	
288. Has your country considered tax exemptions in national taxation systems for biodiversity-related donations?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national conditions	
c) exemptions under development	
d) exemptions in place	x

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Natural Heritage Trust provides significant funding in supporting and implementing the objectives of the Convention.

282. Natural Heritage Trust monitors financial support, through the Environment Australia budget, but not in a standardised format. In addition, the States provide significant resources on biodiversity conservation and land management but these are not monitored nationally.

288. Australia has two major tax incentives related to conserving biodiversity.

Australian taxpayers can receive an income tax deduction for gifts of property, valued at more than AUD\$5000, to eligible environmental bodies. Property may include land, buildings, vehicles and machinery, and includes the option of spreading the deduction over five years to allow greater tax deductions.

The Landcare deduction and rebate is targeted at preventing land degradation. The current Landcare rebate, introduced in 1998, provides greater incentives than previously available to those on low income and low marginal tax rates. Environment Australia and the Federal Department of the Treasury are currently considering a range of proposals to increase access to Landcare incentives.

Article 21 Financial mechanism

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

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

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

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

Article 23 Conference of the Parties

293. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties?	
a) COP 1 (Nassau)	9
b) COP 2 (Jakarta)	8
c) COP 3 (Buenos Aires)	10+4
d) COP 4 (Bratislava)	15
e) COP 5 (Nairobi)	9

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

296. Funding was provided to the Secretary to assist countries in the South Pacific in attending CoP 4. Regional briefings were also provided prior to CoP 4 to these countries.

297. Australia's contribution to the core budget was subsequently paid by the 31st of January 2001.

Article 24 Secretariat

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

Article 25 Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice

300. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of SBSTTA?	
a) SBSTTA I (Paris)	4
b) SBSTTA II (Montreal)	4
c) SBSTTA III (Montreal)	4
d) SBSTTA IV (Montreal)	5
e) SBSTTA V (Montreal)	5

Article 26 Reports

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

Decision IV/14 National reports

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

Decision V/19. National reporting

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

Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

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

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

314. Is your country supporting and/or participating in the River Basin Initiative?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
315. Is your country gathering information on the status of inland water biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) assessments ongoing	x
c) assessments completed	

316. Is this information available to other Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes - national report	
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	x
317. Has your country developed national and/or sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes - national plans only	
c) yes - national plans and major sectors	
d) yes - national plans and all sectors	x
318. Has your country implemented capacity-building measures for developing and implementing these plans?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

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

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

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

307. The Secretariat was provided with the Australian forest case study that demonstrated the ecosystem approach.

316. Information is available in the State and National State of the Environment Reports and the reports of the National Land and Water Resource Audit.

National Rivercare Program

The National Rivercare Program is one of a number of programs funded under the Natural Heritage Trust. Rivercare is working to improve the health of rivers outside the Murray-Darling Basin and towards their sustainable management, rehabilitation and conservation. (A parallel program, Murray Darling 2001, has the same goals for rivers within the Murray Darling Basin, where most of Australia's agriculture is concentrated.)

The National Rivercare Program works with all levels of Government, industry and the community to:

- increase community awareness and understanding of river management issues and promote linkages to facilitate community involvement in developing responses;
- promote integration of riverine action plans with land and vegetation management issues;
- assist in developing responses which address critical barriers or impediments to improved river health, particularly within catchment or regional contexts, through targeted management responses;
- assist, and further stimulate investment in activities which address national, State and regional strategies and priorities for improved river outcomes; and
- assist in providing high quality data and decision support systems which will support investment and decisions in relation to environmental water provisions.

National River Health Program

Under the National River Health Program, Australia has undertaken a national assessment of the health of the nation's inland waters. The program is helping to identify priorities to protect and repair Australia's unique riverine, floodplain and wetland ecosystems. Crucial research and monitoring are determining how to identify and establish environmental flow requirements for our rivers.

The objectives of National River Health Program are to:

- provide a sound information base on which to establish environmental flows;
- undertake a comprehensive assessment of the health of inland waters, identify key areas for the maintenance of aquatic and riparian health and biodiversity and identify stressed inland waters;
- consolidate and apply techniques for improving the health of inland waters, particularly those identified as stressed; and
- develop community, industry and management expertise in sustainable water resources management and raise awareness of environmental health issues and the needs of our rivers.

Through the National River Health Program, the first Australia-wide assessment of the health of our diverse and unique aquatic systems has been undertaken at approximately 6,000 sites across Australia. The assessment utilised a series of rapid, standardised protocols known as AusRivAS to assess the ecological health of Australian rivers and streams. AusRivAS is based on a combination of biological monitoring (based on macroinvertebrate community structure) and habitat assessment. In addition to providing crucial information about river health, the assessment has also produced significant information about the distribution of aquatic macroinvertebrate families and diatom species across Australia, and has contributed to the development interactive electronic key guides and voucher collections to aid taxonomic identification.

Murray-Darling 2001

Under the Natural Heritage Trust Murray-Darling 2001 Program, Australia is funding activities which will significantly accelerate on-ground action within the Murray-Darling Basin to achieve a number of objectives, including:

- improving the health of key river systems;
- encouraging ecologically and economically sustainable land use;
- restoring riverbank land systems, wetlands and flood plains; and
- improving water quality.

The program has a strong community focus, promoting and coordinating effective planning and management for the equitable, efficient and sustainable use of water, land and other environmental resources of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Sustainable Rivers Audit

The Sustainable Rivers Audit will objectively assess the impact of the Murray-Darling Basin Cap on water diversions and provide detailed information on the health of the Basin's river systems. This will help in the planning of a wide range of management programs, including those dealing with environmental flows.

Integrated Catchment Management Policy

Australian Governments responsible for the Murray-Darling Basin are in the process of setting an eight year agenda for implementing an Integrated Catchment Management Policy for the Basin. This seeks to achieve healthy rivers, healthy ecosystems and catchments, innovative and competitive industries, and healthy regional communities in the Basin. This work will involve a high-level of partnership between Government and the community.

Marine and coastal biological diversity

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

320. Does your national strategy and action plan promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x
321. Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) arrangements in place	x
322. Has your country provided the Executive Secretary with advice and information on future options concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
323. Has your country undertaken and/or exchanged information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	x
324. Has your country programmes in place to enhance and improve knowledge on the genetic structure of local populations of marine species subjected to stock enhancement and/or sea-ranching activities?	
a) no	
b) programmes are being developed	
c) programmes are being implemented for some species	x
d) programmes are being implemented for many species	
e) not a perceived problem	
325. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in an annex to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes	x

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

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

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

320. The following are a selection of documents have been published to promote conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity:

- Australia's Oceans Policy Volumes 1 and 2 (1998)
- Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia (1998)
- Strategic Plan of Action for the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (1999)
- Solitary Islands Marine Reserve (Commonwealth Waters) Draft Management Plan (2000)
- Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserve & Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve Draft Management Plan (2000)
- Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) Draft Management Plan (2000)
- Macquarie Island Marine Park Draft Management Plan (2000)
- Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) Plan Management Plan (2000)
- Mermaid Reef National Nature Reserve Plan of Management (2000)
- Draft Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia (1998)
- Draft Recovery Plan for Blue Whales (1999)
- Draft Recovery Plan for Grey Nurse Sharks (2000)
- Draft Recovery Plan for Great White Sharks (2000)

Recent Federal legislative changes require all Commonwealth managed fisheries, and all fisheries with an export component to undergo environmental assessment.

321. The executive agency for the management of marine and coastal ecosystems

is the National Oceans Office. The National Oceans Office drives the development of Regional Marine Plans for Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone. The Office also coordinates the overall implementation of *Australia's Oceans Policy*. Incorporated with the National Oceans Office are the National Oceans Advisory Group and the National Oceans Ministerial Board.

323. Australia has shared a significant amount of knowledge and information on marine and coastal management with other parties. Examples of Australia's involvement include:

- Hosting a workshop on the prevention of marine pollution in the Asia-Pacific region (2000)
- Hosting regional consultation on the conservation and management of marine turtles and their habitats in the Indian Ocean and South-east Asia (1999).
- Commencing work in 2000 on the development of a regional risk management framework for the control and prevention of introduced marine pests for the Asia-Pacific region.
- Commencing work in 2000 on the development of a workshop on integrated oceans management in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- Providing training and capacity building on marine protected areas in South-East Asia.
- Completing draft training sets on sea dumping

324. The Australian Fish Management Authority conducts fisheries research. Further information can be found at www.afma.gov.au.

326. Australia is contributing heavily to the implementation of the work plan on coral bleaching. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are collaborating to determine the causes and consequences of the 1998 coral bleaching event. The main areas of research include:

- Assessment of damage from bleaching;
- Predictive Modelling of bleaching;
- Risk assessment of bleaching;
- Adaptation of reefs to climate change; and
- Links between bleaching, weather and climate.

327. Australia is implementing additional measures to protect and preserve the Great Barrier Reef (GBR). In particular improved satellite sea surface temperatures (SST's), spatial risk assessment and regional climate models.

In collaboration with AIMS, methodologies are being adapted to provide early warning and a spatial overview of bleaching conditions using satellite derived SST's. These satellite SST images have a high-resolution and use temperature algorithms (formula's) specifically designed for the GBR. The resultant maps are therefore more accurate and detailed than the products previously available for the area. Work to date on spatial risk assessment with satellite SST images indicates that water mixing and bathymetry (water layering) are key indicators of the distribution of warm water on the GBR. Because mixing is a function of currents and winds, and bathymetry is highly variable, and it is believed that some reefs on the GBR are more vulnerable to bleaching than others. Research is being conducted to identify which features of regional weather and climate systems coincided with the 1998 bleaching event on the GBR and globally. Long term trends in these features are being investigated and will be fed into modelling future climate change scenarios. Of particular interest at this stage are the occurrence of

uncommon high pressure systems in the tropics in summer, long term trends in wind speed, solar radiation and cloud cover.

Agricultural biological diversity

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

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

335. Does your country have national strategies, programmes and plans which ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	x
336. Is your country promoting the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x
337. Is your country promoting the use of farming practices that not only increase productivity, but also arrest degradation as well as reclaim, rehabilitate, restore and enhance biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	x
c) yes - significant extent	
338. Is your country promoting mobilization of farming communities for the development, maintenance and use of their knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x
339. Is your country helping to implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
340. Is your country collaborating with other Contracting Parties to identify and promote sustainable agricultural practices and integrated landscape management?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

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

341. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	x
b) yes	

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

349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
350. Is your country compiling case-studies and implementing pilot projects relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	x
b) yes (please provide details)	
351. Has information on scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies been supplied to other Contracting Parties through media such as the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) not applicable	
b) no	x
c) yes - national report	
d) yes - through the CHM	
e) yes - other means (please give details below)	
352. Has your country considered how to address generic concerns regarding such technologies as genetic use restriction technologies under international and national approaches to the safe and sustainable use of germplasm?	
a) no	
b) yes - under consideration	
c) yes - measures under development	x
353. Has your country carried out scientific assessments on <u>inter alia</u> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	x
b) some assessments	
c) major programme of assessments	
354. Has your country disseminated the results of scientific assessments on <u>inter alia</u> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	x
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	
355. Has your country identified the ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <u>in situ</u> and <u>ex situ</u> conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some measures identified	
c) potential measures under review	x
d) comprehensive review completed	

356. Has your country assessed whether there is a need for effective regulations at the national level with respect to genetic use restriction technologies to ensure the safety of human health, the environment, food security and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - regulation needed	x
c) yes - regulation not needed (please give more details)	
357. Has your country developed and applied such regulations taking into account, <u>inter alia</u> , the specific nature of variety-specific and trait-specific genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	
b) yes - developed but not yet applied	x
c) yes - developed and applied	
358. Has information about these regulations been made available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	x

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

358. The *Gene Technology Act, 2000* can be found at www.health.gov.au/tga/genetech.htm, including drafts of the Regulations under the Act.

Forest biological diversity

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

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

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

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

366. Will your country contribute to the future work of the UN Forum on Forests?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
367. Has your country provided relevant information on the implementation of this work programme?	
a) no	
b) yes - submission of case-studies	x
c) yes - thematic national report submitted	x
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
368. Has your country integrated national forest programmes into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans applying the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x
369. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure participation by the forest sector, private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes - some stakeholders	x
c) yes - all stakeholders	
370. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities including local capacities, to enhance the effectiveness and functions of forest protected area networks, as well as national and local capacities for implementation of sustainable forest management, including restoration?	
a) no	
b) some programmes covering some needs	
c) many programmes covering some needs	
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	x
e) no perceived need	
371. Has your country taken measures to implement the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on valuation of forest goods and services?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) measures taken	x

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

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

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

361. Reserve management is a deficient area in this context.

362. Reserve management, invasive species and pest control are areas that are deficient.

370. Again, reserve management, invasive species and pest control are areas that are deficient.

372. Australia has a priority to create a synergy and coordinate work programs of related conventions to avoid unnecessary duplication, as stated in annex 1 of V/23. Australia is developing a national report to support the implementation of the UNCCD to address problems in semi arid and arid ecosystems.

373. Australia has in place a substantial body of legislation, programs and strategies for sustainable natural resource management at Federal, State, Local and farm levels. National Strategies and Programs include:

- *The National Strategy for Rangelands Management*
- *The National Drought Policy*
- *National Weeds Strategy*
- *The National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity*

- The National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality in Australia
- *Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement (2000)*.

Decision V/20. Operations of the Convention

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

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

- *The National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* (Questions 11, 18, 20, 22, 23, 25 - 27).
- Community Biodiversity Network (Question 193).
- Clearing House Mechanism (Questions 247, 249, 259, 261 - 265).
- Access and Benefit Sharing Inquiry (Question 223).
- Biodiversity Advisory Committee.
- The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999* has a direct link to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Section 171 of the Act acknowledges Annex 1 to the Convention on Biological Diversity with respect to the components of biological diversity that are important for its conservation and ecologically sustainable use (Articles 8 and 14).

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

Australia has been involved in many joint initiatives, as mentioned in the report.

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

Australia prepared the *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* in 1996. A review of the *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* was achieved in 2000. Both documents are attached to the report.

State and Local Government strategies have also been prepared. Those strategies mentioned in the report are attached.

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

In general the CBD decisions are translated into broader domestic policy approaches so the Convention on Biological Diversity is an effective part of Government decisions. Due to the broad nature of the decisions, it is hard to directly attribute certain actions to a specific question. Examples are the *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity*, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and a range of other policies mentioned in the report.

With that in mind, a number of questions in the report are very lengthy, for example 16, 105, 232 and 271. Many of the longer questions have more than one issue contained within the question, making a concise answer very difficult. Examples include questions 58, 161, 240, 306 and 370.

Another problem arose with gaps in the answer choices. Question 34, for example, gave options of minimal, minor in some, major in some and major in all. When the situation arose where there was minor in all sections the nearest answer was chosen.

An explanation of terms would have been useful. The interpretation of the word 'adequate', for example, is very broad and needed to be defined to correctly answer the question. This was the case with a number of words used in the report.

The structure of the report required a detailed knowledge of CBD Articles to correctly respond to the questions. This made it difficult to engage the community as the questions are not seen as being relevant to day to day biodiversity. Fortunately, Australia had just completed the *Review of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biodiversity*, otherwise the report would have required intensive consultation.

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

Date of completion:	February 1996		
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government			
By which authority?	COAG (Council of Australian Governments)		
On what date?	1996		
If the NBSAP has been published please give			
Title:	<i>The National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity</i>		
Name and address of publisher:	Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories (now Environment Australia) King Edward Tce Parkes ACT 2600		
ISBN:	0 642 24427 8		
Price (if applicable):	Free		
Other information on ordering:			
If the NBSAP has not been published			
Please give full details of how copies can be obtained:			
If the NBSAP has been posted on a national website			
Please give full URL:	www.erin.gov.au/net/biostrat.html		
If the NBSAP has been lodged with an Implementing Agency of the GEF			
Please indicate which agency:			
Has a copy of the NBSAP been lodged with the Convention Secretariat?			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

The *Review of the National Report to the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* is attached.

Copies of the State and Local Government Strategies that have been mentioned in the report are also provided.

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

Environment Australia undertook a review of the *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity*. See attached document.