

# **ERITREA:**

## **National Report on Protected Areas and Areas Where Special Measure Need to be taken**

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ASMARA,  
ERITREA.

## *Annex II*

### **FORMAT FOR DETAILED THEMATIC REPORTS ON PROTECTED AREAS OR AREAS WHERE SPECIAL MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN TO CONSERVE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

The following format for preparing a thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity is a series of questions designed to collect information from the Contracting Parties to facilitate the consideration of relevant thematic issues and programme of work at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The responses to these questions will also assist with the assessment of the overall status of implementation of the Convention.

While designing questions, due consideration is given to the fact that the first and second national reports called for by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention have requested some information on protected areas, and some relevant organizations such as IUCN and UNESCO call for reports periodically and promote the information sharing in this field. The thematic report on protected areas will address those specific issues that will be of concern to SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

The questions are designed in a way to facilitate completion of the review. In most cases, optional answers are provided and circling the selected answer is required. Following the questions there is a box for further comments and information. Parties are invited to provide a more detailed response to the questions to which more than one answer is given. In particular, this box could be used to identify the priorities in the national strategies and action plans, successes and constraints in implementation and existing and potential areas of cooperation and capacity-building.

This information provided by Contracting Parties will not be used to rank performance between individual Contracting Parties.

In order to assist with the review and synthesis of the information in the reports, respondents are asked to ensure that the further information provided in the box is closely related the preceding questions and is as succinct as possible. This is no set limit on length, but it is anticipated that Parties will be able to provide adequate and useful information in a few pages.

Contracting Parties are also invited to communicate any issues relevant to the provisions of the Convention that have not been addressed by the questions below. The Executive Secretary would also welcome any comments on the adequacy of the questions, and difficulties in completing these questions, and any recommendations on how these reporting guidelines and questions could be improved.

It is recommended that Contracting Parties involve a wide range of stakeholders in the preparation of the report, in order to ensure a participatory and transparent development of such a report. A box is provided to identify those stakeholders who have been involved in this process.

Contracting Parties are requested to submit their thematic reports on protected areas in this format to the Executive Secretary by **30 March 2003**. Parties are requested to submit an original signed copy by post and an electronic copy on diskette or by electronic mail. An electronic version of this document will be sent to all national focal points and this will also be available from the website of the Convention at:

<http://www.biodiv.org>

Completed thematic reports and any comments should be sent to:

The Executive Secretary  
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
World Trade Center  
393 St.Jacques Street, Suite 300  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2Y 1N9  
Fax: 1-514-2886588  
Email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org)

**Thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity**

**Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.**

<b>Contracting Party:</b>	THE SATE OF ERITREA
<i>National Focal Point</i>	
<b>Full name of the institution:</b>	MINISTRY OF LAND, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
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<i>Contact officer for national report (if different)</i>	
<b>Full name of the institution:</b>	
<b>Name and title of contact officer:</b>	
<b>Mailing address:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>E-mail:</b>	
<i>Submission</i>	
<b>Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:</b>	Mebrahtu Iyassu
<b>Date of submission:</b>	24 April, 2003

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

This report was prepared primarily in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Fisheries, mainly because identifications and establishment of protected areas and areas, which need special conservation measures, are in one way or the other under the jurisdiction of these two Ministries. The University of Asmara, including the College of Agriculture and Aquatic Sciences, has also been consulted. Some important Zobas (administrative regions of the country), like the Zoba Gash Barka, Northern Red Sea and Southern Red Sea in which where most of the identified protected area located have also been consulted.

*Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity*

*System of protected areas*

1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions?					
a) High	√	b) Medium		c) Low	
2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					√
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process					
3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity?					
a) no					
b) an assessment is being planned for					
c) an assessment is being undertaken					√
d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made					

*Regulatory framework*

4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					√
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents					
5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					√
d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets					

6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures, for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors, or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples)	√
To date, there are not formally established protected areas but more than 110,338 Ha of land nationwide is placed under permanent enclosure. The local residents are allowed to cut and carry grass, with permission from their fellow villager are also allowed to cut tree for construction and in special occasions, and apiculture is motivated by the government.	
c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples)	

### ***Management approach***

7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so that programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is being planned for	
c) an assessment is in process	√
d) yes, an assessment has been completed	
e) Programs and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken)	
8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some areas	√
c) yes, in all areas (please provide details)	
9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes?	
a) no, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes	
b) many areas have similar objectives/management regimes, but there are also some exceptions	√
c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details)	
10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) with some, but not all protected areas	
c) yes, always (please provide details of experiences)	√

In 1997 FAO and the Government (represented by the Ministry of Agriculture), under the Technical Co-operation Program, undertook a pre-investment study for the forestry and wildlife sectors. This assessment is quite comprehensive and laid down the foundation for the government's future planning and programming in the forestry and wildlife sectors. The study has identified 27 individual marine, coastal and island and terrestrial protected areas. It was carried out in consultation with all line Ministries: Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Tourism, University of Asmara, Ministry of Local Government, NGO's, and local communities were consulted.

11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognized in any formal manner?

a) no, they do not exist	√
b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized	
c) yes, they exist and are formally recognized (please provide further information)	

*Available resources*

12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas?

a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	√
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Nation wide there is institutional, educated manpower and financial resources limitation. Training in protected areas management and establishment, institutional capacity building up and financial resources are required to fill the existing gap.

b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
d) yes, good resources are available	

13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas?

a) no	√
b) funding has been requested, but not received	
c) funding is currently being requested	
d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents)	

The Conservation Management of Eritrea's Coastal, Marine, and Island Biodiversity project which is funded by the GEF, planned to implement some of the identified/ proposed Coastal, Marine and Island protected area. However, these in itself is not enough. Planning, financial capacity build up, is under progress to enable the demarcation and establishment of the proposed marine, Coastal, Island and terrestrial protected areas.



**Assessment**

14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints?	
a) no	
b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information)	√
c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further information)	
15. Is a programme in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information?	
a) no	√
b) yes, a programme is under development (please provide further information)	
c) yes, a programme is in place (please provide further information)	
16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide?	
a) No	
b) An assessment is planned	
c) An assessment is in process	
d) Yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information)	√
The economic values of protected areas are assessed in the 1999 “Eritrea: economic values of biodiversity assessment”	

**Regional and international cooperation**

17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighboring countries in the establishment and/or management of Tranboundary protected areas?	
a) No	√
b) Yes (please provide details)	
18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience?	
a) No	
b) Yes	√
c) Information is not available	
19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas?	
a) No	√
b) Yes	
20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognised or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them. N/A	

21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties?	
a) No	√
b) Yes (please provide details)	

***The issues Further comments***

The Department of Environment Ministry of Land, Water and Environment in collaboration with other line Ministries (Mainly with Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Fisheries) has taken important steps towards assessing the status and trends of Eritrea's natural resource hot spot areas, which need special attention and the issues related to establishment of protected areas. In the past eight years significant progress has been made in this regard. The issues pertaining to protected areas and establishment of permanent and temporary enclosures for natural regeneration are in one way or the other addressed in the following documents.

- i. National Environment Management Plan of Eritrea, which is a master document that plans and identifies different environmental concerns including the importance of establishment of protected areas and conservation of Biological Diversity, that was prepared in 1996.
- ii. Eritrea's Biodiversity Stocktaking Assessment Report (1999), Eritrea Biodiversity Economic Assessment (1998) and Assessment of National Policy, legislative and Institutional Framework and its Implication for Biodiversity conservation and Sustainable Use (1999), which were published as a part of the first phase of biodiversity enabling activity. In these reports efforts have been made to assess the overall situation of our Biodiversity and the issues related to protected areas. The recommendations on needs to establish, conserve and sustainably use have been indicated in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2000).
- iii. In 1997 FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture under the Technical Co-operation Program, undertook a pre-investment study for the forestry and wildlife sectors. This assessment is quite comprehensive and laid down the foundation for the government's future planning and programming in the forestry and wildlife sectors. These study has identified and proposed 27 individual marine, coastal and island and terrestrial protected areas.
- iv. The Ministry of Agriculture has prepared forest management plans for conserving rich forest biodiversity areas of the country and areas of natural resources that are threatened by human intervention. These are:
  1. The Management Plan of the Riverine Forests of the Western Lowlands
  2. The Green Belt Integrated and Sustainable

To date, 110,338 Ha of land put under permanent enclosure and more than 82,460 under temporary enclosure considering that this could enable natural regeneration. So far establishment temporary and permanent enclosures done in consultation with the local communities. The final decision, protection and ownership is identified by and discussed with the community. The demarcation and enclosing of the proposed protected are in different areas of Eritrea is also planned to be carried out in consultation with all stakeholder specially the local communities

Emergent Eritrean, being a newly liberated country, does not have well-established institutions and laws and regulations that would cater for biodiversity protection. Nonetheless, it is strongly believed that the environmental awareness creation activities and enclosing of some temporary and permanent protected areas that have been carried out in the past have significantly helped to rehabilitate Eritrea's degraded environment.

The major handicap establishment of the protected areas in particular and conservation of biodiversity in general the **absence institutional capacity, educated manpower and financial resources limitations.**

END OF REPORT

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