

**BELIZE SECOND NATIONAL REPORT
TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**Forest Department,
Ministry of Natural Resources,
Environment and Industry
Belmopan, Belize**

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SUMMARY OF METHODOLOGY AND STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

The preparation of Belize's National Report commenced with the selection of a National Consultant who acted as the leader in the preparation of the report.

After the selection of the consultant a list of stakeholders was prepared at a meeting between the Focal Point, the consultant and the Mesoamerican Biological Corridors Liaisons Officer.

This list was then divided into primary and secondary stakeholders. Primary stakeholders are those stakeholders who played a key role during the implementation of the CBD. These included government organizations as well as leading NGOs involved in the process.

Questions pertaining to each agency were then submitted by electronic mail as well as in printed forms. The questions were considered relevant to each agency based on the aims and objectives of each agency. This was followed by a series of interviews and meetings with key stakeholders. This assisted in the clarification of certain information received by the consultant.

Information obtained was analysed by the consultant and updated as necessary during further meetings and interviews.

A preliminary draft was subsequently presented to the Focal Point and the NLO of the MBC for further discussion. After initial corrections were made, the first verification workshop was then conducted.

During the verification process, substantial clarifications and updated information was obtained. This assisted in the analysis of the data and resulted in a second draft, which was then presented to the Focal Point for verification again.

A second verification meeting was then held, which enriched the information received. Participants were directly involved in the selection of certain descriptive information required in the report.

After final remarks were obtained, a final draft was produced which was then discussed with the Focal Point and the NLO of the MBC for approval.

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

Belize is a small developing country with a population of 240,000 people. Many participants of the process have substantial overlaps with respect to fulfilment of the CBD. Overlaps exist within government agencies and within the NGO Community.

Unfortunately, Belize has been impacted, whether directly or indirectly by four storms over the past three years. These were Mitch in October 1998, Keith in October 2000, Chantal in September 2001 and Iris in October 2001.

These storms have been extremely disruptive during the last few years, particularly in 2001, to the point that officers were not readily available for comment on this report. Nonetheless, personal visits were made as much as possible in order to compensate for telephone and electronic interviews that were not possible due to time availability or because the communication infrastructure was temporarily not available.

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 | |
| b) Medium | |
| c) Low | √ |
| d) Not relevant | |
| 2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | |
| a) Good | |
| b) Adequate | |
| c) Limiting | |
| 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 | √ |
| b) Medium | |
| c) Low | |
| d) Not relevant | |
| 4. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | |
| a) Good | |
| b) Adequate | √ |
| c) Limiting | |
| d) Severely limiting | |

Agricultural biological diversity

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

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

Forest biological diversity

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

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

The country of Belize has experienced economic limitations, which has lead to a reduction of government funds allocated to several government departments, including the Forest Department (Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Industry), which is the National Focal Point for the CBD. This has resulted in significant delays and lack of resources required for the implementation of the convention, particularly by the government sector. These delays apply to a number of articles of the convention.

As a result, most of the implementation has been a direct result of the efforts of the non-government sectors, including the NGO Community and from Community Based Organizations.

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 | | c) Low | √ |
| 12. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | √ |
| d) Severely limiting | | | | | |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| <p>Belize is a member of the Central American Commission on Development and the Environment (CCAD), an agency of the Central American Integration System (SICA). This is a regional initiative between countries of Central America. Belize is also committed to the Council for Sustainable Development with The Countries of the Caribbean Region. Belize is also the Focal Point for the Caribbean Initiative on Sustainable Development.</p> <p>An important initiative being conducted at the regional level is the planning of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project, MBC, which is at an advanced stage of planning. This regional project is in partial fulfilment of the commitments made by Central American Countries, under the <i>Central American Biodiversity Convention</i> (CCAB), which Belize has signed and ratified.</p> <p>Belize is also a signatory to the Tulum Declaration, which established a regional project, The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project (MBRS), which calls for sustainable use and protection of the Barrier Reef System and its biodiversity.</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) | √ |
| b) international programmes (please give details below) | √ |
| c) international agreements (please give details below) | √ |

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) | |
| 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) | √ |
| 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 | |

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 | √ |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The ten-year review is currently underway and is in its final stages of completion. The report does include provisions to emphasize the biological diversity agenda.

The National planning processes for sustainable development have been in operation long before the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). At this forum, country representatives at the highest levels made important commitments towards a sustainable future. Due to its geographic location, as well as its cultural ties with its Central American neighbours, Belize is not only able to initiate national programmes designed to achieve sustainable development, but also to participate in regional programmes with the same objectives.

During 1994, there were follow-up "summits" by the Presidents and Heads of State of the Central American countries, culminating in the "*Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development*," (ALIDES) which for the first time outlined an integrated and coordinated strategy for the promotion of political, economic, social, cultural and environmental sustainability for

the people of the region.

Question 13, 14 & 15. Through its membership in ALIDES, Belize was able to participate in this regional approach for the implementation of Agenda 21.

Belize has signed and ratified several regional and international conventions aimed at the protection of biodiversity. These are being implemented via various projects including the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project, the Tri National Alliance for the Gulf Honduras, and Tri National Alliance for the Selva Maya, among other international cooperation.

Belize has also signed various agreements for the protection of transboundary watersheds, marine and other resources.

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 | √ | b) Medium | | c) Low | |
| 19. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | d) Severely limiting |
| | | | | | √ |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| <p>The implementation of this article has been stimulated by regional and international commitments.</p> <p>The Government has not given the implementation of this article a priority, In resource allocation.</p> <p>This article is being addressed through some actions, programs and policies at the Government, NGO and Community levels.</p> <p>Belize has a comprehensive set of legislation and initiatives to address the protection of biodiversity and the monitoring of changes in its composition and structure. However, these laws and regulations need to be updated and modernized. Funding for their enforcement of these legislations needs to be set aside.</p> | | | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 20. What is the status of your national biodiversity strategy (6a)? | |
| a) none | |
| b) early stages of development | |
| c) advanced stages of development | |
| d) completed ₁ | |
| e) completed and adopted ₂ | √ |
| f) reports on implementation available | |
| 21. What is the status of your national biodiversity action plan (6a)? | |
| a) none | |
| b) early stages of development | |
| c) advanced stages of development | |
| d) completed ₂ | |
| e) completed and adopted ₂ | √ |
| f) reports on implementation available | |
| 22. Do your national strategies and action plans cover all articles of the Convention (6a)? | |

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

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| a) some articles only | |
| b) most articles | √ |
| c) all articles | |

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

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

| | |
|--|---|
| 24. Is action being taken to exchange information and share experience on the national action planning process with other Contracting Parties? | |
| a) little or no action | |
| b) sharing of strategies, plans and/or case-studies | √ |
| c) regional meetings | √ |
| 25. Do all of your country's strategies and action plans include an international cooperation component? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | √ |
| 26. Are your country's strategies and action plans coordinated with those of neighbouring countries? | |
| a) no | |
| b) bilateral/multilateral discussions under way | |
| c) coordinated in some areas/themes | |
| d) fully coordinated | √ |
| e) not applicable | |
| 27. Has your country set measurable targets within its strategies and action plans? | |
| a) no | |
| b) early stages of development | |
| c) advanced stages of development | |
| d) programme in place | √ |
| 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)? | GEF-UNDP |

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 | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Belize's Council for Sustainable Development (CSD) has not been established as yet. However, a steering committee guiding the initial process towards the establishment of the CSD has been operative since 1998. This committee has representation from the relevant sectors involved in biodiversity protection, and hence with the CBD.

The focal point of the RAMSAR Convention is the Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Industry. The Belize Audubon Society (BAS), an NGO that plays a major role in biodiversity protection, has signed several co-management agreements for the protection and management of several terrestrial and marine protected areas in Belize. One such site is the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, which has been designated as Belize's first RAMSAR Site.

The CITES is being enforced by the Forest and Fisheries Departments which are primary agencies involved with the CBD. Permits and licenses related to the CITES is managed by these two agencies, who also represent the country at international meetings of the CITES.

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b) Medium | <input type="checkbox"/> | c) Low | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 31. 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>Belize has a relatively inadequate system of identification and monitoring of most important species with respect to biodiversity. Its inadequacy is due to a lack of coordination and no planning mechanisms to prioritise monitoring and identification.</p> <p>There is an ad hoc implementation of this article and not part of a nationally coordinated mechanism. Species of conservation concern including endangered and threatened species of birds, mammals and reptiles, are protected by legislation. Important monitoring activities are undertaken by the NGO community, including, research by institutions such as WCS, CFRAMP of Caricom, Las Cuevas Research Station, Smithsonian Institute and the IUCN. Turtles and Manatees are also monitored by the Wildlife Trust International, while the Lamanai Outpost Lodge has a Crocodile monitoring program.</p> <p>While identification and monitoring is not well coordinated by individual agencies implementing it, there is an important quantity of information available on important species.</p> | | | | | |

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 32. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at species level (7a)? | |
| a) minimal activity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) for a range of major groups | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) for a comprehensive range of species | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 33. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at ecosystem level (7a)? | |
| a) minimal activity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) for ecosystems of particular interest only | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) for major ecosystems | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 34. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at genetic level (7a)? | |
| a) minimal activity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) minor programme in some sectors | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) major programme in some sectors | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) major programme in all relevant sectors | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 35. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at species level (7a)? | |
| a) minimal activity | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | |
|---|---|
| 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 | |

| | |
|--|---|
| 36. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at ecosystem level (7b)? | |
| a) minimal activity | |
| b) for ecosystems of particular interest only | √ |
| 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 | |
| c) major programme in some sectors | |
| d) major programme in all relevant sectors | |
| 38. Has your country identified activities with adverse effects on biodiversity (7c)? | |
| a) limited understanding | |
| b) threats well known in some areas, not in others | √ |
| c) most threats known, some gaps in knowledge | |
| d) comprehensive understanding | |
| e) reports available | √ |
| 39. Is your country monitoring these activities and their effects (7c)? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) early stages of programme development | |
| c) advanced stages of programme development | |
| d) programme in place | |
| e) reports on implementation available | |
| 40. Does your country coordinate information collection and management at the national level (7d)? | |
| a) no | |
| b) early stages of programme development | |
| c) advanced stages of programme development | |
| d) programme in place | √ |
| e) reports on implementation available | |

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

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 | √ |
| 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) | |
| 49. Is your country assisting other Parties to increase their capacity to develop indicator and monitoring programmes? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) providing training | |
| c) providing direct support | |
| d) sharing experience | |
| e) other (please describe) | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Government initiatives towards the implementation of this article are highly inadequate.

Individual International and National NGOs have various programs of monitoring of wildlife populations such as amphibian, mammals (emphasis on bats, tapir and jaguars).

Some organizations have developed and published monitoring protocols for the Tri-national Selva Maya area of Belize, Guatemala and Mexico.

Another tri-national linkage exists between Belize and Guatemala at the Gulf of Honduras Area.

Smaller localized bi-national initiatives between NGOs from Belize and the Peten Region of Guatemala are underway.

Training in monitoring techniques is available throughout Central America.

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 | |
| d) assessment completed | |
| 51. Has your country developed a national taxonomic action plan? | |
| a) no | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| 55. Is your country encouraging partnerships between taxonomic institutions in developed and developing countries? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes - stated policy | √ |
| 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 | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 57. Has your country provided training programmes in taxonomy? | |
| a) no | |
| b) some | √ |
| c) many | |
| 58. Has your country reported on measures adopted to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy, to designate national reference centres, and to make information housed in collections available to countries of origin? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes - in the previous national report | |
| c) yes - via the clearing-house mechanism | |
| d) yes - other means (please give details below) | |
| 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 | |
| 60. Has your country assisted taxonomic institutions to establish consortia to conduct regional projects? | |
| a) no | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| c) thorough assessment | |
| 64. Has your country established or consolidated taxonomic reference centres? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | √ |
| 65. Has your country worked to increase its capacity in the area of taxonomic research? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes | |
| 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 | √ |
| b) yes | |
| 67. Has your country designated a national Global Taxonomy Initiative focal point linked to other national focal points? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | √ |
| 68. Has your country participated in the development of regional networks to facilitate information-sharing for the Global Taxonomy Initiative? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | √ |
| <i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i> | |
| 69. Has your country sought resources through the financial mechanism for the priority actions identified in the decision? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) applied for unsuccessfully | |
| c) applied for successfully | |

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

This article has not been a priority for Belize. There are some efforts in the area of taxonomy but at a very minimal level.

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

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|---|---|-------------|--|-------------|---|----------------------|--|
| 70. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country? | | | | | | | |
| a) High | √ | b) Medium | | c) Low | | | |
| 71. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | √ | d) Severely limiting | |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | | | |
| <p>Belize has an extensive system of terrestrial and marine protected areas offering multiple-use benefits including biodiversity protection and management.</p> <p>While management plans for in-situ sites are non-existent for a significant number of sites, there are currently planned initiatives to address this issue. Belize also has a number of private in-situ initiatives, at various levels of importance. An example of an initiative with regional impact is the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area.</p> <p>Community-based initiatives such as the Community Baboon Sanctuary and the Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary are examples of important in-situ activities with a high degree of community involvement.</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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| e) reports on implementation available | |

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|---|---|
| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |
| e) reports on implementation available | √ |

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| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| <i>If a developed country Party -</i> | |
| 83. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for <i>in-situ</i> conservation particularly to developing countries (8m)? | |
| <i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i> | |
| 84. Does your country receive financial and other support for <i>in situ</i> conservation (8m)? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes (if so, please give details below) | √ |

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 | √ |
| c) regional meetings | √ |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Belize has over 40% of its national territory under some state of protection. Various sectors of the country continue to improve their capabilities in protected areas management and other in situ conservation efforts.

However, one of the principal limitations of Belize's system of protected areas is that many of these protected areas have no management plans and no management presence. These protected areas will require considerable financial and technical support in order to ensure their viability and stability as a coherent protected areas system. This will require government's completion of its draft protected areas policy, and the completion and adoption of its protected areas systems plan.

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"/> |
| 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 | | | | | |
| Few legislative measures have been put in place to protect against the proliferation of alien species. The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations offer certain legislative protection. Other legislations offering protection are the Belize Agriculture Health Authority Act, being implemented by the Belize Agriculture Health Authority (BAHA), and the Fisheries Act being implemented by the Fisheries Department. | | | | | |

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| 88. Has your country identified alien species introduced? | |
| a) no | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) only major species of concern | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> |
| 89. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species? | |
| a) no | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) most alien species have been assessed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) some measures in place | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) potential measures under review | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) comprehensive measures in place | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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 | |
| 92. Does your national strategy and action plan address the issue of alien species? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes - limited extent | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 95. Has your country submitted written comments on the interim guiding principles to the Executive Secretary? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes | |
| 96. Has your country given priority to the development and implementation of alien invasive species strategies and action plans? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes | |
| 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 | |

| | |
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| 98. Is your country giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in its work on alien invasive species? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes | |
| 99. Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| c) substantial support | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

While Belize's situation on alien species has not been fully assessed, Belize does have problems with the invasion of alien species. However, there have been incidences of invasion of agriculture pests that were adequately dealt with by the agricultural sector. The control of foreign pests is primarily a function of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, through its quarantine unit.

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 | √ |
| 104. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | |
| | | c) Limiting | |
| | | d) Severely limiting | √ |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | |
| Traditional knowledge has been an important part of Belize's historic and cultural traditions. | | | |
| Many local NGOs promote the continuation and strengthening of the traditional knowledge and skills being practised by the various ethnic groups of Belize. | | | |

| | |
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| 105. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure that the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are respected, preserved and maintained? | |
| a) no measures | |
| b) some measures in place | √ |
| c) potential measures under review | |
| 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 | |
| d) programme or policy in place | |

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

| | |
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| 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 | |
| 108. Has your country supplied information on the implementation of Article 8(j) to other Contracting Parties through media such as the national report? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes - previous national report | |
| c) yes - CHM | |

| | |
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| 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 | |
| 110. Is your country participating in appropriate working groups and meetings? | |
| a) none | |
| b) some | √ |
| c) all | |
| 111. Is your country facilitating the active participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities in these working groups and meetings? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | √ |

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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| d) yes - to a significant extent | |

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| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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) | |
| 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) | |
| 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 | √ |
| d) extensive measures | |

| | |
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| 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 | √ |
| 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 | See comments |
| 123. Is your country assisting the Secretariat to fully utilize the clearing-house mechanism to co-operate closely with indigenous and local communities to explore ways that enable them to make informed decisions concerning release of their traditional knowledge? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) awaiting information on how to proceed | |
| c) yes | |
| 124. Has your country identified resources for funding the activities identified in the decision? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) not relevant | |
| c) partly | |
| d) fully | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

As a direct response to question 122, the official Belize delegations (COP II, III & IV) did not have representation from indigenous groups or local community organizations. However, this is not as a result of a deliberate exclusion, but merely as a result of the current composition of existing representation of the agencies participating in the COPs.

Proposals for funding of Belize's Clearing House Mechanism has been initiated and submitted to the UNDP. Approvals are expected shortly. A paucity of funds has been cited by the National Focal Point as the primary limitation of the establishment of Belize's CHM.

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 | | c) Low | √ |
| 126. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | √ |
| d) Severely limiting | | | | | |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| Ex situ initiatives include the setting aside of adequate land for a National Botanic Garden. However, the development of the botanic garden has not taken place as a result of a lack of funds. | | | | | |
| However, the Belize Botanic Gardens is a small private sector initiative carrying out similar activities. | | | | | |

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|---|---|
| 127. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>native</i> to your country (9a)? | |
| a) no measures | |
| b) some measures in place | √ |
| c) potential measures under review | |
| d) comprehensive measures in place | |
| 128. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>originating outside</i> your country (9a)? | |
| a) no measures | √ |
| b) some measures in place | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |

| | |
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| c) yes - significant extent | |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| 134. Has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for <u>ex situ</u> conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and <u>in situ</u> populations of species (9d)? | |
| a) no measures | |
| b) some measures in place | √ |
| c) potential measures under review | |
| d) comprehensive measures in place | |
| <i>If a developed country Party -</i> | |
| 135. Has your country cooperated in providing financial and other support for <u>ex situ</u> conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of <u>ex situ</u> 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 <u>ex situ</u> conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of <u>ex situ</u> conservation facilities (9e)? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | √ |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Several small, initiatives led by private sector, in the area of botanic gardens, butterfly breeding centres and the rehabilitation of wildlife have been established over the years in Belize.

The Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Centre was established using faunal species that could no longer be rehabilitated. This institution now plays an important role in Ex situ conservation, focusing on education and awareness.

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 | | c) Low | |
| 138. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | √ |
| d) Severely limiting | | | | | |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| Currently there exist many programs in which the sustainable use of biodiversity is prioritised. However, initiatives are funded primarily from the International and National NGO Community who have received funding from local and foreign sources. | | | | | |

| | |
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| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| 141. Has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements (10c)? | |
| a) no measures | |
| b) some measures in place | √ |
| c) potential measures under review | |
| d) comprehensive measures in place | |

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

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

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

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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| b) yes | |

Decision V/25. Biological diversity and tourism

| | |
|--|---|
| 150. Has your country based its policies, programmes and activities in the field of sustainable tourism on an assessment of the inter-linkages between tourism and biological diversity? | |
| a) no | |
| b) to a limited extent | |
| 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 | √ |
| b) yes | |
| 152. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Ecotourism? | |
| a) no | √ |
| 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 | |
| 154. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 155. Has your country established enabling policies and legal frameworks to complement voluntary efforts for the effective implementation of sustainable tourism? | |
| a) no | |
| b) to a limited extent | √ |
| c) to a significant extent (please describe) | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Belize continues to promote the sustainable use of its natural resources and biodiversity. It continues to give the issue of biodiversity protection a high priority in its activities and policies. Belize has about 18% of its national territory under protection.

Our tourism sector is based mainly on the promotion and use of Belize's biodiversity. Significant sector of Belize's tourism is being promoted as "eco-tourism".

Recently, ecologically sensitive marine areas have also been declared as multiple use protected areas. There are also initiatives to clearly define and strengthen a few terrestrial protected areas, and many private initiatives are underway with respect to the establishment of buffer protected areas and pilot projects for sustainable use of resources.

Article 11 Incentive measures

| | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| 156. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country? | | | | | |
| a) High | | b) Medium | | c) Low | √ |
| 157. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | d) Severely limiting |
| | | | | | √ |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| Belize currently has no incentive measures geared at biodiversity protection. Incentive measures are limited to tax exemptions for the importation of equipment and technology that is required for the use in protected areas management etc. Nonetheless, these incentives are available to the investment community and neither aimed nor developed specifically for biodiversity protection. | | | | | |
| Consequently, this article is now recently incipiently being addressed. | | | | | |

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| 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 | |
| e) review of implementation available | |
| 159. Do these incentives, and the programmes to identify them and ensure their adoption, cover the full range of sectorial activities? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) some sectors | |
| c) all major sectors | |
| d) all sectors | |

Decision III/18. Incentive measures

| | |
|---|---|
| 160. Has your country reviewed legislation and economic policies to identify and promote incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) reviews in progress | |
| c) some reviews complete | |
| d) as far as practically possible | |

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| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| e) review of implementation available | |
| 166. Has your country identified threats to biological diversity and underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including the relevant actors, as a stage in designing incentive measures? | |
| a) no | |
| b) partially reviewed | |
| c) thoroughly reviewed | √ |
| d) measures designed based on the reviews | |
| e) review of implementation available | |

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| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 170. Has your country identified and considered neutralizing perverse incentives? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) identification programme under way | |
| c) identified but not all neutralized | |
| d) identified and neutralized | |

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

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| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| e) further information available | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 12 Research and training

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| 173. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country? | | | |
| a) High | | b) Medium | √ |
| 174. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | √ |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | |
| There are many on-going initiatives at the formal and informal level of education. Research is a priority of agencies such as the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, CFRAMP, Smithsonian Institute, The Natural History Museum of London, Program for Belize, Belize Audubon Society, among others. These organizations have received local and international financial and technical support. | | | |

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| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |

If a developed country Party -

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

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| a) no | |
| b) yes, where relevant | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Most NGOs undertake a certain level of informal and occasionally formal educational programs. Research and training is of high priority to these institutions.

Most educational institutions at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels have included formal training in biodiversity conservation in their curricula. All tertiary institutions have formal courses, with two having an associate degree course in natural resources management and environmental science.

Article 13 Public education and awareness

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|--|---|-------------|--|-------------|---|
| 180. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country? | | | | | |
| a) High | √ | b) Medium | | c) Low | |
| 181. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | √ |
| d) Severely limiting | | | | | |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| <p>Most education institutions at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels have included formal training in biodiversity conservation in their curricula. All tertiary institutions have formal courses, with two having an associate degree course in natural resources management and environmental science.</p> <p>The NGO and CBO communities prioritise public education and awareness as part of their programs.</p> | | | | | |

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

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

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

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| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |
| 188. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies? | |
| a) no | |
| b) early stages of development | √ |
| c) advanced stages of development | |
| d) yes | |
| 189. Has your country made available any case-studies on public education and awareness and public participation, or otherwise sought to share experiences? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | √ |
| 190. Has your country illustrated and translated the provisions of the Convention into any local languages to promote public education and awareness raising of relevant sectors? | |
| a) not relevant | |
| b) still to be done | |
| c) under development | |
| d) yes | √ |
| 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 | |
| <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

| | |
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| 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) It promotes actions to include biodiversity conservation as part of formal educational curricula, at all levels. | √ |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

While the implementation of this article has not been conducted in a well-coordinated fashion between agencies, nonetheless its accomplishment has been encouraging.

Most schools at the primary secondary and tertiary levels include formal or informal training in biodiversity use and conservation. Most secondary schools include courses, lectures, and field biology courses in their program. All tertiary institutions have formal natural resources management courses in their curricula, while some have associate degree levels in either Environmental Sciences, or Natural Resources Management.

NGOs and CBOS have been involved at various levels in training and education.

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 | √ | b) Medium | | c) Low | |
| 195. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | √ |
| d) Severely limiting | | | | | |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| <p>Belize was one of the first countries in the region to develop and implement its Environmental Impact Assessment Laws. The Environmental Protection Act, 1992 addressed this issue, and subsequent enactment of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 1995 further strengthened the process of environmental impact assessment in Belize.</p> <p>At the beginning of the implementation of impact assessment laws and guidelines, its enforcement was met with many challenges. However, after an initial education program targeted at the development sector, impact assessment tools became gradually accepted. Belize now has a well-established impact assessment process. This process includes adequate measures for public consultation and public participation. Nonetheless, further educational programs are needed in order to further educate the general public on the various stages and components of the EIA process. Resources to strengthen the EIA process are required, especially in the area of enforcement of the law and public awareness and training.</p> | | | | | |

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| 196. Is legislation in place requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity (14 (1a))? | |
| a) no | |
| b) early stages of development | |
| c) advanced stages of development | |
| d) legislation in place | √ |
| e) review of implementation available | |
| 197. Do such environmental impact assessment procedures allow for public participation (14(1a))? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes - limited extent | |
| c) yes - significant extent | √ |
| 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 | |

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| 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 | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| e) no need identified | |
| 203. Has your country national mechanisms in place for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))? | |
| a) no | |
| b) early stages of development | √ |
| c) advanced stages of development | |
| d) mechanisms in place | |
| 204. Has your country encouraged international cooperation to establish joint contingency plans for emergency responses to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes | |
| c) no need identified | |

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

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| 205. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting Parties information and experience relating to environmental impact assessment and resulting mitigating measures and incentive schemes? | |
| a) no | |
| b) information provided to the Secretariat | |
| c) information provided to other Parties | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| c) fully integrated | |
| 208. When carrying out environmental impact assessments does your country address loss of biological diversity and the interrelated socio-economic, cultural and human-health aspects relevant to biological diversity? | |
| a) no | |
| b) partly | |
| c) fully | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |

| | |
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| 211. Has your country organised expert meetings, workshops and seminars, and/or training, educational and public awareness programmes and exchange programmes in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures for impact assessment? | |
| a) no | |
| b) some programmes in place | √ |
| c) many programmes in place | |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| c) to a significant extent | |
| 214. Does your country require the inclusion of development of alternatives, mitigation measures and consideration of the elaboration of compensation measures in environmental impact assessment? | |
| a) no | |
| b) to a limited extent | |
| c) to a significant extent | √ |
| 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) | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The weakness in Belize's EIA process has been identified as the monitoring and enforcement of the conditions placed on the development. After environmental approval is given, a formal Environmental Compliance Plan is signed between the Department of Environment and the Developer. This agreement stipulates mitigation measures to be adopted, and general commitments that need to be undertaken during the course of development and implementation. The enforcement of these conditions and mitigation measures set is weak because of lack of financial and human resources to conduct monitoring of conditions placed for environmental clearance and permits. Since this is an important phase of the EIA process, the strengthening of this component will be required through the allocation of resources and by further training.

Article 15 Access to genetic resources

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|---|--|-------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| 216. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country? | | | | | |
| a) High | | b) Medium | | c) Low | √ |
| 217. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | d) Severely limiting |
| | | | | | √ |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| <p>This article is not fully applicable to Belize, perhaps due to a lack of resources, which has resulted in the placement of greater emphasis on other articles.</p> <p>Traditionally, Belize has allowed relatively open access to genetic resources, with few restrictions. However, there has been relatively few mechanisms developed that enables local communities to maximize and optimise the access available to these resources.</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 | | | | | |
| b) yes - limited extent | | | | | √ |
| c) yes - significant extent | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | |
| b) yes - limited extent | | | | | √ |
| c) yes - significant extent | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | √ |
| b) early stages of development | | | | | |
| c) advanced stages of development | | | | | |
| d) processes in place | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | |
| c) potential measures under review | | | | | |
| d) comprehensive measures in place | | | | | |

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

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 223. Has your country provided the secretariat with information on relevant legislation, administrative and policy measures, participatory processes and research programmes? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes, within the previous national report | |
| c) yes, through case-studies | |
| d) yes, through other means (please give details below) | |
| 224. Has your country implemented capacity-building programmes to promote successful development and implementation of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including scientific, technical, business, legal and management skills and capacities? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) some programmes covering some needs | |
| c) many programmes covering some needs | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |

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| 227. Has your country identified national authorities responsible for granting access to genetic resources? | |
| a) no | |
| 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 | √ |

Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources

| | |
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| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |
| c) to a significant extent | |
| Parties that are recipients of genetic resources | |
| 231. Has your country adopted administrative or policy measures that are supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention? | |
| a) no | |
| b) other arrangements made | √ |
| c) yes | |
| 232. Does your country co-operate with other Parties in order to find practical and equitable solutions supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention, recognizing the complexity of the issue, with particular consideration of the multiplicity of prior informed consent considerations? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes (please provide details) | |

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Belize has no mechanisms in place to address access to genetic resources and benefit sharing.

Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology

| | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| 238. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country? | | | | | |
| a) High | | b) Medium | | c) Low | √ |
| 239. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | d) Severely limiting |
| | | | | | √ |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| Belize is currently in the process of developing its national biodiversity policy. A national biodiversity office is also being considered for establishment. | | | | | |

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| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |
| b) yes (please give brief details below) | |
| 242. Has your country taken measures so that Contracting Parties, which provide genetic resources, are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms (16(3))? | |
| a) not relevant | √ |
| b) relevant, but no measures | |
| c) some measures in place | |
| d) potential measures under review | |
| 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 | |

| | |
|---|---|
| c) potential measures under review | |
| d) comprehensive measures in place | |
| If so, are these measures | |
| a) Legislation? | |
| b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation? | |
| c) Policy and administrative arrangements? | |
| 244. Does your country have a national system for intellectual property right protection (16(5))? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | √ |
| 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 | |

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 | √ |
| b) some | |
| c) many | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 17 Exchange of information

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| 247. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country? | | | | | |
| a) High | | b) Medium | | c) Low | √ |
| 248. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | √ |
| d) Severely limiting | | | | | |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| <p>Belize has several means to facilitate the exchange of information as fulfilment under this article. However, some of the proposals have not been fully implemented due to a lack of funds. The Centre for Environmental Data Systems (CEDS) has been on hold, as well as Belize's Clearinghouse Mechanism.</p> <p>However, with the assistance from Wildlife Conservation Society and from the Belize Audubon Society, the Belize Biodiversity Information System (BBIS) database was put in place. The WCS continues to update the BBIS as data becomes available.</p> <p>The Government of Belize also has its Land Information Centre (LIC), which is also the central node of the CEDS. The LIC is functional and available to the general public.</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 | |
| If a developed country Party - | |
| 250. Do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries (17(1))? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes - limited extent | |
| c) yes - significant extent | |
| 251. If so, do these measures include all the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), including technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes - limited extent | |
| c) yes - significant extent | |

Article 18 Technical and scientific cooperation

| | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|---|
| 252. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country? | | | |
| a) High | | b) Medium | √ |
| 253. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | |
| | | c) Limiting | |
| | | d) Severely limiting | √ |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | |
| <p>This article is being implemented via regional and international agreements, conventions, initiatives and programs. There are several regional agreements that have led to initiatives and programs, which are currently being implemented. Agreements under the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) has led to the formation of the Central American Council of Forests and Protected Areas (CCAB/AP); and The Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES). Regional projects such as the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project (MBRS) and the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project (MBC) and others are some mechanisms affording a high level of implementation of this article. There are also tri-national initiatives such as the Tri-national Alliance for the Gulf of Honduras and the Tri-national Alliance for the Selva Maya. There are also several small-scale initiatives at the bi-national level between Belize and Guatemala, and Belize and Mexico.</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 | | | |
| 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 | | √ | |
| 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 | | | |

| | |
|--|---|
| 257. Does such cooperation include the training of personnel and exchange of experts (18(4))? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes - limited extent | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 261. Has your country designated a national focal point for the Clearing-House Mechanism? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |

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

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

The first national report of Belize to the Conference of the Parties was submitted to the CBD secretariat in January 1999. Clearing House Mechanism funds amounting to US\$7,000.00 were received from the GEF, which was used for preparatory work for the CHM.

The Center for Environmental Data Systems (CEDs) preceded the CHM and its primary objective was to network users, decisions makers, resource managers and academic institutions that use biodiversity data. Unfortunately, the CEDs project is now on hold due to the lack of funds. As a result, the CHM project is a priority for Belize.

Article 19 Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

| | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|--|-------------|----------------------|
| 268. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country? | | | | | |
| a) High | | b) Medium | | c) Low | √ |
| 269. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | d) Severely limiting |
| | | | | | √ |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| Belize has undertaken practically no measures under this article. It has been placed as a low level of priority. | | | | | |
| Belize has participated at the Central American Level in the development of a regional biosafety protocol, which needs to be adapted to our national legislation. This requires financial resources. | | | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 270. Has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties, which provide the genetic resources for such research (19(1))? | |
| a) no measures | √ |
| b) some measures in place | |
| c) potential measures under review | |
| 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 | |
| d) comprehensive measures in place | |

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

With respect to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Government of Belize has approved that Belize becomes a signatory to this convention. Currently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is processing the ratification of this convention.

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 | | b) Medium | | c) Low | √ |
| 274. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | √ |
| d) Severely limiting | | | | | |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| <p>The availability of financial resources is limited to tax exemptions for the purchase of equipment for use in biodiversity protection and related work. Government has provided other financial resources but these are not enough to cover the need for biodiversity protection.</p> <p>However, the NGO community has benefited from grants from external sources of funding.</p> <p>Nonetheless not all the efforts of NGOs are aimed at biodiversity protection.</p> | | | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 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 | |
| b) yes - incentives only | |
| c) yes - financial support only | √ |
| d) yes - financial support and incentives | |
| 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 | |
| b) yes | |
| 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 | √ |
| b) yes | |

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 | |
| b) yes | √ |

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 | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| 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) | |

283. Are details available of your country's financial support to national biodiversity activities?

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| a) no | |
| b) not in a standardized format | √ |
| 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 | |
| d) yes (please provide details) | |

| | |
|--|---|
| Developed country Parties - | |
| 285. Does your country promote support for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention in the funding policy of its bilateral funding institutions and those of regional and multilateral funding institutions? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | |
| Developing country Parties - | |
| 286. Does your country discuss ways and means to support implementation of the objectives of the Convention in its dialogue with funding institutions? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | √ |
| 287. Has your country compiled information on the additional financial support provided by the private sector? | |
| a) no | √ |
| 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 | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Government of Belize enacted the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) in 1998. Through the management mechanisms of the trust, several improvements have been made which allow the beneficiaries to have greater facility in leveraging funds and consequently the accessing of technological support. However, this trust is aimed mostly at the support of in situ conservation measures.

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 | | b) Medium | | c) Low | √ |
| 290. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made? | | | | | |
| a) Good | | b) Adequate | | c) Limiting | √ |
| d) Severely limiting | | | | | |
| Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources | | | | | |
| <p>Belize's financial mechanism towards biodiversity conservation includes joint efforts from the government, non-government organizations (particularly foreign contributions) and the private sector.</p> <p>Government agencies such as the Forest Department, Fisheries Department and the Department of Environment receive annual allocations of funds of which a percentage is geared towards biodiversity protection. Funds allocated to these departments are primarily for the salary of staff and for the purchases of equipment. Funds for biodiversity protection from state sources are considered largely inadequate.</p> <p>The Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) is Belize's local funding mechanisms that offer financial support to Community Based Organizations and Non Government Organizations. The management of this mechanism is continuously being strengthened and improved, and it now includes a revolving fund, which seeks local sources of funding as well as external sources of funding. However, this fund is aimed to support in situ conservation issues.</p> <p>Government policy does not reflect biodiversity as an important economic asset, and the lack of policy towards biodiversity as an economic asset hinders the further strengthening of biodiversity protection and management.</p> | | | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 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 | √ |

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 | √ |
| c) yes, within the previous national report | |
| d) yes, through case-studies | |
| e) yes, through other means (please give details below) | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Belize has entered into a debt for nature swap under the United States Tropical Conservation Act. Under this agreement, Belize will benefit from approximately US \$9 Million dollars. Three local NGOs as well as the financial mechanism under the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) will benefit from this agreement.

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) | 1 |
| b) COP 2 (Jakarta) | 3 |
| c) COP 3 (Buenos Aires) | 1 |
| d) COP 4 (Bratislava) | 2 |
| e) COP 5 (Nairobi) | 1 |

**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 | |

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 | |
| b) yes (please specify which) | √ |
| If a developed country Party - | |
| 296. Has your country funded regional and sub-regional meetings to prepare for the COP, and facilitated the participation of developing countries in such meetings? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes (please provide details below) | |

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Belize attended regional meetings in preparation of the Conference Of the Parties, as well as SBSTTA meetings on biosafety and Central American meetings to prepare regional position papers to the COP IV, and V.

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 | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Due to economic constraints, Belize is not in a position to offer further contributions beyond what it has committed under the convention. Belize has been affected by the passing of several tropical storms, of which Hurricanes Keith and Iris have been responsible for significant economic impacts.

Article 25 Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice

| 300. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of SBSTTA? | |
|--|---|
| a) SBSTTA I (Paris) | 1 |
| b) SBSTTA II (Montreal) | 2 |
| c) SBSTTA III (Montreal) | 2 |
| d) SBSTTA IV (Montreal) | 2 |
| e) SBSTTA V (Montreal) | 1 |

Further comments on implementation of this Article

| |
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| |
|--|

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 | √ |
| 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)? | |
| Later (please specify date) | √ January, 1999 |

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 | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| If yes, was this by: | |
| a) informal distribution? | √ |
| b) publishing the report? | √ |
| c) making the report available on request? | √ |
| d) posting the report on the Internet? | |

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 | |
| c) yes - alien species | |
| d) yes - benefit sharing | |

Further comments on implementation of this Article



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 | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| c) pilot projects underway | |
| d) workshops planned/held | |
| e) information available through CHM | |
| 308. Is your country strengthening capacities for implementation of the ecosystem approach, and providing technical and financial support for capacity-building to implement the ecosystem approach? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes within the country | |
| c) yes including support to other Parties | |
| 309. Has your country promoted regional co-operation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders? | |
| a) no | |
| b) informal co-operation | |
| c) formal co-operation (please give details) | √ |
| <p>Belize has a Tri-national Alliance with Mexico and Guatemala for the Selva Maya, and with Honduras and Guatemala (Gulf of Honduras), and other bilateral arrangements in process between Belize and Guatemala.</p> <p>There are also substantial efforts between regional countries that are party to the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Initiative (Mexico, Belize, Honduras, Guatemala).</p> | |

Inland water ecosystems

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

| | |
|--|---|
| 310. Has your country included information on biological diversity in wetlands when providing information and reports to the CSD, and considered including inland water biological diversity issues at meetings to further the recommendations of the CSD? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes | |
| 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 | √ |
| If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition - | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |
| 315. Is your country gathering information on the status of inland water biological diversity? | |
| a) no | |
| b) assessments ongoing | √ |
| 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) | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 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 | |
| 318. Has your country implemented capacity-building measures for developing and implementing these plans? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes | |

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 | √ |

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

305. The ecosystem approach as defined by the Malawi Principles has not been formally adopted nor applied in Belize. However, Belize uses the ecosystem approach when dealing with local biodiversity issues.

309. The ecosystem approach is now being considered a regional effort. Belize's participation in the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project (Belize, Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala), the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project (7 Central American Countries and Mexico), the Tri-national Alliance for the Gulf of Honduras (TRIGOH- Belize, Guatemala and Honduras), and the Tri-national Alliance for the Selva Maya (Belize, Mexico and Guatemala) all have on-going programs with consideration of the ecosystem approach.

311. Belize is signatory to the RAMSAR Convention. One inland wetland protected area (The Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary), was designated a RAMSAR site on the 22nd of August 1999. Other sites are being considered for nominations. The Belize Audubon Society, a leading NGO in Belize, manages this site.

Most reports relevant to questions 315 and 316 above are small local reports. These are available from the NGO community. The BBIS data centre has some information on species distribution of wetlands in Belize.

Wetland biodiversity is incorporated into Belize's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

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 | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| 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) | |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |

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

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

Belize has established the Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, which plays a key role in integrated coastal zone management.

Belize has signed and ratified the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It has submitted its National Report to the Cabinet of Belize who requested clarification and improvements. The document has now been re-submitted and a decision on its approval has not been made.

With respect to question 328, there are local reports and case studies on coral bleaching in Belize. This report includes monitoring that has been ongoing on coral bleaching episodes during the last five years.

Agricultural biological diversity

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

| | |
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| 329. Has your country identified and assessed relevant ongoing activities and existing instruments at the national level? | |
| a) no | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 332. Is your country taking steps to share experiences addressing the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes - case-studies | |
| c) yes - other mechanisms (please specify) | |
| 333. Has your country conducted case-studies on the issues identified by SBSTTA: i) pollinators, ii) soil biota, and iii) integrated landscape management and farming systems? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes - pollinators | |
| c) yes - soil biota | |
| d) yes - integrated landscape management and farming systems | √ |
| 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 | |

| | |
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| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 340. Is your country collaborating with other Contracting Parties to identify and promote sustainable agricultural practices and integrated landscape management? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | √ |

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

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

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

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| 349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes | |
| 350. Is your country compiling case-studies and implementing pilot projects relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators? | |
| a) no | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |
| d) comprehensive review completed | |

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

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

There has been some communication between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Biodiversity Sector of Belize within the framework of the CBD. This has been limited to biosafety issues. A committee comprised of technical personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Natural Resources Environment and Industry, has been meeting to discuss guidelines for assessing and addressing biosafety issues in Belize.

351. There is no information available on genetic use restriction technologies for Belize. Belize also has no CHM; hence the question is not directly relevant.

357 Belize is not yet a Contracting Party to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. However, a cabinet paper is being prepared for submission to the Government of Belize to sign and ratify the convention.

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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| <i>For developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition -</i> | |
| 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

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|---|---|
| 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 | √ |
| 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 | |

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| 366. Will your country contribute to the future work of the UN Forum on Forests? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes | √ |
| 367. Has your country provided relevant information on the implementation of this work programme? | |
| a) no | √ |
| b) yes - submission of case-studies | |
| c) yes - thematic national report submitted | |
| d) yes - other means (please give details below) | |
| 368. Has your country integrated national forest programmes into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans applying the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes - limited extent | √ |
| c) yes - significant extent | |
| 369. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure participation by the forest sector, private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the programme of work? | |
| a) no | |
| b) yes - some stakeholders | √ |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |

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

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| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |

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

Belize is a signatory to the Central American Conventions on Biodiversity and the protection of Protected Areas. Belize is also a participant to the international processes for the establishment of criteria and indicators for the sustainable development and management of forest ecosystems including the Central American Le Paterique Process.

(362) The national budget for the Forest Department, which is an agency of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Industry, is severely limited in relation to the management and monitoring of 60% of the land area of the country. However, Belize has developed an important co-management system with local NGOs for the management of Belize's forest biological resources.

(371) Belize, as a member of the Latin American Forestry Commission (COFLAC) has participated in regional forums and workshops on the valuation of forest goods and services.

(368) Belize has also participated in FAO coordinated regional forums and programs for the development of a national forest programs.

Decision V/ 23 do not apply to Belize. Belize does not have dry and sub humid lands.

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 | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |

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

(375) - Belize has not participated in this but if it does, it would include the relevant communities, etc. in its selection of experts.

Belize signed the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992 and ratified it in December 1998.

Belize has received funding to developing its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. This was completed in September 1998 and submitted to the CBD Secretariat in January 1999.

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

Belize signed the Convention on Biological Diversity on June 13, 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and ratified it in December 1993. In January 1998, the Government of Belize submitted its first Interim Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In partial fulfillment of Belize's obligation, the preparation of its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was finalized in September 1998 and submitted to the CBD Secretariat in January 1999. The preparation of Belize's report was made possible from enabling funds provided by the United Nations Development Program.

Belize is also a member of the Central American Commission of Forests and Central American Commission of Protected Areas.

Belize is a member of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and of the Central American Commission of Forestry and Protected Areas (CCAB/AP). The Forest Conservation and Protected Areas Division of the IUCN-Mesoamerica were commissioned by the CCAD and CCAB/AP to develop a "Central American Forest Strategy on Forest Restoration based on the Ecosystems Approach".

Belize has also signed several important agreements on Biodiversity at the regional level. Belize signed the Central American Convention on Biological Diversity Protection and the protection of Priority Protected Areas of Central America, as well as the Alliance for Sustainable Development (Alides) in 1994. Two important programs have arisen at the regional level as a result of this and other regional conventions on biodiversity. These are the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project, which includes Belize, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. This project is a project to take place in three phases over a 15-year period. Its objectives are to improve the protection of the unique and vulnerable ecosystems of the Mesoamerican Reef System (MBRS). The MBRS project was signed on the 5th of June 1997 in Tulum, Mexico by the four mentioned countries.

The other regional project is the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project, which includes the seven Countries of Central America and Mexico.

The Convention of Biodiversity and the Protection of Priority Protected Areas

in Central America was signed in Managua, 1992 by the six Central American Countries except Belize, but Belize later signed in 1994.

Other initiatives include Tri-national Alliance for the Gulf of Honduras (TRIGOH), and the Tri-national Alliance for the Selva Maya.

Belize has also been nominated as the secretariat for the Caribbean Council on Sustainable Development, which is an initiative by the Commonwealth Caribbean Countries.

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

Belize is also party to the CITES Convention (1981), RAMSAR Convention (1989) and The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1982). Belize has also ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Currently, a series of activities to improve Belize's fulfillment of its obligations under the CBD are being considered to commence in early 2002. Some of these activities will be funded via enabling funds provided from various sources. Considerations are being made to ensure a more comprehensive coordination of activities towards Belize's fulfillment of its obligations under the convention. This will include the establishment of Belize's National Biodiversity Office.

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

The wording and structure of the guidelines was difficult because some technical persons were not familiar with the convention and its articles. There were instances where a question required a simple "yes" or "no" answer. In some of these instances, the response was a "no" but with certain levels of implementation of that article having been carried out.

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

| | | | |
|--|---|----|--------------------------|
| Date of completion: | <i>December 1998</i> | | |
| If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government | | | |
| By which authority? | <i>No</i> | | |
| On what date? | | | |
| If the NBSAP has been published please give | | | |
| Title: | <i>The Belize Biodiversity Strategy The Belize Biodiversity Action Plan</i> | | |
| Name and address of publisher: | <i>Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Industry, Belmopan, Belize, C.A.</i> | | |
| ISBN: | | | |
| Price (if applicable): | <i>\$US15.00</i> | | |
| Other information on ordering: | <i>E-mail: nbsap@bt1.net, or lincenbze@bt1.net</i> | | |
| If the NBSAP has not been published | | | |
| Please give full details of how copies can be obtained: | <i>By writing to the above address for copies and submitting a cheque payable to the Government of Belize, for the sum of US \$15.00, plus shipping and handling.</i> | | |
| If the NBSAP has been posted on a national website | | | |
| Please give full URL: | | | |
| If the NBSAP has been lodged with an Implementing Agency of the GEF | | | |
| Please indicate which agency: | <i>United Nations Development Program</i> | | |
| 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

Belize has not completed any such reports.

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

There is no such body that has reviewed the implementation of the Convention.