

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

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Date of submission:	

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 has been prepared through a participatory process involving members of the Agriculture and Natural Resource (ANR) Working Group as the National Coordinating Body for the implementation of the three environmental conventions, members of the National Task Force on Biodiversity, a national consultant and the national Focal Point for CBD. The ANR Working Group retained the Task Force, which was constituted in 1997 to carry out the biodiversity country study (NBSAP) as well as give guidance for the preparation of this report and recruited a national consultant to work with the Task Force under the supervision of the Focal Point. With the assistance of the members of the Task Force, the National Consultant prepared a 1st draft of the report under the supervision of the Focal Point and distributed this draft to members of the Task Force for their review and comments. Based on these comments, the national consultant prepared and submitted a 2nd draft report, which was distributed to the members of the ANR Working Group for their review and comments. Based on those comments a final version of this report was prepared by the national consultant.

Both the members of the ANR Working Group and the Task Force are representatives of governmental, non-governmental and parastatal institutions each of which have a clearly defined responsibility in the implementation of the CBD. Thus they are primary actor stakeholders and by virtue of their Gambian citizenship, secondary beneficiary stakeholders. The basic material used as a basis for the report is Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for The Gambia (1999) supplemented by the report on biodiversity Status and Trends in The Gambia (1999) and discussions between the consultant and the individual members of the Task Force and ANR Working Group.

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

The military take-over of July 1994 and its backlashing international donor community reaction seriously stalled the implementation of the country's major national development programmes and plans. These were the ten-year Programme for Sustained Development (PSD) adopted in 1990, the Strategy for Poverty Alleviation (SPA) launched in 1993 and The Gambia Environmental Action Plan adopted in 1993. Following return to civilian rule in 1996 which marked the revival of international donor community interest in supporting the country's socio-economic development process, the Government formulated and adopted the Gambia Incorporated. . . Vision 2020 in 1996 as a framework for revitalizing the development impetus of largely dormant development programmes and plans including the biodiversity policy implementation which is severely constrained by capacity limitations . The Government initiated a comprehensive revision of its key national plans and strategies and elaborated subsectoral policies and strategies in the agriculture and natural resources sector and other sectors of the economy in pursuit of the overall goal of Vision 2020.

The Government commenced implementing the three international environmental conventions of Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification in 1997 at a time when official development assistance flow into an economy, which is essentially donor-driven, was at its lowest ebb. It elaborated action programmes for each of the three conventions as part of the strategic action programming process to revise the GEAP into GEAP II.

As a funding mechanism for its development plans and programmes, the Government entered into a three-year Agreement with the Bretton Woods Institutions under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) in 1998 and commenced revising its SPA in 2001 into SPA II. It is understood that all national programmes and plans of poverty reduction in character including the three environmental conventions must be integrated within the SPA II to be eligible for funding under the PRGF. Since the SPA II is under revision, there has hitherto been no incremental national budgetary allocations to support the implementation of the three environmental conventions. This situation has been particularly pronounced in the implementation of the CBD, the lead subsector of which has traditionally attracted little international support unlike the lead subsectors of its allied conventions. Thus, despite the high priority accorded to biodiversity since the proclamation of the Banjul Declaration in 1977 the main conservation strategy for fauna remained to be the establishment of national parks and nature reserves almost exclusively supported by shrinking national budgetary allocations. The focal point for the CBD, the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM) is also the focal point for the Ramsar, Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species (Bonn Convention), CITES, African Eurasian Migratory Water Birds, the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Algiers Convention) all of which are under implementation and, it is also the National Delegate for Wetlands International.

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

Marine and coastal biological diversity

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

Agricultural biological diversity

5. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
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	X
d) Severely limiting	

Forest biological diversity

7. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
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	X
c) Limiting	
d) Severely limiting	

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

9. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
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	X
d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

The Inland Water Ecosystems are of high priority because of three reasons: they are relevant in the Annual Water Fowl Census supported by Wetland International, the greater part of these systems lies in the national parks and nature reserves which are the focus of the Ramsar Baseline Survey and development of management plans and, they provide water for irrigated agriculture and are therefore influenced by public investment in soil and water management and lowland development for household food security under the SPA. These notwithstanding available resources for their development is limiting let alone meeting the obligations and recommendations of the CBD.

The important national parks and reserves are located in the marine and coastal areas which are characterized by great diversity in terms of environmental and economic resources. They constitute about 17.4% of the surface area of the country and host about 40% of the population. Thus both the GEAP and NBSAP accorded their development high priority. The country initiated an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Programme (ICAM) in 1996 with assistance from UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and Food and Agricultural Organization in response to the socio-economic importance and environmental sensitivity of these areas. The Government established an inter-sectoral Task Force, Coastal and Marine Environment Working Group (CMEWG) to oversee the development of these areas.

Agriculture is the population-base of rural Gambia. Thus the NBSAP accorded high priority to the sustainable management of agricultural biological diversity. Contrariwise the agricultural research (including biodiversity) budget has hardly been more than one-third of the minimum requirement.

More than 85 percent of domestic energy need in the Gambia is met from forest resources. The forest cover declined from 81% of the territory in 1946 to about 41% in 1993 due to a combination of human and livestock activities and drought. The sustainable management of forest biological diversity is therefore a high priority. The support of the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union/EDF in forestry affords the subsector relatively adequate resources compared to all the other subsectors although due to end soon.

As part of the Sahelian entity which has been subjected to serious threats of desertification since the early 1970s the sustainable management of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands is of high priority in The Gambia. Thus within the framework of the UNCCD, UNDP/UNSO have expressed readiness to set up financial mechanisms for a community based dry land management (Trust Fund) and pilot activities to strengthen local governance for dry land development under the Integrated Programme for Dry Lands Development in Africa and the Middle East. Overall the funding situation is limiting.

Article 5 Cooperation

11. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?						
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low		
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 X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources						
<p>Except the short seaboard on the Atlantic Ocean, The Gambia is surrounded by Senegal on all sides.</p> <p>Given this geographical location of the country, the various ecosystems of the country are part of larger Senegambian entities thus making cooperation with its immediate neighbour not only necessary but inevitable for the conservation and suitable use of biological diversity of these ecosystems. Thus the Gambia places high priority on cooperation both at bilateral and multilateral levels. The Gambia is therefore involved in bilateral cooperation agreements in almost all the major subsectors of biological diversity with its immediate neighbour as well as an active party to sub-regional and regional organizations like Inter-State Committee for the Control of Drought in The Sahel (CILSS), organization for the development of the Gambia River Basin (OMVG), organization Commune de lutte Anti- Acridienne et de lutte Anti-aviaire (OCLALAV), Economic Commission of West African States(ECOWAS) etc. whose mandates include an element of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use</p>						

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

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

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

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

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

Decision V/21. Co-operation with other bodies

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Gambia is a party to the African Eurasian Water Birds Agreement Within the framework of this agreement the Gambia and Senegal are seeking GEF Funding for a joint project to protect migratory avafauna populations that use this specific West African flyway as well as sensitize associated local communities. The Niumi and Sene Saloum National Parks are transboundary protected areas for which both Senegal and The Gambia have developed separate management plans for their subsectors in-close consultation with a view to achieving maximum synergy from the implementation of these plans. A memorandum of understanding has been signed by the two States to this effect in 2000.

The Gambia has not collaborated with the International Biodiversity Observation Year of DIVERSITAS. But the National Environment Agency (NEA), Department of Forestry and the Department of Parks and Wildlife run limited public awareness programmes as part of their administrative and management responsibilities.

Biological diversity considerations have been prominently highlighted and emphasized in the Rio+10 Progress Report. A draft of this report compiled by NEA is currently under review for finalization.

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?					
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a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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19. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
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a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
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<p>The major economic activities of the Gambia include crop and livestock production, forestry, fishing and tourism thus making the country a natural resource-based economy. Thus since the country ratified the CBD in June 1994, it has worked diligently towards fulfilling its obligations under the convention. In this connection, The Gambia embarked on a country study of biological status and trends which was completed in 1999. Based on the country study report, the Government prepared a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 1999. The plan identified 10 priority project profiles for immediate implementation at a total cost of US\$11.887 million. However no funds have so far been secured to implement the NBSAP priority projects.</p>					
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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 <u>1</u>	X
e) completed and adopted <u>2</u>	
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 <u>2</u>	X
e) completed and adopted <u>2</u>	
f) reports on implementation available	
22. Do your national strategies and action plans cover all articles of the Convention (6a)?	
a) some articles only	
b) most articles	X
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	X
d) all sectors	

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

24. Is action being taken to exchange information and share experience on the national action planning process with other Contracting Parties?	
a) little or no action	
b) sharing of strategies, plans and/or case-studies	
c) regional meetings	X

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

25. Do all of your country's strategies and action plans include an international cooperation component?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
26. Are your country's strategies and action plans coordinated with those of neighbouring countries?	
a) no	X
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	X
e) reports on implementation available	
<i>If a developing country Party or a Party with economy in transition -</i>	
28. Has your country received support from the financial mechanism for the preparation of its national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, which was the Implementing Agency (UNDP/UNEP/World Bank)?	
UNEP	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The NBSAP covers both thematic (sectoral) strategies and general measures (cross-sectoral strategies). The sector-specific strategies covered the main thematic areas namely terrestrial biodiversity (wildlife), inland water ecosystems, forest biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, and agricultural biodiversity. The cross-sectoral strategies cover issues including policy, legislation and institutional review and coordination, capacity building, biodiversity planning, identification and monitoring, in-situ conservation, ex-situ conservation, sustainable use, incentive measures, research and training, public education and awareness, impact assessment, regulation of access to genetic resources, protection of indigenous knowledge and intellectual property rights of local communities, handling of biotechnology, exchange of information, technical and scientific cooperation, relationship between the CBD and other treaties and finally mobilization of financial resources.

Since its elaboration the CBD Focal Point has taken it upon itself to share the NBSAP with other contracting parties at regional meetings. The NBSAP treated international cooperation as a substantive issue of cross-cutting nature. However, the strategies have not been designedly coordinated with those of neighbouring countries. The country has set out measurable targets within strategies and action plan. The preparation of the NBSAP was supported by GEF through UNEP. The DPWM is the focal point for the CBD and, Ramsar Convention, Bonn Convention and the CITES. Thus the implementations of these conventions are significantly integrated to avoid duplications.

Article 7 Identification and monitoring

30. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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31. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	X
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

The country is implementing an identification and monitoring programme under the Wet Lands International programme on annual water bird surveys in collaboration with an international NGO, Important Bird Areas Survey (IBAS) and UK-based NGO Royal Society for the Protection of (RSPB) Birds. NBSAP and the country study on the status and trends of biodiversity in The Gambia identified the components of biological diversity important for its conservation and use and have suggested ways for the organization and maintenance of data derived from identification and monitoring activities.

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

38. Has your country identified activities with adverse affects on biodiversity (7c)?	
a) limited understanding	
b) threats well known in some areas, not in others	
c) most threats known, some gaps in knowledge	
d) comprehensive understanding	
e) reports available	X
39. Is your country monitoring these activities and their effects (7c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	
40. Does your country coordinate information collection and management at the national level (7d)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	

Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment

41. Has your country identified national indicators of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	X
42. Is your country using rapid assessment and remote sensing techniques?	
a) no	
b) assessing opportunities	
c) yes, to a limited extent	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
b) yes	
46. Is your country seeking to make taxonomic information held in its collections more widely available?	
a) no relevant collections	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
b) providing training	
c) providing direct support	
d) sharing experience	
e) other (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Currently on-going inventory programmes at species level include survey of butterflies, dragonflies, and insects generally, bats and whales, dolphins and turtles. The country has inventory programmes at ecosystem level. These include inland water ecosystems, forest ecosystems, agricultural biodiversity (crop research) and aquatic ecosystems. Some on-going inventory programmes at the genetic level are livestock research by the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI). On-going monitoring programmes at species level include a range of major groups such as livestock population, national agriculture sample survey (crops), wildlife and fisheries. There are also few on-going monitoring programmes at ecosystem and species levels by NARI and ITC.

The country study identified activities with adverse effects on biodiversity and programmes for monitoring of these activities are in place. Information collection and management at national level are coordinated within the framework of the GEAP monitoring system. Indicators of biodiversity have been identified for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of CCD action programme and its impact on desertification. These indicators are on livestock and range management; agriculture, soil and water conservation; forestry, wildlife and fisheries; and population and social dimension of desertification. Although rapid assessment is not in use, remote sensing techniques are employed by Department of Water Resources in its weather forecasting programme. The Gambia has not adopted a "step-by-step" approach to implementing Article 7. The country is neither cooperating with other Contracting Parties on pilot project to demonstrate the use of assessment and indicator methodologies nor has it reports of experience with assessment of methodologies. The country has no taxonomic information held in its collection that could be made widely available.

The Gambia has not undertaken any case studies concerning the development and implementation of assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes. The country is not assisting other parties to increase their capacity to develop indicator and monitoring programmes.

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	X
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	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) action plan in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
52. Is your country making available appropriate resources to enhance the availability of taxonomic information?	
a) no	X
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	X
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	X
b) some investment	
c) significant investment	
55. Is your country encouraging partnerships between taxonomic institutions in developed and developing countries?	
a) no	X
b) yes - stated policy	
c) yes - systematic national programme	
56. Has your country adopted any international agreed levels of collection housing?	
a) no	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	
d) yes - significant extent	
61. Has your country given special attention to international funding of fellowships for specialist training abroad or for attracting international experts to national or regional courses?	
a) no	X
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	X
b) some	
c) many	

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

63. Has your country identified its information requirements in the area of taxonomy, and assessed its national capacity to meet these requirements?	
a) no	X
b) basic assessment	
c) thorough assessment	
64. Has your country established or consolidated taxonomic reference centres?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
65. Has your country worked to increase its capacity in the area of taxonomic research?	
a) no	X
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	X
b) yes	
67. Has your country designated a national Global Taxonomy Initiative focal point linked to other national focal points?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
68. Has your country participated in the development of regional networks to facilitate information-sharing for the Global Taxonomy Initiative?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
<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	X
b) applied for unsuccessfully	
c) applied for successfully	

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

The Gambia has not carried out a national taxonomy needs assessment and has not therefore developed a taxonomy action plan. The country is not making available appropriate resources to enhance availability of taxonomic information and is not encouraging bilateral and multilateral training and employment opportunities for taxonomists since there is only one trained taxonomist. The country is neither investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for national taxonomic collection nor is it encouraging partnerships between taxonomic institutions in developed and developing countries. The country has not adopted any international agreed levels of collection housing and it has not adopted any measures to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy. The Gambia has not assisted any taxonomic institutions to establish consortia to conduct regional projects. The country has not given special attention to international funding of fellowship for specialist training abroad nor provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields. Thus lack of taxonomic capacity is and will continue to be serious impediment to the implementation of the NBSAP for some time to come.

The Gambia has not identified its information requirements in the area of taxonomy and has not assessed national capacity to meet those requirements. The country has not consolidated taxonomic reference centres nor worked to increase its capacity in the area of taxonomic research. NARI is the focal point for Global Taxonomy Initiative linked to other national focal points but has not submitted pilot project proposals to the Executive Secretary although it participated in the WARINET to facilitate information sharing for the Initiative. The country has not sought resources for the priority actions identified in Decision V/9.

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

70. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
71. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
In-situ conservation has hitherto been the main element of the national conservation strategy and consisted of the establishment of national parks and nature reserves and, forest parks and protected forest areas. Although the bulk of the sectoral allocations to both DPWM and Department of Forestry goes to support in-situ conservation activities, these allocations are hardly adequate with the results that most of the parks are in deplorable conditions.					
72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?					
a) system under development					
b) national review of protected areas coverage available					
c) national protected area systems plan in place					
d) relatively complete system in place	X				
73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?					
a) no					
b) no, under development					
c) yes					
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	X				
74. Does your country regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use (8c)?					
a) no					
b) early stages of development					
c) advanced stages of development					
d) programme or policy in place	X				
e) reports on implementation available					
75. Has your country undertaken measures that promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings (8d)?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place					
c) potential measures under review					
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	X				

76. Has your country undertaken measures that promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas (8e)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	X
77. Has your country undertaken measures to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
78. Has your country undertaken measures to promote the recovery of threatened species (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
79. Has your country undertaken measures to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology (8g)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
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	X
e) reports on implementation available	
81. Has your country developed and maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations (8k)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	X

82. Does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity (81)?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes, to a limited extent	X
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)	X

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

There is a network of 6 national parks and reserves covering a total area of 39,772ha and 66 forest parks covering 134,029ha.

The Wildlife and Forest Acts clearly defined guidelines for selection, establishment and management of protected areas. They also provide for the regulation or management of biological resources which are important for conservation with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use e.g hunting season for certain game. The protected area concept which is well addressed in the legislative and regulatory measures on biological diversity aims at the promotion and protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings. The environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas are assured through the concepts of buffer zones, beekeeping and eco-tourism whilst community forestry and wildlife schemes and the lowland development programme are aimed at rehabilitating degraded ecosystems. Reafforestation, rangeland management programmes and the creation of cultural heritage sites are measures to promote the recovery of threatened species. The phytosanitary regulations, which also serve to regulate, manage and control the risks associated with release of modified organisms from biotechnology are the only measures in place. The community forestry initiative represents attempts to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present use and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components. All natural resource legislations provide for the protection of threatened species and populations in their respective domains and safeguard against processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having adverse effects on biodiversity. However, despite the series of natural resource legislations, there is a system -wide lack of will and capacity to enforce these laws and they are frequently flaunted.

Three major sources of financial support for in-situ conservation have been substantial. These include USAID support (1992/94) to Kiang West National Park of US\$ 250,000 to prepare the management plan and D10 million for implementation; Ramsar supports for the feasibility study (1995) and development of management plans (2000) for Niumi, Bao Bolong and Tambi National Parks and Reserves SFR 40,000 each; and the support from US-based Woodland Park Zoo (2000) to Tanji Birds Reserve to implement an environmental education and Teacher Training Programme for US\$ 1,500.

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		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
87. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Some policies, quarantine laws and legal provisions for control of importation of exotic species exist. Most of these measures are inadequate and poorly enforced due mainly to inadequate resources. There is thus a need to review the existing measures and introduce new ones for which there is no resources.					

88. Has your country identified alien species introduced?					
a) no					
b) only major species of concern	X				
c) only new or recent introductions					
d) a comprehensive system tracks new introductions					
e) a comprehensive system tracks all known introductions					
89. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?					
a) no	X				
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed					
c) most alien species have been assessed					
90. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place	X				
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					

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

91. Is your country collaborating in the development of projects at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels to address the issue of alien species?					
a) little or no action	X				
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	X

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	X
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	X
b) in preparation	
c) yes	
95. Has your country submitted written comments on the interim guiding principles to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
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	X
97. In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed or involved itself in mechanisms for international co-operation, including the exchange of best practices?	
a) no	X
b) trans-boundary co-operation	
c) regional co-operation	
d) multilateral co-operation	
98. Is your country giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	X
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	X
b) yes	
100. Has your country developed effective education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species?	
a) no	X
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	X
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	X
b) limited support	
c) substantial support	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Only major alien species of concern have been identified. These are mainly agricultural pests. The country has not carried out an assessment of risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by introduction of these alien species. The Gambia is taking very little action beyond phytosanitary control in the way of collaboration in the development of projects at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels to address the issue of alien species. However, the NBSAP addresses the issue of alien species very significantly by developing a strategic objective and five strategy elements to deal with the issue. The application of interim guiding principles for prevention, introduction and mitigation of the impacts of alien species in the context of activities aimed at implementing Article 8(h) has received limited attention in The Gambia. The regulatory activities of Custom and Excise, Agricultural Pest Management Unit, Departments of Livestock and Parks and Wildlife Management afford some application of the interim guiding principles. But the country has not submitted any written comments on the issue to the Executive Secretary although the NBSAP gives priority to the development and implementation of alien invasive species strategies and action plans. The country has not engaged itself in mechanism for international cooperation in dealing with the issue of invasive species nor has it given priority attention to geographically and evolutionary isolated ecosystems or ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographically approaches.

One of the four proposed strategies concern the development of effective education, training and public awareness measures concerning alien species but no measures have been taken to implement the strategy. The Gambia has not established CHM nor is it providing support to the Global Invasive Species Programme.

Article 8j Traditional knowledge and related provisions

103. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
104. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>This is one of the areas identified for indepth research and studies in the NBSAP to document the existing indigenous knowledge and resource management practices of local communities in forestry, agriculture, fisheries and other areas relevant for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. However because of the severity of local resource limitation it is unlikely that this article would receive any attention within the second order priority actions of NBSAP. The activities under the add-on include access and benefit sharing arrangements; biodiversity-related traditional and local knowledge; in-situ and ex-situ conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and, assessment and monitoring of biodiversity including taxonomy.</p>					
105. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure that the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are respected, preserved and maintained?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place	X				
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					
106. Is your country working to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices?					
a) no					
b) early stages of development	X				
c) advanced stages of development					
d) programme or policy in place					

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

107. Has your country developed national legislation and corresponding strategies for the implementation of Article 8(j)?					
a) no	X				
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	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - CHM	
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	X
b) yes	
110. Is your country participating in appropriate working groups and meetings?	
a) none	
b) some	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	

115. Has your country provided appropriate financial support for the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	X
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	X
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	X
118. Has your country provided case studies on methods and approaches concerning the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge, and the control of that information by indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	X
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	X
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	X
b) not relevant	
c) some measures	
d) extensive measures	

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Some measures are in place to ensure that the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are respected, preserved and maintained. The biodiversity and wildlife legislation and proposed biosafety framework pay particular attention to such knowledge, innovations and practices. The forestry revenue retention scheme also aims at equitable sharing of benefits. Preservation/maintenance of biodiversity related knowledge of indigenous and local communities is one of the thematic areas being currently addressed under add-on.

No comprehensive national legislation and corresponding strategies exist to implement Article 8(j) although bits and pieces appear in all sectoral legislations. The country has neither supported the development of registers of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities nor included representatives of indigenous and local communities in official delegation to meetings held under the convention. The Gambia has not established a clearing-house mechanism and has not identified resources for funding activities in the decision.

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	X	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	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>Early conservation practices in the Gambia were ex-situ approaches. The botanic garden in Bakau and the animal orphanage in Abuko were the first ex-situ conservation schemes which still command a place in the national budgets of the Department of Agriculture and Parks and Wildlife Management.</p>					

127. Has your country adopted measures for the <u>ex situ</u> conservation of components of biological diversity native to your country (9a)?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place	X				
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					
128. Has your country adopted measures for the <u>ex situ</u> conservation of components of biological diversity originating outside your country (9a)?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place	X				
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	X				
130. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <u>ex situ</u> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources native to your country (9b)?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent	X				
c) yes - significant extent					

131. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <u>ex situ</u> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources originating elsewhere (9b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
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	X
133. Has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions (9c)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
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	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If a developed country Party -	
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)?	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
136. Has your country received financial and other support for ex situ conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of ex situ conservation facilities (9e)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Measures for the ex-situ conservation of components of biological diversity native to The Gambia are adopted by only the International Trypanotolerance Centre in its Adama breeding programme. However the use of components originating outside The Gambia is practiced by both ITC and NARI. They do this in collaboration with organizations like the West African Rice Development Association, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, the International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics, the International Livestock Centre for Africa and the Institute for Livestock Research and Development. ITC maintains limited facilities for ex-situ conservation of animals that represent genetic resources native to The Gambia. ITC, NARI and Department of Agriculture have limited facilities for limited conservation of and research in plants and animals representing genetic resources originating elsewhere. The limited measures for the introduction of threatened species into their natural habitat include the chimpanzee rehabilitation project of DPWM. The Wildlife regulations allow for management of biological resources from natural habitats for ex-situ conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and in-situ population of species. NARI, ITC and Wildlife Animal Orphanage have each received some financial support for ex-situ conservation for the establishment and maintenance of ex-situ facilities.

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	X	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	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Given that the Gambia is a natural resource-based economy, the country places high priority on the sustainable use of components of biological diversity. Thus one of the specific goals of the NBSAP is to inculcate a high sense of consideration for prosperity in the consumption, utilization, exploitation and management of natural and biological resources. However, the annual available resources commitments in the national budget have been most limiting.					
139. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making (10a)?					
a) no					
b) early stages of development					
c) advanced stages of development					
d) programme or policy in place					X
e) review of implementation available					
140. Has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity (10b)?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place					
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					X

141. Has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements (10c)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	
147. Has your country assisted other Parties to increase their capacity to implement sustainable-use practices, programmes and policies at regional, national and local levels, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) to a limited extent	X
d) to a significant extent (please provide details)	
148. Has your country developed mechanisms to involve the private sector and indigenous and local communities in initiatives on sustainable use, and in mechanisms to ensure that indigenous and local communities benefit from such sustainable use?	
a) no	
b) mechanisms under development	
c) mechanisms in place (please describe)	X
149. Has your country identified areas for conservation that would benefit through the sustainable use of biological diversity and communicated this information to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision V/25. Biological diversity and tourism

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

153. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Mountains?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
154. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative?	
a) no	X
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)	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Such requirement as environmental impact assessment of national development proposals are aimed at ensuring that considerations of sustainable conservation and use of biological resources are integrated into national decision making. All the natural resource legislations especially wildlife and forestry have comprehensive measures relating to use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impact on biological diversity. Similarly wildlife, livestock, forestry and fisheries sub-sectors have measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources compatible with conservation and sustainable use requirements. The community forest management and woodlot concept and the implementation of the LADEP are some of the measures that help local population develop and implement remedial actions in degraded areas where biodiversity has been reduced. Within the framework of its private sector-led growth, the Government has private forests, private woodlots, private eco-tourism and private farms of different agricultural and livestock enterprises. The Gambia has not submitted any information on biodiversity related activities of CSD to the Secretariat.

The country has identified potential indicators within the context of the CCD and has in place Environmental Award Scheme implemented by NEA as an incentive measure. Two of the senior staff of the Department of Forestry recently provided consultancy services to Sierra Leone and Liberia with a view to increase their capacity to implement sustainable-use practices. Mechanisms to involve the private sector and indigenous and local communities in initiative on sustainable use include community forestry and eco-tourism camps. The country has not identified areas for conservation although there is a pipeline proposal for GEF funding.

The Tourism Policy was developed through cross-sectoral approach. The first draft of the eco-tourism component was prepared by DPWM with a view to reflect inter-linkage between tourism and biological diversity. Makasutu Wildlife Trust, a local NGO, finalised The Gambia Ecotourism Development and Support Strategy in 2003. However, the country has not submitted any case study on tourism to the Executive Secretary and has not undertaken any activities in support of International Coral Reef Initiative. The National Tourism Act and policy provide the enabling policies and legal frameworks to complement voluntary efforts for implementation of sustainable tourism.

Article 11 Incentive measures

156. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
157. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>The NEA and the Departments of Agricultural Services and Livestock Services conduct annual award schemes, which serve as incentive measures. The NEA sponsors an annual Environmental Award Scheme. The Department of Agricultural Service an annual "Best Farmer" Award Scheme and horticultural show at which prices are given for best horticultural products. The Department of Livestock Services also conduct annual national and divisional "Tobaski" ram sales at which prices are afford for best animal. The resources available for these come from the respective budgetary allocations which are hardly sufficient.</p>					

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

Decision III/18. Incentive measures

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

161. Has your country ensured the development of mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas, <i>inter alia</i> , national accounting systems and investment strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of identifying mechanisms	
c) advanced stages of identifying mechanisms	
d) mechanisms in place	X
e) review of impact of mechanisms available	
162. Has your country developed training and capacity building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives?	
a) no	
b) planned	
c) some	
d) many	X
163. Has your country incorporated biological diversity considerations into impact assessments as a step in the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
c) thoroughly reviewed	
d) measures designed based on the reviews	
e) review of implementation available	

167. Do the existing incentive measures take account of economic, social, cultural and ethical valuation of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
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	X
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	X
170. Has your country identified and considered neutralizing perverse incentives?	
a) no	
b) identification programme under way	
c) identified but not all neutralized	X
d) identified and neutralized	

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

171. Has your country reviewed the incentive measures promoted through the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change?	
a) no	X
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	X
b) under consideration	
c) early stages of development	
d) advanced stages of development	
e) further information available	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The major subsectors of livestock, wildlife, fisheries, forestry, agriculture and agricultural research have each a programme for promoting adoption of economically and socially sound measures in the form of free extension education and training which act as incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These incentives cover all major sectors.

Since the ratification of the CBD in 1994 the Government embarked on revising its natural resource legislations and policies to reflect the need for the three environmental conventions. The Fisheries Act of 1991 was revised by Decrees No. 44 and No 54 of 1995 to introduce stiffer penalties and broad incentives in fisheries management. The Forest Act of 1977 was revised in 1998 to allow for broad-based participation of the population in forest management. A draft National Biodiversity/Wildlife Policy which incorporates the requirements of the CBD is currently under review by Government for approval and enactment. The Government has also adopted Environmental Impact Assessment as a necessary requirement for the approval of any investment plans, programmes and projects. This serves as a mechanism to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity in national investment strategies and as a step in the design and implementation of incentive measures. However, the country has not shared its experience on incentive measures nor made case-studies available to the Secretariat.

In addition to the foregoing incentive measures the NEA, and Departments of Forestry and Wildlife have active public awareness programmes since 1996 as incentive measures. The country study has adequately treated the course and causes of biodiversity loss as a basis for designing suitable incentive schemes. The establishment of community forests and eco-tourism camps go through diagnostic consultation process between concerned communities with a responsible public agencies and also among the communities with a stake in the forests or camps under consideration with a view to designing the most appropriate management system. The country study identified a number of perverse incentives mainly in the area of policy and the NBSAP has proposed strategies for neutralizing such incentives although the country has not reviewed the incentive measures promoted through the Kyoto Protocol to the UN framework convention on climate change.

Article 12 Research and training

173. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
174. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>As part of the redefinition and elaboration of the agriculture, natural resources policies and strategies the Government integrated all agriculture and natural resource research activities under NARI and developed an Agricultural Research Master Plan which took into account the three environmental conventions. The Government consolidated the scientific and technical training programmes of Gambia College by locating NARI close to the College so as to enhance interaction and synergy between the two institutions. It expanded the scientific and technical educational programmes of the University of The Gambia to include a facility of agriculture. The Government also actively supported the re-organization of the ITC to make it more relevant and attractive for international funding.</p>					
175. Has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?					
a) no	X				
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	X				
177. Does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (12b)?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					
c) yes - significant extent	X				
178. Does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources (12c)?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					
c) yes - significant extent	X				

If a developed country Party -

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

a) no	
b) yes, where relevant	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The country has not established dedicated programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components in the national college and university programmes. However, the technical departments have adopted on-the-job training programmes for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components. Two senior staff of the Department of Forestry assisted in the setting up of a Forestry Authority in Liberia and Community Forestry in Zambia. Both NARI and ITC undertake research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Similarly The Gambia Renewable Energy Centre and the Technology Unit of the Department of Community Development conduct research in technologies, which are biodiversity friendly. All these institutions and agencies promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research with similar sub-regional, regional and international institutions.

Article 13 Public education and awareness

180. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
181. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
One of the eight coordinating thematic working groups of NEA is an Environmental Education and Communication Working Group. In addition to coordinating environmental education and communication activities of technical departments, the Group oversees the implementation of a major programme in environmental education and communication by NEA.					
182. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through media?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					
c) yes - significant extent	X				
183. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through the inclusion of this topic in education programmes?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					
c) yes - significant extent	X				
184. Does your country cooperate with other States and international organizations in developing relevant educational and public awareness programmes (13b)?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					
c) yes - significant extent	X				

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

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

186. Has your country allocated appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?	
a) limited resources	
b) significant but not adequate resources	X
c) adequate resources	
187. Does your country support initiatives by major groups that foster stakeholder participation and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
188. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes	X
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	X
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	X
c) under development	
d) yes	
191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
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	X

Decision V/17. Education and public awareness

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

As part of its environmental education and communication programme, the NEA conducts a weekly radio programme on public education and awareness. The Department of Agricultural Services has an Agricultural Communication Unit which was originally conceived as a sectoral staff unit for the agriculture and natural resources sector. It operates a weekly radio programme in public education and awareness in support of the major extension education and training components.

The NBSAP proposes three major strategies for promotion of public education and awareness about the importance of biodiversity including informal public education and awareness programme and media campaign; formal education through schools, colleges and organized groups and, development and dissemination of information and awareness materials on biodiversity. No separate allocation exists currently for information, education and communication process as a programme area although substantial resources exist in subsectoral programmes for related activities. It is envisaged that under SPA II, IEC will be a component of each programme as a cross-cutting issue. The Government encouraged and facilitated the entry of NGOs into natural resource management including biodiversity. NGOs like the Agency for the Development of Women, and Children and Stay Green in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services have important programmes that foster stakeholder participation and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters. The Government has adopted Social and Environmental Studies as a major subject area in primary and secondary schools curricula however, it has not made available any case- studies on public education and awareness and public participation to share experiences. The provisions of the CBD have not been translated into local languages although at the major subsectors in agriculture and natural resources are supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes. Almost all the 10 priority projects of NBSAP have measures for implementing Article 13. The country has also submitted an Integrated Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Management Project for GEF funding which has measures for implementing Article 13.

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	X	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	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
One of the eight thematic working groups of NEA is the Environmental Impact Assessment. With the technical and financial assistance of the Federal Republic of Germany the NEA had developed detailed procedures, guidelines and regulations for conducting environmental impact assessment. A thorough environmental impact assessment is a prerequisite for the Government's approval of all development investment proposals be they public or private ownership.					
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					X
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					X
198. Does your country have mechanisms in place to ensure that the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account (14(1b))?					
a) no					
b) early stages of development					
c) advanced stages of development					
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge					X

199. Is your country involved in bilateral, regional and/or multilateral discussion on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
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	X
201. Has your country mechanisms in place to notify other States of cases of imminent or grave danger or damage to biological diversity originating in your country and potentially affecting those States (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	X
e) no need identified	
202. Has your country mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your State to biological diversity in other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
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	X

204. Has your country encouraged international cooperation to establish joint contingency plans for emergency responses to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?

a) no	
b) yes	X
c) no need identified	

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

205. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting Parties information and experience relating to environmental impact assessment and resulting mitigating measures and incentive schemes?

a) no	X
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	X
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	X

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	X

209. When developing new legislative and regulatory frameworks, does your country have in place mechanisms to ensure the consideration of biological diversity concerns from the early stages of the drafting process?

a) no	
b) in some circumstances	
c) in all circumstances	X

210. Does your country ensure the involvement of all interested and affected stakeholders in a participatory approach to all stages of the assessment process?	
a) no	
b) yes - in certain circumstances	
c) yes - in all cases	X
211. Has your country organised expert meetings, workshops and seminars, and/or training, educational and public awareness programmes and exchange programmes in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures for impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) some programmes in place	
c) many programmes in place	
d) integrated approach to building expertise	X
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)	X
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	X
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	X
c) to a significant extent	
215. Is national information available on the practices, systems, mechanisms and experiences in the area of strategic environmental assessment and impact assessment?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please append or summarise)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Enacted in 1994, the National Environment Management Act is the first legislation in The Gambia to include specific provisions on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity both in-situ and ex-situ. This Act is the legal basis for requirement of environmental impact assessment of proposed projects. The Environmental Impact Assessment Working Group ensures the rigorous application of the procedures and the involvement of major stakeholders in the assessment.

The Gambia is a member of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union (AU), the Gambia River Basin Organisation (OMVG), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Inter-State Committee for the Control of Drought in the Sahel (CILSS) all of which are concerned with activities likely to impact significantly on biodiversity outside the Gambia: similarly bilateral agreements exist between the Gambia, Senegal and Guinea Bissau that have significant effects on biological diversity. The Gambia subscribes to CITES and OIE on disease notification and reporting of movement of live animals and products thereof. However, mechanisms to notify other states of cases of imminent or grave danger or damage to biological diversity are rudimentary. The Gambia has a Disaster Preparedness Committee for emergency response to all kinds of disaster. The Gambia encourages international cooperation to establish joint contingency plans for emergency responses through its membership in OCLAV and participation in the Pan African Control of Epizootics (diseases).

The Gambia has not exchanged information and experience relating to environmental impact assessment and resulting mitigating measures and incentive schemes or measures and agreements on liability with other Contracting Parties.

Environmental impact assessment is integrated into programmes on thematic areas and alien species and tourism. Loss of biological diversity and interrelated socio-economic, cultural and human-health aspects are considered in impact assessment. The Environmental Legislation Working Group ensures consideration of biological diversity concerns in new legislative and regulatory frameworks whereas the Environmental Impact Assessment Working Group ensures participatory approach in the assessment process. With the technical and financial assistance of CFTC the Government conducted an in-country environmental impact assessment course for civil servants in 1994. However, there has not been systematic attempt to acquire strategic environmental assessment skills.

Article 15 Access to genetic resources

216. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	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	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>In view of the centrality of natural resource extraction in the economic life of the country, the development and implementation of a national regime (legal, policy and administrative arrangements) on the regulation of access to genetic resources is seen by the NBSAP as sine qua non for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Since almost all the existing natural resources legislations and regulations gravitate around the issue of access, substantial parts of the sectoral budgets for natural resource management are dedicated to control and administration of access. However, given the overall limitations of the national budget this has not averted wanton access to genetic 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	X				
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	X				
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	X				

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

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

223. Has your country provided the secretariat with information on relevant legislation, administrative and policy measures, participatory processes and research programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes, within the previous national report	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
227. Has your country identified national authorities responsible for granting access to genetic resources?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
228. Is your country taking an active role in negotiations associated with the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources

229. Has your country designated a national focal point and one or more competent national authorities to be responsible for access and benefit-sharing arrangements or to provide information on such arrangements?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
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	X
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	X
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) yes (please provide details)	
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) yes to a limited extent	
c) yes to a significant extent	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

All subsectoral legislations have a provision to facilitate access to genetic resources by other Contracting Parties. Different interest groups such as community foresters, Bee-keepers' Association, the Association of Palmwine Tappers and Livestock Owners' Association have mutual understanding and/or agreement with the state on access to genetic resources however, there are no developed processes in place to ensure that access is subject to prior informed consent. There are no official measures to ensure that scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other contracting parties is developed with their full participation. However, individual collaborating research institutions have their own individual arrangements to ensure the full participation of all parties to the collaborative endeavour such as taking out a memorandum of understanding.

The Gambia provided the Secretariat with information on relevant legislation and administrative and policy measures through the Country Study and the 1st National Report. The Biodiversity Task Force has just elaborated the Terms of Reference for capacity needs assessment to access genetic resources by working groups and consultation. These working groups, which will be subsectoral in composition will carry out the analysis and consultations with stakeholders to explore and implement guidelines and practices that ensure mutual benefits to providers and users access measures. The directorates of the technical departments are the responsible authorities in their respective subsectors for granting of access to genetic resource although NARI is the National Focal Point for the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources (IUPGR). Although past legislations and prohibitive administrative style have contributed significantly to biodiversity loss, the revised legislations and the newly adopted biodiversity management strategy based on popular participation are having positive impacts. Although Gambia is recipient of genetic resources, it has not adopted administrative or policy measures supportive of efforts of provider countries nor does it cooperate with other parties to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention.

Both the focal points of CBD and IUPGR are members of the ANR Working Group which coordinates the three environmental Conventions with other related commitments. The country has not provided information to the Executive Secretary on user institutions or on issues related to intellectual property rights. Although one of the themes in the on-going capacity needs assessment is capacity building and technology transfer, the country has not provided capacity-building and technology development and transfer for maintenance and utilization of ex-situ collection.

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	X	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	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>Given that the Gambia is a natural resource based economy, access to and transfer of technology is considered to be of high priority. Although resource inadequacy is a characteristic of agricultural research efforts in The Gambia, provision of recurrent research allocation in the national budget has been a standard traditional practice. The NBSAP places priorities on the development and implementation of a national programme to promote access to and adoption of relevant technologies and development and implementation of legislative, institutional and other measures to regulate technology and control the risks associated with introduction and use.</p>					
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	X				
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)	X				
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	X				
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	X				

243. Has your country taken measures so that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of government institutions and the private sector of developing countries (16(4))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation?	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation?	X
c) Policy and administrative arrangements?	
244. Does your country have a national system for intellectual property right protection (16(5))?	
a) no	X
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	X
b) some	
c) many	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Research institutions and agencies in The Gambia implement collaborative research programmes with counterpart agencies in other Contracting Parties which provide or facilitate access and transfer of technologies that are relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or utilize genetic resource without significant damage to the environment. ITC, Department of Forestry and DPWM have such collaborative research programmes. ITC exports Ndama breeding stocks and DPWM receives confiscated, injured, deserted and orphaned chimps for Guinea Conakry for rehabilitation and integration into the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Project. NARI implements collaboration research programmes with WARDA and IITA through which it imports relevant technologies on concessional or preferential terms. There are some measures in place that ensure that Contracting Parties which provide genetic resources are provided with access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources. These measures are mainly administrative arrangements between collaborating agencies.

Within the framework of its private sector-led growth strategy, the Government encourages and facilitates private sector operators through licensing arrangements to undertake joint developments and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of government institutions and private sector of developing countries. However, the country has no intellectual property right protection and has not conducted or provided the secretariat with case-studies of the impacts of intellectual property rights.

Article 17 Exchange of information

247. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
248. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>Provision and exchange of information is one of those development support activities which have traditionally recognized line items in the annual recurrent budgetary allocations of some policy analysis agencies especially planning units. Thus the NBSAP accords high priority to the establishment and strengthening mechanisms for the collection, packaging and dissemination of information on biodiversity and, development and implementation of a national Clearing-House Mechanism to promote and facilitate exchange of information.</p> <p>Although no specific measures to facilitate the exchange of information in response to Article 17 of the convention exist, there are some measures already in place in the form of sectoral libraries and publications. Some of these institutions have well developed out-reach facilities such as the mobile library system of the National Library.</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					X
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	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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253. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

In view of the scarcity of both technical and scientific experts in the country, technical and scientific cooperation serves as an important remedial measure. The Personnel Management Office under the Office of the President has responsibility for organization, administrative and coordination of all technical cooperation activities. ITC and NARI are the key agencies responsible for scientific cooperation relating to biodiversity. In addition to the national budgetary allocations, these institutions benefit from external sources of resource. Thus the NBSAP places high priority on technical and scientific cooperation within the with other countries and promotion of effective participation in relevant international processes, initiatives and programmes related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

254. Has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (18(1))?

a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X

255. Do the measures taken to promote cooperation with other Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention pay special attention to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution building (18(2))?

a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

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

a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) methods in place	X

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

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

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

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

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	X
b) reviewed but not implemented	
c) reviewed and implemented as appropriate	

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

With the Personnel Management Office, ITC and NARI the measures in place for international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity can be considered as comprehensive. To a limited extent 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. Currently the Director of DPWM is in Israel attending a training course in arid zone management as part of the cooperation methods for the development and use of technologies in pursuance of the objectives of this convention. The cooperation includes training personnel and exchange of experts. Both ITC and NARI engage in joint research programmes and ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the CBD.

With the financial assistance of GEF the Gambia has established the nucleus of a national CHM in DPWM as the designated focal point for CHM since 1998. The country has also continued to help develop national capabilities through consultancies and participating in workshops, study tours and thematic training programmes e.g training in Website. The Government also contributed effectively by funding the construction of the buildings for the Clearing-House Mechanism and by regularly meeting its contribution to the CBD. Through the representation of the focal point, the country is participating in workshops and other expert meetings to further the development of the CHM at the international levels. Although the CHM is not operational, it is linked to the internet and a multi-sectoral working group is charged with steering its establishment. The Gambia is yet to review the priorities identified in Annex 1 to decision V/14.

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	X	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	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
The NBSAP places high priority on the development and implementation of legislative, institutional and other measures to regulate technology research and control the risks associated with introduction and use of genetically modified living organisms resulting from biotechnology. Consistent with this priority, the National Assembly has ratified the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety in April 2002.					
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	X				
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					
If so, are these measures:					
a) Legislation					
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	X				
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	X				
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	X
c) instrument of ratification deposited	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The National Agricultural Research Institute is mandated by statutory policy to engage in collaborative research with similar institutions elsewhere in furtherance of the objectives of the Institute. In this regard, the Institute has collaborative research activities with National Agricultural Research Institutes and sub-regional organizations which provide genetic resources for such research. However, The Gambia has not taken measures to provide and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties to results and benefits arising from bio-technologies based upon genetic resources provided by these Contracting Parties. Although the instrument of ratification is yet to be deposited, the country has signed and ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety in April 2002.

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	X	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	X

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Consistent with the priorities accorded to the issue of financial resources, the Government elaborated an NBSAP in 1999 within the frameworks of its overall Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP) and the Strategy for Poverty Alleviation (SPA) with details of the financial resource requirements of the plan. In addition to the national budgetary allocations to DPWM, the Government has proposed to set up a Biodiversity Fund and introduce Revenue Retention Scheme to raise additional financial resources for the implementation of the NBSAP. Hitherto only the national budgetary allocations to DPWM are available which are inadequate to meet the normal programme resource requirements much more the special need of implementing the NBSAP.

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	X

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	X

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	X

Decision III/6. Additional financial resources

280. Is your country working to ensure that all funding institutions (including bilateral assistance agencies) are striving to make their activities more supportive of the Convention?

a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

281. Is your country cooperating in any efforts to develop standardized information on financial support for the objectives of the Convention?

a) no	X
b) yes (please attach information)	

Decision V/11. Additional financial resources

282. Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity?

a) no	
b) procedures being established	X
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	X
c) yes (please provide details)	
284. Are details available of your country's financial support to biodiversity activities in other countries?	
a) not applicable	X
b) no	
c) not in a standardized format	
d) yes (please provide details)	
<i>Developed country Parties -</i>	
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	
<i>Developing country Parties -</i>	
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	X
287. Has your country compiled information on the additional financial support provided by the private sector?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
288. Has your country considered tax exemptions in national taxation systems for biodiversity-related donations?	
a) no	X
b) not appropriate to national conditions	
c) exemptions under development	
d) exemptions in place	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Within the limitations of the national budgets, the financial support and incentives provided by The Government since 1997 have been fairly good. The Government has been paying for the cost of secretariat services, met the construction cost of the building to house the CHM, provided the vehicles and meets their annual maintenance and running costs, provides meeting and conference facilities for all biodiversity business and, provides the services of the members of the Biodiversity Task Force for all matters relating to the subject.

The country benefited from substantial GEF funding covering the implementation of enabling activities, capacity needs assessment, establishment of the CHM and preparation of an Integrated Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Management Project is currently receiving attention for funding. Thus the country has so far applied financial resources from multilateral channel only.

The NBSAP is being considered for integration within the Strategy for Poverty Alleviation as a strategic action plan for the GEAP. Thus it would be funded through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility which will include both multilateral and bilateral assistance agencies.

The procedures to monitor financial support biodiversity will be established under the purview of the Inter-Sectoral Committee on Biodiversity. The details of the country's financial support to national biodiversity activities are available within the framework of Government accounting system. There has not been any support to biodiversity activities in other countries. The Gambia has not compiled information on financial support provided by the private sector nor has it considered tax exemptions in the national tax system for biodiversity related donations. The country has been effectively using the medium of dialogue with funding institutions to mobilize support for implementing its NBSAP.

Article 21 Financial mechanism

289. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
290. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
The Gambia attaches high priority to the implementation of this Article as the critical factor to implement its NBSAP. It is unfortunate that developed countries are slow in fulfilling their obligations under the convention.					

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	X				
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	X				
d) yes, through case-studies					
e) yes, through other means (please give details below)	X				

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Gambia has not worked to strengthen existing financial institutions to provide financial resources although there are plans to set up Biodiversity Fund and institute revenue retention scheme in protected areas. The country provided information on experience gained through activities funded by the financial mechanism in its first National Report and also through questionnaires on the review of the mechanism.					
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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)	NONE
b) COP 2 (Jakarta)	1
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	X

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

295. Has your country participated in regional meetings focused on discussing implementation of the Convention before any meetings of the Conference of the Parties?

a) no	
b) yes (please specify which)BPSP, COP and African Prep. Com.	X

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 1st January 2001?

a) yes in advance	
b) yes on time	
c) no but subsequently paid	X
d) not yet paid	

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

There was no attendance to COP 1 from The Gambia. The Director of the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management attended COPs 2,3 and 5 in his capacity as the National Focal Point for the CBD, singly. Three people attended COP 4, the Focal Point and Secretary of State for the Department of State for Fisheries, Natural Resources and the Environment and the Permanent Secretary of the Department of State. The Director attended COP 5 and COP6 was attended by the Secretary of State alone. Also four members of the Biodiversity Task force attended the biodiversity planning support programme training in Ghana in 2000.

The Gambia is very current in the payment of its contribution. Through the attendance of the Focal Point, the country participated in the preparatory meetings of all the COPs. Albeit belatedly the country paid its contribution to the core budget for 2001. The Gambia did not make additional voluntary contribution to the trust funds for the convention.

Article 24 Secretariat

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Gambia provided direct support to the secretariat in terms of financial contribution for secretariat activities.

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)	NONE
b) SBSTTA II (Montreal)	1
c) SBSTTA III (Montreal)	1
d) SBSTTA IV (Montreal)	1
e) SBSTTA V (Montreal)	1

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The SBSTTA 1 meeting in Paris was not attended by The Gambia. All the subsequent four meetings - II, III, IV and V in montreal were all attended by the Director of DPWM in his capacity as the National Focal Point.

Article 26 Reports

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

Decision IV/14 National reports

302. Did all relevant stakeholders participate in the preparation of this national report, or in the compilation of information used in the report?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
303. Has your country taken steps to ensure that its first and/or second national report(s) is/are available for use by relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, was this by:	
a) informal distribution?	
b) publishing the report?	X
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	X
b) yes - forest ecosystems	
c) yes - alien species	
d) yes - benefit sharing	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The final version of the first national report has been submitted. A draft version of the report was submitted by the extended deadline of 31.12.98. All the relevant stakeholders participated actively in the preparation of the report under the supervision of the ANR Working Group. The report was distributed to all stakeholders for their perusal and retention. The Gambia did not prepare any voluntary thematic reports on one or more of the items for in-depth consideration at an ordinary meeting of the parties, following the guidelines provided.

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	X
306. Is your country developing practical expressions of the ecosystem approach for national policies and legislation and for implementation activities, with adaptation to local, national, and regional conditions, in particular in the context of activities developed within the thematic areas of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) some aspects are being applied	X
d) substantially implemented	
307. Is your country identifying case studies and implementing pilot projects that demonstrate the ecosystem approach, and using workshops and other mechanisms to enhance awareness and share experience?	
a) no	
b) case-studies identified	
c) pilot projects underway	X
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	X
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)	X

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	X
311. Has your country included inland water biological diversity considerations in its work with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with inland water?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
312. When requesting support for projects relating to inland water ecosystems from the GEF, has your country given priority to identifying important areas for conservation, preparing and implementing integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management plans, and investigating processes contributing to biodiversity loss?	
a) no	X
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	X
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	X
315. Is your country gathering information on the status of inland water biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) assessments ongoing	X
c) assessments completed	
316. Is this information available to other Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes - national report	
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X

317. Has your country developed national and/or sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes - national plans only	
c) yes - national plans and major sectors	X
d) yes - national plans and all sectors	
318. Has your country implemented capacity-building measures for developing and implementing these plans?	
a) no	X
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	X

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

The Soil and Water Management Unit (SWMU) of the Department of Agricultural Services employs Watershed Management concept as an approach to conservation. The Agency for the Development of Women and Children (ADWAC), a local NGO, has been the strongest advocate for the ecozone concept as a holistic approach to agriculture and natural resource management. Both these concepts are essentially an ecosystem approach. There are therefore, some aspects of practical expressions of ecosystem approach for national policies and legislation and for implementation activities especially in the context of activities developed within the thematic areas of the convention. The ADWAC experience has been on a pilot basis covering three discrete ecozones, the results of which are now being considered for replication. The Agency utilizes the technical expertise and financial strength of public agencies operating in its programme area to train its staff and participating communities in ecosystem approach.

As part of the bilateral cooperation programme, The Gambia entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Senegal for the joint management of the national parks of the Sene-Saloum Ecological entity. The Gambia National Assembly ratified this MOU in April 2002.

The country provided information on biological diversity in Wetlands when providing information and reports to CSD as part of its national report

The Gambia has so far not requested for support for inland water ecosystem related projects from GEF and has not reviewed the programme of work specified in Annex 1 to Decision IV/4.

The Gambia is a member of the OMVG created in 1978 For the development of The Gambia River Basin. In addition to the information gathered on the status of inland water biological diversify by the country study, there is an annual Water (Bird) Foul Census of important bird areas or hotspots as an ongoing programme. This information is available in the Wetlands International Regional Annual Census Reports. The NBSAP provides for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems. The country is currently assessing its capacity needs to implement the NBSAP. The NBSAP fully integrates the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, and of migratory species and their habitats.

Marine and coastal biological diversity

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

320. Does your national strategy and action plan promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
321. Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) arrangements in place	X
322. Has your country provided the Executive Secretary with advice and information on future options concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
323. Has your country undertaken and/or exchanged information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management?	
a) no	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
b) yes	
c) not relevant	
327. Is your country implementing other measures in response to coral bleaching?	
a) no	X
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	X
b) yes	
c) not relevant	

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

The coastal and marine ecosystems of The Gambia are major reservoirs of biological diversity. Thus the NBSAP places priority on their development. Thus in addition to the proposed biodiversity policy and legislation, the Government established a Coastal and Marine Working Group as a sub-committee of the ANR Working Group dedicated to coastal and marine biodiversity issues. Apart from the Country Study Report, The Gambia has not provided the Executive Secretary with advice and information on future options for conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity. The Gambia is awaiting the signing of its first proposal for Integrated Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Management Project for GEF funding but has programme in place to enhance and improve knowledge on the genetic structure of local population of marine species subjected to stock enhancement and/or sea-ranching activities. The Gambia has not yet reviewed the programme of work specified in an annex to Decision II/10 and is also not contributing to the implementation of the work plan on coral bleaching or any other measures in response to coral bleaching and therefore has not submitted any case-studies on the phenomenon to the Executive Secretary.

Agricultural biological diversity

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

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

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

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

342. Is your country promoting regional and thematic co-operation within this framework of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some co-operation	
c) widespread co-operation	X
d) full co-operation in all areas	
343. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) limited additional funds	
c) significant additional funds	
If a developed country Party -	
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	X
c) yes, to a significant extent	
346. Is your country co-ordinating its position in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes	X
347. Is your country a Contracting Party to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade?	
a) not a signatory	
b) signed - ratification in process	
c) instrument of ratification deposited	X
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	X

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

356. Has your country assessed whether there is a need for effective regulations at the national level with respect to genetic use restriction technologies to ensure the safety of human health, the environment, food security and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	X
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	X
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	X
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

Both the NBSAP and the State of the Environment Report of 1997 provide some rudimentary review and assessment of on-going activities and existing instruments at the national level and thus established issues and priorities that need to be addressed. The Department of Planning (DOP) is the public agency responsible for monitoring the impacts of agricultural development. The agency conducts annual national agricultural sample survey and has a fulfilled unit responsible for programme and project evaluation. Both NARI and the agricultural extension services strive to increase public awareness and understanding of the importance of sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components. However the country has not conducted case-studies on the issues identified by ABSTTA. The NBSAP accords priority to the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components. Research and development and, extension education and farmer training are the main strategies for transforming unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices. Both public agencies and NGOs implement programmes that do not only increase productivity but also arrest degradation as well as reclaim, rehabilitate, restore and enhance biological diversity. Prominent among these are SWMU, Lowland Agricultural Development Programme, Freedom From Hunger Campaign and ADWAC all of which work with farming communities. Although the country is not involved in the implementation of the Global Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources, it is member to such sub-regional groupings as CILSS and OMVG engaged in promotion of sustainable agricultural practices and integrated landscape management and promotion of regional and thematic cooperation within the framework of agricultural biological diversity programme.

The Gambia has not reviewed the programme of work annexed to Decision V/5 and has not provided any financial support for its implementation. The consultative process for the elaboration of the national action programmes for the three environmental conventions were aimed at raising public awareness in support of their objectives. The Focal Points for CBD and IUPGR are all members of the ANR Working Group and the Biodiversity Task Force. The Gambia is a Party to the Rotterdam Convention and participated in the Montreal meeting of 2000 which put forward the idea of an observer status for the Executive Secretary in the Committee on Agriculture of the WTO. The Gambia has no active programme on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators and has not carried out any scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies however, the ongoing biosafety framework elaboration process will be looking into the issue.

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	X
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	X
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	X
362. Does your country give high priority to allocation of resources to activities that advance the objectives of the Convention in respect of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
<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	X

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

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

366. Will your country contribute to the future work of the UN Forum on Forests?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
367. Has your country provided relevant information on the implementation of this work programme?	
a) no	X
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	X
369. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure participation by the forest sector, private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	X
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	X
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	X
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

372. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you will implement it?	
a) no	X
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	X
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	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	

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

The Gambia has not been recently attending the International Panel on Forest nor has it reviewed the programme of work annexed to decision IV/7.

The promotion of natural forest management is one of the important strategies of forest biodiversity management in The Gambia. Other important strategies include community forest and silviculture treatments. Hirtherto request for GEF funding by the country has been mainly in the area of enabling activities. The first major project request is an Integrated Coastal and Marine Management Project which includes elements of the work programme on forest biological diversity. The Natural Forest Management is essentially an ecosystem approach which takes into consideration the outcome of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests. Although the country has not provided relevant information on the implementation of this work programme, it planned to contribute to the future work of the UN Forum on Forests.

The key national forest programmes such as the Gambia Forest Management Concept, the National Forest Action Plan, etc. are all incorporated into the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The involvement of the people in the implementation of these programmes affords a good measure of national capacity strengthening including local capacities for the implementation of sustainable forest management. However, the country has not taken any measures to implement the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and Panel on Forests on the valuation of forest goods and services.

The Gambia has reviewed the programme of work annexed to Decision V/23. Thus the country is not providing any scientific, technical and financial supports to activities identified in the programme and is not fostering cooperation for implementation of the programme among countries sharing similar biomes.

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	X
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	X
c) to a significant extent	
377. Has your country undertaken a review of national programmes and needs related to the implementation of the Convention and, if appropriate, informed the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
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:

The Government established a National Biodiversity Task Force in 1997 to carry out a Country Study. The Task Force working under the ANR Working Group, engaged a team of national consultants from relevant institutions to handle specific issues covered in the study. The study involved extensive literature review supplemented with field visits to some key places and personal interviews with government officials, professionals and local people.

Three national-level workshops were held, namely the Orientation Workshop (February 10-14, 1997), the First National Forum (July 2 - 3, 1997) and the Final National Forum (April 2 - 3, 1998) in which draft reports were discussed. The National-level Workshops were preceded by zonal seminars and workshops held at the divisional levels to solicit input of the local communities to the country study for the NBSAP.

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

Some joint initiatives involving The Gambia include both bilateral and multilateral programmes. The Gambia and Senegal are pursuing a joint project request to GEF under the African Eurasian Migratory Water Birds Agreements. There are also two transboundary protected areas where the two countries are collaborating in the implementation of their respective plans to enhance maximum synergy. Within the frameworks of the Inter-State Committee for the Control of Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), the Gambia River Basin Organisation (OMVG) and the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission for West and Central Africa, The Gambia is involved in a series of initiatives with other Parties which are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. These include such initiatives as the Sub-Regional Action Programme under the CCD, natural resource management programmes and marine fisheries development activities.

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

The CBD is being implemented through the same institutional arrangement adopted for the implementation of its allied environmental conventions of desertification and climate change. This is the institutional arrangement established for the implementation of the Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP) in 1993. This has not only made possible the effective integration of the implementation processes of the three environmental conventions but also rendered their national action programmes as important components of the strategic action programme of the GEAP. The CBD was ratified in June 1994 about two and half years earlier than the ratification of the CCD. The implementation of both conventions started in 1997. Although the preparation of the NBSAP was completed a year earlier than the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAP), the rates of implementation of the programmes appear to be commensurate. This is partly due to the fact that the implementation of the latter is not entirely dependent on a global economic instrument and partly because it benefits from the support of a lead country facilitator, which has long history of involvement with CCD-related issues in The Gambia.

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

Some of the questions are not specific eg

"relative priority" on page 7, in what context- National Development Plan OR NBSAP?

Article 24 " Secretariat" is this the CBD in Montreal or the National NBSAP Secretariat?

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

Date of completion:	March 1999		
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government			
By which authority?			
Cabinet			
On what date?			
In 2003			
If the NBSAP has been published please give			
Title:	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for The Gambia		
Name and address of publisher:			
ISBN:			
Price (if applicable):			
Other information on ordering:			
If the NBSAP has not been published			
Please give full details of how copies can be obtained:	Write to the Focal Point and request for a copy of the document		
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:	UNEP		
Has a copy of the NBSAP been lodged with the Convention Secretariat?			
Yes	✓	No	

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

The Country Study established that although the Gambia is a very small country, it has a wealth of biological diversity. It has different types of ecosystems, including close woodland, open woodland, tree and shrubs savana, wetland ecosystems, marine and coastal ecosystems and agricultural (cropland and rangeland) ecosystems. The country has several protected areas, which promote in-situ conservation. These include six national parks and nature reserves covering a total land area of 39,772ha, about 3.7% of the Gambia's land area.

There are several coastal and marine habitats of high ecological importance. The Gambia has many species of wild animals and plants. Available data show that there are 113 species of mammals, about 556 species of birds representing 75 families, 72 species of reptiles and 32 species of amphibians (data from Makasutu wildlife Trust 2003). The most important economic tree species include 19 timber species, 9 firewood species and 10 tree species of minor forest products. No reliable data exist on the status and distribution of most invertebrates.

The study also established that 13 species of large mammals have become locally extinct since the last century and a similar number is seriously threatened. The Gambia has also a high diversity of marine fish and other aquatic species including crustacean, cephalopods, oysters, lobsters, crabs, dolplins, sharks, whales and other marine mammals and other species.

Major consumption forms of biodiversity utilization include uses for food, medicine, fuelwood, timber for construction and furniture and, resins and other exudates as pesticides, gums and other uses. The major non-consumptive uses include tourism, recreation and cultural ceremonies.

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

The Agriculture and Natural Resource (ANR) Working Group is the national body with overall responsibility for the coordination and review of the implementation of the CBD. The Group was established in 1994 prior to the ratification of the CBD as one of the eight technical organs of the National Environment Agency that assist the coordinating role of the Agency in the implementation of the Gambia Environmental Action Plan. Thus the ANR Working Group has its legal basis in the National Environmental Management Act which established the Agency.

The Group comprises of the Permanent Secretaries Department of State for Agriculture and Department of State for Fisheries, Natural Resources and Environment; the Executive Director of the National Environment Agency; the Executive Secretary of Women's Bureau; the Director General of the National Agricultural Research Institute; the Country Director of Action Aid The Gambia and the Catholic Relief Services; Directors of Forestry, Agricultural Services, Livestock Services, Parks and Wildlife Management, Fisheries, Community Development, Lands & Surveys, Water Resources and Planning; the Coordinator of the Strategy for Poverty Alleviation; the Head of the Soil and Water Management Unit and the Programme coordinator of the Lowland Development Programme.

The mandate of the Group includes multi-sectoral natural resource management policy and strategy planning issues raised by the implementation of the GEAP and development of action programmes for the conventions on Desertification, Biodiversity and Climate Change within the decentralized process of the GEAP.