

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

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Date of submission:	28/2/03

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

The first draft of this report was elaborated in July 2001 by the multi- disciplined staff of the Greek Wetland Biotope Center, a private non profit Organisation, at the request of the Ministry of the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works. It was based on information provided in the framework of the process for the elaboration of the National Strategy and information made available in April- May 2001, by the relevant authorities and it reflected the experience and the professional judgement of the people who have participated in this process.

Even though the draft was available, it had not been commented upon by various stakeholders, mainly due to organisational and co-ordination gaps, including heavy work load at the competent authority level.

It has been however, possible to have a small discussion group organised by the end of 2002, which included Public services only, with a view of completing the missing sections, create a more balanced report by cutting out extensive information on some issues and sending it as soon as possible.

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

Greece is a Member State of the European Union and therefore participates in the formation of the European Communities Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans and undertakes the implementation of EU actions (legislation, policies, research, application of incentive measures and initiatives) relative to this Convention.

In the context of this report, it must be understood that estimations on national performance are given taking into account also the existence of implementation of relevant EU actions.

It must also be noted, in all questions concerning international co-operation a positive answer without further explanations indicates the participation in the process of formulating common positions and policies within the EU. In cases where co-operation extends to other countries, these are mentioned in the text following the question.

Greece is also a member of the OECD and is participating to relevant working groups and activities

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

Marine and coastal biological diversity

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

Forest biological diversity

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

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

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

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

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Article 5 Co-operation

11. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium		X		c) Low	
12. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>q.11</p> <p>-The co-operation at a Mediterranean level receives high priority in several aspects. For example, by invitation of the Greek Government, the UNEP/ Mediterranean Action Plan Office has been hosted in Athens, Greece since 1977. The country is regularly participating in all the activities under the Barcelona Convention, has on several occasion provided resources for carrying out meetings on Mediterranean level and has funded projects for the implementation of relevant activities in many Mediterranean countries namely, Cyprus, Turkey, Syria, Tunisia.</p> <p>-Greece has been an active member of the Ramsar/ MedWet initiative and the Mediterranean Committee and has also funded relevant projects in Albania.</p> <p>-The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute in Chania, Kriti has been substantially supported by the Greek Ministry of Agriculture and is contributing to providing training in agricultural biodiversity issues at the Mediterranean scale.</p> <p>-In 2000, several projects for cooperation on environmental issues, including biodiversity, have been implemented with neighbouring Mediterranean countries, coordinated by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of the Environment for strengthening capacity building in Mediterranean countries.</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 co-operation (please give details below)	X
b) international programmes (please give details below)	X
c) international agreements (please give details below)	X

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

14. Has your country developed effective co-operation 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)	X
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	

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

15. Has your country developed management practices for transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	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

<p>q. 13</p> <p>There are obligations directly related to Greece being a Member state of the European Union, which involve direct co-operation with the other Member states which are Contracting Parties for the implementation of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.</p> <p>More over, Greece participates in co-operation through international organisations and programmes. These activities include : the co-operation with the countries of the Mediterranean Basin through the MedWet initiative that operates under the Ramsar Bureau for the conservation and wise use of Mediterranean Wetlands, since the early 1990s (See http://www.medwet.gr.) Following a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ramsar Bureau, the Greek Government is going to host and financially support</p>

the MedWet Co-ordination Unit to be based in Athens for the period 2001-2002 (see also comments on question 254, 255).

Cooperation is also established under all other conventions and agencies working on biodiversity related issues at regional level, and in particular with: the Council of Europe (Bern Convention, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy) the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan; the European Environmental Agency (the Ministry of the Environment is the national focal point for environmental issues), CITES and Bonn Conventions, UNEP programmes, in particular the Regional Seas Conventions; etc..

q. 14, 15

There are several bilateral agreements between Greece and neighboring countries, which ensure a stable flow of information and data related mainly to water quantity, pollution sources and accidents, as well as to water quality issues. At present the purpose of each agreement is to make each other aware of the situation and plans in their territory, as an expression of good will. Such agreements are in place for the River Evros and for the River Nestos with Bulgaria . Two Memoranda of Understanding are planned between the Ministry of the Environment of Greece and the National Environmental Agencies of Albania and Bulgaria. Between Greece and FYROM, a Memorandum of Understanding for environmental cooperation is in place

There is also the initiative, for the establishment of the trilateral National Park of Prespa, among Greece, Albania and FYROM. The official declaration for the establishment of the park, which was signed by the three Prime Ministers in the presence of the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention, was announced on the World Wetlands Day (February 2), 2000. The agreement foresees an enhanced co-operation among competent authorities in the three countries in order to maintain and protect the unique ecological values of the Prespa area, prevent and reverse degradation and explore appropriate management methods for the sustainable use of lakes water. The first trilateral meetings, as first steps towards the adoption of a common action plan, have already started to take place.

The Greek Biotope/Wetland Center (hereafter referred to as EKBY) promotes co-operation between Bulgarian and Greek bodies for the sustainable management of the transboundary area of Eastern Rhodope mountain range and in collaboration with local and regional authorities, future co-operation between Greece and FYROM for Doirani Lake.

Article 6 General measures for conservation and sustainable use

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

<p>q. 23</p> <p>-A National Master Plan for the Natural Environment, has been elaborated for the Ministry of the Environment in 1999, covering the period 2000- 2006 .</p> <p>-Environmental issues were one of the basic considerations in the preparation of the overall National Proposal for EU Community Support (1999), which contains a wider review of all governmental policies, plans and programmes affecting nature and biodiversity at an inter-ministerial level.</p> <p>-A National Strategy for Wetland Resources was prepared in 1999 by the Ministry of the Environment (with the cooperation of the EKBY) in accordance to the country's obligations as a party to the Ramsar Convention (for details, see comments on question 317).</p> <p>-In 1997 the Ministry of the Environment initiated a process towards a more effective coastal management through the "National Programme for the Sustainable Development of Coastal areas and Islands".</p> <p>-In 2001 the Greek Action Plan for combating desertification was adopted.</p> <p>-The National Policy for Tourism, published by the Ministry of Development in 2000, includes ecotourism amongst the other priorities of the tourism sector, thus contributing to the protection of the natural environment. A strategic plan for tourism development has been elaborated recently by the Greek National Tourism Organization in the framework of the National Plan for Regional Development (2000-2006) (see also comments on question 155)</p>

Article 7 Identification and monitoring

30. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low			
31. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
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						X	
c) for major ecosystems							
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems							
34. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at genetic level (7a)?							
a) minimal activity							
b) minor programme in some sectors						X	
c) major programme in some sectors							
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						X	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only							
c) for major ecosystems							
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems							

37. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at genetic level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	X
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors	
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	
38. Has your country identified activities with adverse affects on biodiversity (7c)?	
a) limited understanding	
b) threats well known in some areas, not in others	
c) most threats known, some gaps in knowledge	X
d) comprehensive understanding	
e) reports available	
39. Is your country monitoring these activities and their effects (7c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	X
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
40. Does your country coordinate information collection and management at the national level (7d)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	
c) advanced stages of programme development	X
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
<i>Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment</i>	
41. Has your country identified national indicators of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	X
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	
42. Is your country using rapid assessment and remote sensing techniques?	
a) no	
b) assessing opportunities	
c) yes, to a limited extent	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	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes	X
44. Is your country cooperating with other Contracting Parties on pilot projects to demonstrate the use of assessment and indicator methodologies?	
a) no	
b) yes (if so give details below)	X
45. Has your country prepared any reports of experience with application of assessment methodologies and made these available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
46. Is your country seeking to make taxonomic information held in its collections more widely available?	
a) no relevant collections	
b) no action	
c) yes (if so, please give details below)	X
<i>Decision V/7. Identification, monitoring and assessment, and indicators</i>	
47. Is your country actively involved in co-operating with other countries in your region in the field of indicators, monitoring and assessment?	
a) no	
b) limited co-operation	
c) extensive co-operation on some issues	X
d) extensive co-operation on a wide range of issues	
48. Has your country made available case studies concerning the development and implementation of assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
c) yes – through the national CHM	
d) yes – other means (please specify)	X
49. Is your country assisting other Parties to increase their capacity to develop indicator and monitoring programmes?	

a) no	
b) providing training	X
c) providing direct support	X
d) sharing experience	X
e) other (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

q32.

The major initiative to identify the species diversity in Greek territory was directly linked to the implementation of two EU Directives: 92/43/EEC “on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora” and 79/409/EEC “on the conservation of birds” (1994-1995). As a follow up, an extended phytosociological analysis of habitat types in the Greek territory has been carried out, see comments under q. 33 (1998- 2001)

Several data bases which contain information on certain flora and fauna species are being maintained by Universities, scientific societies or NGOs. These are updated more or less on a regular basis. The most noteworthy are the following:

- GRFAUNA, Hellenic Zoological Society, on the fauna species of Greece.
- Database on the fauna of South Crete, Natural History Museum of the University of Crete.
- Database on birds, Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS).
- CORINE database, National Technical University of Athens.
- The database Flora Hellenica,
- The “Chloris” database on endemic, rare and threatened plants of Greek flora, Section of Botany of the University of Athens.
- The database on mountrain floral diversity, Section of Plant Ecology of the University of Patras.

q33.

The major recent national inventory programmes at ecosystem level were:

- “Inventory, Identification, Evaluation and Mapping of the Habitat types and Flora and Fauna Species in Greece (Directive 92/43/EEC)” (see comments under q. 32).

- Greek Wetland Inventory project. (see comments under q. 254, 255)
- “Identification and description of habitat types in areas of interest for nature conservation (Directive 92/43/EEC)”. (1999 –2001).
- Inventory of forest ecosystems.
- Mapping of wetland habitats (1999-2001).

q.35

Ongoing, as well as, recently finished monitoring programmes at species level, are presented on Table 35 A, concerning mainly species included in Annex II of the EU Directive 92/43/EEC. Monitoring of the endemic, rare, threatened and protected plant species of Greece is implemented by the Section of Botany, Faculty of Biology, University of Athens (see comments under q. 32). Monitoring of the freshwater fishes of Greece has been implemented, since 1990, by the Institute of Inland Waters of the Athens National Marine Research Centre. Additionally, NGO's conduct monitoring programmes on certain fauna taxa. Birds, marine turtles, monk seals, brown bears,

Table 35 A: On going and recently finished LIFE-Nature projects targeted at threatened species.

Title of the project	Duration	Target species
The Mediterranean monk seal in Greece	1997 - 2000	<i>Monachus monachus</i>
Implementation of management plans on Pylos lagoon and Evrotas delta, NATURA 2000 sites, Greece.	1997 - 2000	<i>Lutra lutra</i> , <i>Testudo hermanni</i> , <i>Testudo marginata</i> , <i>Emis orbicularis</i> , <i>Mauremys caspica</i> , <i>Caretta caretta</i> , <i>Elaphe situla</i> , <i>Elaphe quatuorlineata</i> , <i>Aphanius fasciatus</i> , <i>Tropidophoxinellus spartiaticus</i>
Conservation of <i>Canis lupus</i> and its habitats in Central Greece.	1998 -2001	<i>Canis lupus</i>
Conservation of <i>Ursus arctos</i> and its habitats in Greece (2 nd phase).	1998 - 2001	<i>Ursus arctos</i>
Conservation and management actions in specially protected areas (SPAs) in Greece.	1998 - 2001	Avifauna

Conservation of <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> in Greece	1998 - 2001	<u>Gypaetus Barbatus</u>
Conservation measures for the palm forest of Vai (Greece, Crete)	1999 - 2001	<i>Phoenix theophrastii</i>
Actions for the protection of the calcareous bog fens.	1999 - 2002	
Conservation management of Amvrakikos wetlands.	1999 - 2002	<i>Caretta caretta, Pelecanus crispus, Aythya nyroca, Botaurus stellaris, Aquila pomarina, Aquila clanga, Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>
Implementation of management actions for Tavropos lake are in Greece.	1999 - 2002	<i>Lutra lutra, Ursus arctos, Lucanus cervus</i>
Conservation and management of Mainalo mountain.	1999 - 2002.	<i>Lutra lutra, Rhinolophus hipposideros, Rhinolophus ferrumequinum, Testudo hermanni, Testudo marginata, Elaphe situla, Callimorpha quadripunctaria, Morimus funereus, Lucanus cervus</i>
Conservation measures for the endangered fish <i>Ladigesocypris ghigii</i> .	2000 – 2003	<i>Ladigesocypris ghigii</i>

q.38-39

Means available for identifying and monitoring activities with adverse affects on biodiversity are set by the national and EU environmental legislation. For example:

- (a) Specific Environmental Studies (SES) in which activities within or near a protected site and their impacts on biodiversity are identified.
- (b) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a prerequisite for all proposed development projects aiming at assessing their possible impacts on biodiversity.
- (c) “agri-environmental management plans” foreseen in the Regional Development Plan for the Primary Sector 2000-2006 , include identification of activities with adverse affects on biodiversity.

National authorities carry out monitoring programmes to assess the condition of inland and coastal waters (HYDROSCOPE data base, MEDPOL programme, Bathing waters).

q40

A National Environmental Information Network (NEIN) is under development for storage and management of all available environmental data and information at local, regional and national level. This network will be linked with the European Information and Observation Network (EIONET) (see also comments under Article 17).

All the national databases on biodiversity (BIOGREECE, BIOMAP, MedWet database on Greek wetlands) mentioned under q. 32 and 33, as well as the HYDROSCOPE database recording hydrological data, will be integrated into the NEIN, which will act as a national information and monitoring center. Biodiversity is within the NEIN areas of data management.

Many reports (e.g. for bathing water quality data, for the quality of inland waters, etc.) are produced and are being made available to the European Community and the public. Some of them are also available through the Internet (<http://www.thalassa.gr/home.html>).

q.41

Research work on indicators of biodiversity, is underway by various Universities, Research Institutes, and other bodies.

Indicators concerning the sustainable use of forest ecosystems are used , in accordance to the relevant PanEuropean Ministerial Resolutions.)see comments under question 146.

q.42

Remote sensing techniques, at national level, are used:

- a) by the Forest Service for i) forest mapping, ii) forest conservation status assessment and iii) in case of fire, for the estimation of burnt areas.
- b) by the Ministry of Merchant Marine for the rapid detection of oil spills in Greek territorial waters.

In addition, in some ecological important areas researchers use remote sensing to monitor changes in land use, in habitats hosting threatened species (e.g. in Lake Kerkini).

q.43.

The implementation of Article 7 is being approached through the efforts defined under questions 32, 33 and 38. The national network of protected areas, which is described in detail under question 72. will be operated by a step-by-step approach.

44 The following projects can be mentioned:

- a) Spatial Indicators for European Nature Conservation (SPIN)
- b) European Evaluation and Assessment Tools Supporting Wetland Ecosystem Legislation (EVALUWET).

q46.

The infrastructure for taxonomic collections held in Greece, is given in detail in the comments to question 54. Efforts to make taxonomic information more widely available include publications and scientific papers.

q47.

The following are examples of ongoing projects:

- a) The SPIN project and the EVALUWET projects which are mentioned under q. 44.
- b) Monitoring methodology is one of the subjects developed by the MedWet initiative (see comments under q. 13).
- c) MEDPOL project (see comments under q. 39).
- d) European Register of Marine Species (ERMS).

Greece is actively involved in monitoring certain threatened species in co-operation with other Mediterranean and Balkan countries, and has participated in the elaboration of the Mediterranean Action Plans for the species *Caretta caretta* and *Monachus monachus* respectively, the European Action Plans for 21 priority bird species included in Annex I of the Council Directive 79/409/EC, and the identification Important Bird Areas in Europe.

Other important actions include collaboration for the conservation of two Globally Threatened Species in the Balkans: *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* and *Oxyoura leucocephala*" (see comments on question 49), the protection, management and demonstration of the natural network between Narta lagoon, Aoos (Vjose) river, forest ecosystem islands Zverneci and National Park Llogara, carried out in co-operation with Albania, the the protection and management of the water body of Axios river in co-operation with the FYROM., and collaboration with the FYROM and Albania for the conservation of the brown bear habitats.

q.49

Greek Universities, Research Institutes, NGO's and central authorities provide such an assistance, through projects which are carried out in collaboration with other Contracting Parties. In the frame work of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), within OECD, Greece has been implementing the "Programme of Development, Co-operation and Assistance in the fields of Environment and Sustainable Development" 1999. The main focus of the programme is to offer assistance and strengthen collaborations with partner countries form the wider geographical region of the Balkans, S.E. Europe, the Black Sea and Caspian Sean in the field of environment. Some of the targets are: Contribution to the protection, conservation, restoration of polluted natural resources and promotion of transboundary cooperation and formulation of communication channels and collaboration networks. Many of the projects, funded under this Programme, concern inventory or monitoring of key species or ecosystems.

Moreover, training on the use of the MedWet inventory and monitoring database, to scientists from the Mediterranean countries that participate in the MedWetCoast project is provided by the Greek institutions participating in MedWET.

Decisions on Taxonomy

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

50. Has your country carried out a national taxonomic needs assessment, and/or held workshops to determine national taxonomic priorities?	
a) no	
b) early stages of assessment	X
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	
b) yes, but this does not cover all known needs adequately	X
c) yes, covering all known needs	
53. Is your country encouraging bilateral and multilateral training and employment opportunities for taxonomists, particularly those dealing with poorly known organisms?	
a) no	
b) some opportunities	X
c) significant opportunities	
54. Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections?	
a) no	
b) some investment	X
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	
b) under review	
c) being implemented by some collections	X
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	
b) under review	
c) yes for some institutions	X
d) yes for all major institutions	
60. Has your country assisted taxonomic institutions to establish consortia to conduct regional projects?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes – limited extent	X
d) yes – significant extent	
61. Has your country given special attention to international funding of fellowships for specialist training abroad or for attracting international experts to national or regional courses?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
c) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	

62. Has your country provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields?	
a) no	
b) some	X
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	
b) yes	X
65. Has your country worked to increase its capacity in the area of taxonomic research?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
66. Has your country communicated information on programmes, projects and initiatives for consideration as pilot projects under the Global Taxonomy Initiative to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
67. Has your country designated a national Global Taxonomy Initiative focal point linked to other national focal points?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
68. Has your country participated in the development of regional networks to facilitate information-sharing for the Global Taxonomy Initiative?	
a) no	
b) yes	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	

b) applied for unsuccessfully	
c) applied for successfully	

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

q. 53

Research funds especially through EU projects, while to a lesser extent, are allocated from the General Secretariat of Research and Technology, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, local authorities, etc. Most funds go to Management Plans and Environmental Studies, while research on taxonomy and biogeography receive only minimal support. Some funding opportunities to encourage bilateral and/or multilateral training and employment on taxonomy are offered by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology and to research workers of universities and other institutes.

q. 54

The most important infrastructure for taxonomic collections is found in private and publicly owned natural history museums, in universities and in botanical gardens. According to a recent inventory of Greek natural history museums, about 40 collections exist in Greece. Most than half are concentrated in the greater Athens area. The most important taxonomic collections are found in the Zoological Museum of the University of Athens, in the Goulandris Natural History Museum as well as in the Natural History Museum of Crete of the University of Crete. About half of the country's natural history museums are governmental, while the others are private or belong to environmental organisations or to municipalities. Collections of live plant species are found in botanical gardens (see list in the comments on questions 127, 128). Most of those gardens also keep herbaria. Herbaria are also kept by almost all the Faculties of Biology and by the Faculty of Forestry and National Resources of Aristotle University. A rich herbarium is also kept by the Goulandris Natural History Museum.

q. 55

There is no specific national programme encouraging partnerships between taxonomic institutions in developed and developing countries. There is, however, a rather adequate mobility of individual taxonomists, namely of the ones working in universities.

q. 59

In Greece biodiversity inventories and taxonomic activities are mostly carried out by Universities and Research Institutes, which are regularly subsidised from the national budget. Occasionally some

government funding is provided to non-government bodies.

q. 61

Greece participates in EU mobility programmes for research and technology. A recent example is the "Programme for incorporation of PhD Researchers from abroad into the Greek R+T system" (ENTER).

q. 63

There is a basic assessment on the information requirements on the taxonomy of certain taxa of flora and fauna. For example, for many organisms such as microorganisms, bryophytes, lichens, pteridophytes, invertebrates' taxa, etc. scientists believe that there is a great diversity in Greece though there are no reliable collective data. Regarding the national capacity to meet these requirements, there is no assessment about the cost of the taxonomic research required.

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							
<p>Three Action Plans have been elaborated by the National master plan for the Natural Environment (1999). <u>The Action Plan for the development of a System of Protected areas</u>, aims at the establishment of a coherent network of protected areas, incorporating the sites of the E.U. NATURA 2000 network in the list of protected areas and assuring a coherent representation at a national level of ecosystems, habitats and habitats of endangered, protected or endemic species. <u>The Action Plan for the conservation of species</u>, aims at the identification of policies and measures to assure the conservation of biodiversity at the species level, outside protected areas. <u>The Action Plan for sectorial conservation issues</u> aims at addressing priority issues such as landscape conservation, marine and coastal conservation, desertification.</p> <p>Funds have been earmarked for the period 2001-2006, in the frame of the Operational Programme for The Environment and The Operational Programme for Forestry</p> <p>(joint national and EU Funds)</p>							

72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?	
a) system under development	
b) national review of protected areas coverage available	
c) national protected area systems plan in place	X
d) relatively complete system in place	
73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	
b) no, under development	
c) yes	X
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	
74. Does your country regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use (8c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
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	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	
76. Has your country undertaken measures that promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas (8e)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	
77. Has your country undertaken measures to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X

c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
78. Has your country undertaken measures to promote the recovery of threatened species (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
79. Has your country undertaken measures to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology (8g)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	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 (8l)?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a significant extent	

<i>If a developed country Party –</i>	
83. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for in- situ 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
<i>Decision II/7 Consideration of Articles 6 and 8 of the Convention</i>	
85.Is action being taken to share information and experience on implementation of this Article with other Contracting Parties?	
a) little or no action	
b) sharing of written materials and/or case-studies	X
c) regional meetings	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

q. 72
The existing protected area system includes National Parks (Forests, Wetlands, Marine Parks), Aesthetic forests, Controlled Hunting Areas, Natural Monuments, Protected Landscapes, Ecodevelopment Areas, Strict Nature Reserves and Nature Reserves´ Law 996/71 “on Forests” and the Law 1650/86 “for the protection of natural environment”..

Several of the designated sites of these national categories are also part of international networks such as Biosphere Reserves, Biogenetic Reserves, Ramsar Wetlands, Barcelona Convention , European Diploma, Man and Biosphere Program.

The NATURA 2000 European network comprises 101 Special Protection Areas which have been designated according to the EU Directive 79/409/EEC "on the conservation of birds" and 239 sites proposed as Sites of Community` Importance according to the European Directive 92/43 “on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora”, including the majority of the nationally designated protected areas.

An action plan for the establishment of a National System for the Management of Protected Areas has been elaborated within the National Master Plan for the Natural Environment .

Upon the establishment of the National System for the Management of Protected Areas which is currently underway, management bodies for the majority of protected areas in Greece are going to be established.

q. 73-74: The guidelines for the collection, identification and preservation of genetic material have been established in 1990. Gene Bank facilities and field collections established in 1981. New Gene Bank facilities under development.

q.75 Agroenvironmental measures functioning as incentives for farmers in order to preserve endangered mammals and birds. Promising sites for in Situ and On Farm conservation/ management of crops and their wild relatives have been identified.

q.77

Restoration works are legally required for the operation of quarries, mining fields, and forest areas affected by fire. The restoration of wetlands has been an issue of attention and the implementation of two major restoration projects was recently initiated, one in former Lake Karla in Central Greece and the other in former Lake Mavrouda, Northern Greece. Rehabilitation studies have been carried out for another 5 lakes (Koronia, Zazari, Cheimaditis, Artzan and Taka).

q.78

Examples of actions for the recovery of threatened species implemented are those for the conservation of the following species: *Numenius tenuirostris*, *Gypaetus barbatus*, *Canis lupus*, *Ursus arctos*, *Caretta caretta* and the Monk seal *Monachus monachus*.

q.80

(see articles 10 and 11)

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		c) Low	X
87. 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					

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

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

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

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

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

97. In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed or involved itself in mechanisms for international co-operation, including the exchange of best practices?	
a) no	
b) trans-boundary co-operation	
c) regional co-operation	X
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	
b) some initiatives	X
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

There is no official documentation on national policy document on alien species, but several activities that address some aspects of the problem. The risks posed to ecosystems and other species by the introduction of alien species have not been fully identified.

Work on the alien flora and fauna of Greece has been limited mainly to references in floristic studies or studies of particular species. An early review was carried out by Yannitsaros (1982-1991) and a recent by Ekonomidis et al. (2000). Congresses and scientific meetings on the issue of alien species and the risks faced as a result of their introduction have take place in the past.

The conclusions, from the pertinent workshop and from the literature are that the introductions of alien species often result in serious disturbance of the natural equilibrium in natural ecosystems, and that a complete documentation is required before a permit is issued to introduce an alien species, especially fish species.

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		c) Low	X
104.To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					

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	
b) under review	X
c) yes (please provide details)	
113. Is your country integrating such tasks into its ongoing programmes, taking into account the identified collaboration opportunities?	
a) no	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	
b) yes	X
117. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes – to a limited extent	
d) yes – to a significant extent	
118. Has your country provided case studies on methods and approaches concerning the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge, and the control of that information by indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	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	
b) not relevant	
c) some measures	X
d) extensive measures	
121.Has your country supported the development of registers of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, in collaboration with these communities?	
a) no	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	
b) not relevant	
c) partly	X
d) fully	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

q. 120-124.

Relevant actions include the recreation of traditional huts, fishing boats and tools of fishermen in wetlands and at sea , assistance of enterprises for the conservation and development of traditional methods of aquaculture, the establishment of fisheries museums, the maintainance of traditional agriecosystems such as vineyards, tomatoes and mitwit, the conservation of land terraces .

Article 9 Ex situ conservation

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

q. 125, 126

Greece has put higher priority to the in-situ conservation as compared to the ex-situ conservation and this has been reflected in the funds allocated to each subject. New ex situ projects were initiated during the reporting period, especially concerning relevant infrastructure. (See comments on questions 127, 128).

q. 127, 128

PLANTS

The most important body for ex-situ conservation of cultivated plant diversity is the Genetic Material Bank created by the National Agricultural Research Foundation. This institute is authorised to perform conservation activities itself, to motivate such activities by others and to represent the government in pertinent international activities, conferences etc.

NAGREF has several research branches (on crops, soils, water, farm animals, farm machinery, agricultural economics, wine etc.) all over Greece. Most of the institutes on crops collect genotypes from all over Greece (their origin is commonly non-documented) and preserve them in collections established in their farms. Such collections have been created, for example, for deciduous fruit trees, for olive trees, for grape vines, for aromatic plants. Moreover, the Agricultural Universities and Faculties grow a range of cultivars of some fruit tree species and of grape vines for training and research purposes.

The following botanical gardens hosting both autochthonous and allochthonous genetic material of predominantly non cultivated species continued to operate .

- Botanical Garden of Athens.
- Botanical Garden of the University of Athens in Athens.
- Diomedes Botanical Garden in Athens.
- Forest Botanical Garden of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Garden of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (a number of those species are cultivated in Greece).

The development of two new botanical gardens started during 1998-2000 by the University of Patras and the National Agricultural Research Foundation NAGREF.

ANIMALS

A. Wild Animals

The main form of ex-situ conservation of wild animals practised in Greece is assistance to wild animals to overcome wounds and ailments caused by hunters, by accidents, by poisonous baits etc.

Bodies offering such assistance are:

- Rescue Centre for Wild Animals and Birds (at Aigina island).
- Rescue Centre for Wild Birds (at Thessaloniki – Hellenic Ornithological Society).
- Aegean Wildlife Hospital (at Paros island).
- Bird and Wild Animal Rescue Centre (at Corfu island).
- Rescue and Protection Station for Wild Animals and Birds.
- Rescue and Rehabilitation Unit for Seals (on Allonisos island – Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal).
- Rescue Centre for Sea Turtles (at Glyfada Athens– Sea Turtles Protection Society).
- Installations at Nymphaio by the NGO “Arcturos” for brown bears.

B. Farm Animals

Such form of conservation is applied in the farm animal research institutes of the National Agricultural Research Foundation. Some rare and threatened genotypes, mostly of autochthonous species (e.g. Skyros ponies), were maintained at the Aristotle University Farm.

It is noteworthy that the private sector has started to collect rare races of sheep, cattle, pigs and chicken and breed them on privately owned lands. The Genetic Material Bank has developed various forms of collaboration with similar institutes of other member states of the European Union and with pertinent international organization (e.g. FAO).

q. 130, 131

See facilities (Botanical gardens, institutes etc.) in the comments on questions 127, 128.

q. 133

Some successful implementations exist, for example, the re-introduction of water buffaloes was successfully tested in the area of Lake Mikri Prespa (a Ramsar site) as a non-engineering solution to the management of reedbeds and as a means to enhance biodiversity and landscape diversity.

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
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					

139. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making (10a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
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	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
141. Has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements (10c)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
142. Has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced (10d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X

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

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

144. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on tourism and its impacts on biological diversity, and efforts to effectively plan and manage tourism?	
a) no	
b) yes – previous national report	X
c) yes – case-studies	
d) yes – other means (please give details below)	
145. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on biodiversity-related activities of the CSD (such as SIDS, oceans, seas and freshwater resources, consumption and production patterns)?	
a) no	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	X
c) mechanisms in place (please describe)	
149. Has your country identified areas for conservation that would benefit through the sustainable use of biological diversity and communicated this information to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision V/25. Biological diversity and tourism

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

b) yes	X
154. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative?	
a) no	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	X
c) to a significant extent (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

<p>q. 139</p> <p>The Greek sustainable development strategy is under preparation. Several sectoral programs, strategies (Article 6a), research efforts (Articles 7 and 12') and instruments such as the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure (Articles 14a, b) are already in place to fulfill obligations under Article 10a.</p> <p>q 140</p> <p>Measures include agri-environment measures in the EU context as, well as Environmental Impact Assessments, mentioned elsewhere in the report.</p> <p>q. 141</p> <p>Examples of such cases include support to farmers for the preservation of stone terraces, in Greek islands, encouragement of organic crop farming, re-introduction of the water buffalo ,etc, in the frame of EU projects.</p> <p>q. 142</p> <p>Examples are the restoration of former wetlands with as many of their former functions, including the economic support to local communities.</p> <p>q. 143</p> <p>Examples of such cooperation are linked to water treatment installations (a private business firm with government and non-government institutes), to wardening of protected areas against illegal hunting (local and/or regional associations of hunters and the Forestry Service), to sustainable tourism in protected areas (government services, tourism business firm and fishermen).</p> <p>q. 147</p>
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Regarding the “Programme of Development, Co-operation and Assistance in the fields of Environment and Sustainable Development” mentioned under q. 49, during 1999, 22 projects started to be carried out with a total budget of 1.9 million € geographically allocated as follows: Balkans 69%, Black Sea countries 9%, S.E. Mediterranean countries 22%. During 2000, 38 projects were initiated with a total budget of 6.6 million € geographically allocated as follows: Balkans 65%, Black Sea countries 3%, S.E. Mediterranean countries 32%.

q. 148

Examples include

-the Programme Agreements signed between the Ministry of the Environment, Prefectural – Regional Services and the Local Government, for the implementation of priority measures and operation of preliminary management schemes for protected areas.

-the local authorities and private sector participation in the management of natural environment is given by the Environmental Impact Assessment procedures.

-Agrotourism activities supported by EU Initiative programme, aiming to sustainable use of natural resources

The forestry sector has been implementing sustainable management plans, both on public and private land.

q. 150

The national policy for tourism, published by the Ministry of Development in 2000, includes the aim of protection of natural environment through the promotion of ecotourism. The sustainability principle is integrated in the tourism policy through “the development of alternative tourism activities (ecotourism, cultural tourism, sport tourism)”. (See <http://www.gnto.gr/3/03/gc30000.html> for the full text in Greek).

q. 152

The Greek National Tourism Organisation is organising a preparatory conference for the International Year of Ecotourism entitled “Conference on the development of Ecotourism: The International Experience and the case of Greece” to be held at Thessaloniki, 2-4 November 2001. The conference will include four thematic sessions: i) Market structure (special interest groups, supply structures; ii) Legal framework and policies aiming at the development of ecotourism both at national and international level;

iii) Case studies from other countries; iv) Case studies from Greece. In addition two round-tables will take place: I) Professional conditions, the labor market, education and vocational training; ii) Financing instruments and possibilities for inclusion in operational programmes.

(http://www.world-tourism.org/sustainable/IYE/Regional_Activites/Greece/Greece-menu.htm)

q. 153

A preparatory initiative for International Year of Mountains 2002 is to be organised at Metsovo, 7-10 June 2001, by the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and the Metsovion Interdisciplinary Research Center (MIRC). The conference is entitled "Integrated Development of Mountainous Regions: Theory and Practice". (<http://www.ntua.gr/MIRC/1st-announcement-gb.html>)

q. 155

The tourism industry in Greece has to comply with legal framework comprising environmental impact assessment, sanitary and water supply regulations. Tourism activities in this respect are monitored and controlled by competent local and regional authorities. Ecotourism and nature-based tourism are an integral part of national and regional tourist policy. The main tools of such policy are public investment in infrastructures, incentives policy, promotional campaigns, participation of NGOs and the voluntary sector in various specific projects at the national, regional and local level.

Sustainable tourist projects are carried out to establish the infrastructure for the development of mountainous, therapeutic, cultural, ecological tourism based on the natural and human resources of each area. Incentives are used to enhance the modernisation of operating tourist units, the conversion of traditional buildings into hotels, as well as investments in environmental protection and in the use of renewable energy sources.

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					

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	X
c) all major sectors	
d) all sectors	

Decision III/18. Incentive measures

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

161. Has your country ensured the development of mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas, <i>inter alia</i> , national accounting systems and investment strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of identifying mechanisms	X
c) advanced stages of identifying mechanisms	
d) mechanisms in place	
e) review of impact of mechanisms available	
162. Has your country developed training and capacity building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives?	
a) no	
b) planned	X
c) some	
d) many	
163. Has your country incorporated biological diversity considerations into impact assessments as a step in the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
164. Has your country shared experience on incentive measures with other Contracting Parties, including making relevant case-studies available to the Secretariat?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes – case-studies	X
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	X
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) frameworks in place	X
e) review of implementation available	
169. Does your country carry out consultative processes to define clear target-oriented incentive measures to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss?	
a) no	
b) processes being identified	X
c) processes identified but not implemented	
d) processes in place	
170. Has your country identified and considered neutralizing perverse incentives?	
a) no	
b) identification programme under way	X
c) identified but not all neutralized	
d) identified and neutralized	

* Depends on sectoral policy.

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

<p>q. 158</p> <p>Several incentives are in different stages of development, and have different degrees of application concerning biological diversity. These include agri-environment incentives for farmers to adopt long-term fallow practices, to develop organic farming, to reduce over-grazing, to promote integrated pest management and to reduce water consumption for irrigation. (see question 165).</p> <p>Other policies for the conservation of biodiversity are implemented through actions that include indirect incentives (scientific research, public awareness, education).</p> <p>q. 159</p> <p>The main sector addressed is agriculture and forestry, and to a lesser degree tourism. Disincentive measures are applied in other sectors e.g. the gas tax affecting transport and the industry, and the water pricing policy .</p> <p>Q162.</p> <p>Main areas of planned application are agriculture, forestry, environmental technology, protected areas management.</p> <p>q. 164</p> <p>The following case study has been submitted to the to the OECD Working Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity concerning : Incentives for the Conservation of the Nesting Grounds of the Sea Turtle</p>

Caretta caretta In Laganas Bay, Zakynthos, Greece. ENV/EPOC/GEEI/BIO(99)5/FINAL

q.165

Direct Incentives (in-cash), include incentives for adoption of organic crop farming methods,. 2006 in place, Incentives for adoption of organic animal farming methods.(Advanced stage of development), Incentives for preservation of extensively grown crops that are threatened by genetic pollution, ‘new ‘, incentives to control pollution caused by nitrogen.

Direct Incentives (in-kind), include provision of electric fences to beekeepers, provision of guarding dogs to animal farmers for the protection of the brown bear (*Ursus arctus*). in place)

Indirect Incentives include - Measures for the conversion of coppice forests to high forests (in place),incentives for promotion of agrotourism activities (in place), incentives for promotion of ecotourism activities (Advanced stage of development;see 150 and 155), public awareness, education (see Article 13)

q168.

The following policy documents include proposals for actions concerning the implementation of incentive measures:

- Strategy for agricultural development and restructuring of the countryside (framework in place; specific incentive measures)
- Master plan for the Natural Environment (advanced stages of development; no specific incentives, only measures of a general nature)
- National Strategy for Wetland Resources (framework in place; proposals for incentive measures under the EU Agroenvironmental Regulation (1257/99))

q. 169

See comments on question 148.

Article 12 Research and training

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

175. Has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	X
176. Has your country provided support to other Parties for education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
177. Does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (12b)?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
178. Does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources (12c)?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	

<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
179. Does your country's implementation of the above activities take into account the special needs of developing countries?	
a) no	
b) yes, where relevant	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

q. 175
The research and training capacity of the Academic and Research institutions with regard to biodiversity has been significantly increased. In addition programmes for employment and professional training in environmental issues, including biodiversity and protected areas have been initiated .

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		b) Medium	X	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					

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

c) yes – significant extent	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	X
c) yes – significant extent	

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

185. Are public education and awareness needs covered in the national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
186. Has your country allocated appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?	
a) limited resources	
b) significant but not adequate resources	X
c) adequate resources	
187. Does your country support initiatives by major groups that foster stakeholder participation and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
188. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes	
189. Has your country made available any case-studies on public education and awareness and public participation, or otherwise sought to share experiences?	
a) no	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	X
b) still to be done	
c) under development	
d) yes	
191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	X
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
192. When requesting assistance through the GEF, has your country proposed projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	

Decision V/17. Education and public awareness

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

q. 182

Actions include various programmes and broadcasts, TV talks, spots and shows, TV documentaries, related to various subjects of biodiversity and there has been financing of filmmakers for the creation of films (9:16) on ecological issues, by public television.

Many environmental NGOs have created documentaries shown on television or displayed in schools or the general public, along with various leaflets, posters and newsletters. The same is valid for the daily and periodical press.

q. 183

Environmental and nature conservation projects have been included in the curricula of elementary and secondary schools. The establishment of 17 Environmental Education Centres in various regions of Greece, supports this initiative, providing advise and help to teachers on Environmental Education and development of relevant projects.

q. 184

See activities with countries of the Mediterranean Basin under the MedWet initiative (question 13) and other international conventions, IUCN, Council of Europe.

q. 186

Significant funds were allocated to the strategic use of education and communication through the sectors of environment, agriculture, aquaculture, employment and education.

q. 187

Several training courses were organised on integrated forest management, agriculture, fisheries, environmental management, protected areas management and environment-cultural issues.

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	X	c) Limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					

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	X
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	
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	X
b) yes	
201. Has your country mechanisms in place to notify other States of cases of imminent or grave danger or damage to biological diversity originating in your country and potentially affecting those States (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	X
e) no need identified	
202. Has your country mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your State to biological diversity in other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
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	
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	X
d) information provided on the national CHM	
206. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting Parties information on measures and agreements on liability and redress applicable to damage to biological diversity?	
a) no	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	X
c) fully integrated	
208. When carrying out environmental impact assessments does your country address loss of biological diversity and the interrelated socio-economic, cultural and human-health aspects relevant to biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) partly	X
c) fully	
209. When developing new legislative and regulatory frameworks, does your country have in place mechanisms to ensure the consideration of biological diversity concerns from the early stages of the drafting process?	
a) no	
b) in some circumstances	X
c) in all circumstances	
210. Does your country ensure the involvement of all interested and affected stakeholders in a participatory approach to all stages of the assessment process?	
a) no	
b) yes - in certain circumstances	X

c) yes - in all cases	
211. Has your country organised expert meetings, workshops and seminars, and/or training, educational and public awareness programmes and exchange programmes in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures for impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) some programmes in place	X
c) many programmes in place	
d) integrated approach to building expertise	
212. <i>Has your country carried out pilot environmental impact assessment projects, in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures?</i>	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide further details)	
213. Does your country use strategic environmental assessments to assess not only the impact of individual projects, but also their cumulative and global effects, and ensure the results are applied in the decision making and planning processes?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
214. Does your country require the inclusion of development of alternatives, mitigation measures and consideration of the elaboration of compensation measures in environmental impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	X
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

Environmental Impact assessments, including biodiversity considerations, at a project level have been an issue of priority and compliance with relevant EU legislation, since 1990. They include consideration of alternatives and measures to prevent, minimize or offset significant adverse effects on the environment. There is a decentralization mechanism for decision making, with regard to the scale and nature of projects. Projects within – or likely to affect protected areas and areas of the NATURA 2000 network are examined with a different procedure. Participation of the public is foreseen at the final stage of consultations. The strategic level of application of EIA is in early stages of development. At the international- transboundary level, Greece has ratified the Convention on Transboundary EIA and the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution.

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		b) Medium	X	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					

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	X
c) yes – significant extent	
219. Is there any mutual understanding or agreement in place between different interest groups and the State on access to genetic resources (15(4))?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
220. Has your country an open participation planning process, or any other process in place, to ensure that access to resources is subject to prior informed consent (15(5))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) processes in place	
221. Is your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Contracting Parties (15(6))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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

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

223.Has your country provided the secretariat with information on relevant legislation, administrative and policy measures, participatory processes and research programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes, within the previous national report	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	
b) some programmes covering some needs	X
c) many programmes covering some needs	
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	
e) no perceived need	
225.Has your country analysed experiences of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including regional efforts and initiatives, for use in further development and implementation of measures and guidelines?	
a) no	
b) analysis in progress	X
c) analysis completed	

226. Is your country collaborating with all relevant stakeholders to explore, develop and implement guidelines and practices that ensure mutual benefits to providers and users of access measures?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
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	X
c) to a significant extent	
Parties that are recipients of genetic resources	
231. Has your country adopted administrative or policy measures that are supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention?	
a) no	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	X
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	
b) legislation under development	X
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	X
c) yes	
235.Has your country provided information to the Executive Secretary on user institutions, the market for genetic resources, non-monetary benefits, new and emerging mechanisms for benefit sharing, incentive measures, clarification of definitions, <i>sui generis</i> systems and “intermediaries”?	
a) no	X
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	X
b) yes	
237.Has your country provided capacity-building and technology development and transfer for the maintenance and utilization of ex situ collections?	
a) no	
b) yes to a limited extent	X
c) yes to a significant extent	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

q218.

The access to genetic resources for food and agriculture is regulated according to the FAP Recommendations. National legislation is ____-

q222.

There are legislative measures regarding Benefit Sharing included in EU research programme contracts. Also access and benefit sharing terms are under negotiation in the discussions for the implementation of the FAO's International Treaty on PGRFA.

Access is granted by the Greek Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Physical Planning and Environment Protection, in consultation with the Greek Gene Bank This and other closely linked issues (use limitations, prior informed consent, benefit sharing, intellectual property rights etc.) are expected to be finalised in the negotiations for the implementation of the International Treaty on PGRFA.

q232

Cooperation is carried out between EU countries and within the framework of international organisations such as the FAO and WIPO

Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation on this Article

Information exchange was facilitated through a variety of means, such as newsletters, publication of research results, conferences, scientific exchanges, internet, on-line electronic communications.

Key programmes for information exchange include the following:

National Environmental Information Network (<http://nfp-gr.eionet.eu.int>). This network has been set up as the main mechanism for the maintenance and management of national information on the environment , including biodiversity issues, with regard to European issues, providing input, at the same time, to the European Environment Agency (EEA).

MedWet Initiative " includes the MedWet website, the MedWet Newsletter and the network of the members of the MedWet Initiative are implemented.

Actions for Development Cooperation and Assistance in the field of Environment and Sustainable Development" (see comments under q. 49) include promotion of transboundary cooperation and the formulation of communication channels and collaboration networks in the Balkans, S.E. Europe, the Black Sea and Caspian Sea.

Article 18 Technical and scientific co-operation

252.What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
253.To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
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					X
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					
255.Do the measures taken to promote cooperation with other Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention pay special attention to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution building (18(2))?					
a) no					
b) yes – limited extent					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					X
c) advanced stages of development					
d) methods in place					
257.Does such cooperation include the training of personnel and exchange of experts (18(4))?					
a) no					
b) yes – limited extent					X
c) yes – significant extent					

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

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

259.Is your country cooperating in the development and operation of the Clearing House Mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
260.Is your country helping to develop national capabilities through exchanging and disseminating information on experiences and lessons learned in implementing the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
261.Has your country designated a national focal point for the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
262.Is your country providing resources for the development and implementation of the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) yes, at the national level	
c) yes, at national and international levels	
263.Is your country facilitating and participating in workshops and other expert meetings to further the development of the CHM at international levels?	
a) no	X
b) participation only	
c) supporting some meetings and participating	
264.Is your CHM operational	
a) no	X
b) under development	
c) yes (please give details below)	

265. Is your CHM linked to the Internet	
a) no	X
b) yes	
266. Has your country established a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary CHM steering committee or working group at the national level?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

<p>q. 254,255</p> <p>Comments on Article 17, q. 13 and q. 49 provide documentation on this question.</p> <p>q. 256, 257</p> <p>Some examples include participation of Greece in the MedWet Danone – Evian project, the involvement of the Greek Centre for European Constitutional Law in three projects of transboundary co-operation with FYROM and Bulgaria, the undertaking of preparation of the wetland inventory of Albania, by the Greek Biotope/Wetland Centre .</p> <p>q. 258</p> <p>A policy of targeting the country's research efforts onto selected areas, which are both commercially rewarded and directly relevant to the improvement of the quality of life , has been successfully implemented, especially with Research and Technological Development proposals for bilateral cooperation in the field of environmental conservation and technologies.</p>
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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					

270.Has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research (19(1))?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures:	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	
271.Has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties (19(2))?	
a) no measures	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

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Article 20 Financial resources

273. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	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					
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					X
b) yes					

<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition –</i>	
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	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
278.Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
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	
c) yes (please provide details)	X
283.Are details available of your country's financial support to national biodiversity activities?	
a) no	
b) not in a standardized format	X

c) yes (please provide details)	
284.Are details available of your country's financial support to biodiversity activities in other countries?	
a) not applicable	
b) no	
c) not in a standardized format	X
d) yes (please provide details)	
Developed country Parties -	
285.Does your country promote support for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention in the funding policy of its bilateral funding institutions and those of regional and multilateral funding institutions?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
Developing country Parties -	
286.Does your country discuss ways and means to support implementation of the objectives of the Convention in its dialogue with funding institutions?	
a) no	
b) yes	
287.Has your country compiled information on the additional financial support provided by the private sector?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
288.Has your country considered tax exemptions in national taxation systems for biodiversity-related donations?	
a) no	X
b) not appropriate to national conditions	
c) exemptions under development	
d) exemptions in place	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

q. 275

The main sectors receiving relevant financial support for EU and national budget lines are those related to environmental policies)Water, soil, wastes and engineering, the establishment of the network of protected areas, the conservation of endangered species, the establishment of the National Environmental Information Network, agriculture, rural development and restructuring of rural areas, forestry operations and management , fire prevention , marine pollution prevention and control.

q. 282, 283

The main effort in this field comprises a data base of the proposed NATURA 2000 sites ‘ protected areas with records of projects)research, conservation, management, subsidies and incentives = financed, by all available means. +

q. 285

Greece participates to the Programme of Development, Co-operation and Assistance as a donor country, and especially in the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program for South Eastern Europe (REReP) which is an important dimension of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. The Task Force for the implementation of REReP uses the Services of an ad hoc biodiversity group, and 6 countries of the region)Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, FYROM, Turkey and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.= have agreed to work on the harmonization of the Region with the European Environmental acquis for biodiversity conservation, on a continuous basis, with seminars, projects, exchange of experts, etc.

Article 21 Financial mechanism

289.What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X
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					

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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

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)	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	X
b) yes (please provide details below)	

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

297. Did your country pay its contribution to the core budget (BY Trust Fund) for 2001 by 1 st January 2001?	
a) yes in advance	
b) yes on time	
c) no but subsequently paid	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

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	X
b) yes	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 25 Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 26 Reports

301.What is the status of your first national report?	
a) Not submitted	
b) Summary report submitted	
c) Interim/draft report submitted	
d) Final report submitted	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)?	1998
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	X
b) yes	
303. Has your country taken steps to ensure that its first and/or second national report(s) is/are available for use by relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, was this by:	
a) informal distribution?	
b) publishing the report?	
c) making the report available on request?	X
d) posting the report on the Internet?	

Decision V/19. National reporting

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach

305. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach, taking into account the principles and guidance contained in the annex to decision V/6?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) some aspects are being applied	X
d) substantially implemented	
306. Is your country developing practical expressions of the ecosystem approach for national policies and legislation and for implementation activities, with adaptation to local, national, and regional conditions, in particular in the context of activities developed within the thematic areas of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	X
c) some aspects are being applied	
d) substantially implemented	
307. Is your country identifying case studies and implementing pilot projects that demonstrate the ecosystem approach, and using workshops and other mechanisms to enhance awareness and share experience?	
a) no	
b) case-studies identified	X
c) pilot projects underway	
d) workshops planned/held	
e) information available through CHM	
308. Is your country strengthening capacities for implementation of the ecosystem approach, and providing technical and financial support for capacity-building to implement the ecosystem approach?	
a) no	
b) yes within the country	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	
b) yes	
313. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in annex 1 to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
c) yes	

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

314. Is your country supporting and/or participating in the River Basin Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
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	X
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	
b) yes	X

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

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

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

<p>Further comments on Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach</p> <p>q305- 309 Capacity building on the ecosystem approach has progressed during 1998-2000 in terms of post graduate study programs. Greece has promoted regional cooperation by taking the initiative for the establishment of the first Balkan transboundary park in the area of Lakes Mikri and Megali Prespa (Greece- Albania-FYROM).</p> <p>q. 315-316 Major data collecting projects related to this question are the identification and description of habitat types in areas of interest for nature conservation, the Greek Wetland Inventory , the annual results of the mid winter counts of wild fowl. Also national reports to the Ramsar Convention contain relevant information.</p> <p>q310-318</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive 2000/60 of the European Union is expected to have a very positive influence on the wetland (and terrestrial) ecosystems.</p> <p>Examples of how Greece has responded to the Recommendations of CBD are given below.</p> <p>1.Rec. 9b and 9c (Appropriate technologies) of Decision IV/4.</p> <p>Constructed wetlands as a low cost approach to treating waste waters) were successfully tested in Gallikos river, Region of Central Macedonia. The re-introduction of water buffaloes was successfully tested in the area of Lake Mikri Prespa (a Ramsar site) as a non-engineering solution to the management of reedbeds and as a means to enhance biodiversity and landscape diversity.</p> <p>2. Rec. 9d (Research on the ecosystem approach) of Decision IV/4.</p> <p>In Greece the ecosystem approach is implemented in forest ecosystems management since 1937 and was first used for wetlands in 1984. The ecosystem approach is presently followed to a variable degree in most management studies of protected areas in Greece and is now a standard topic in all Ecology and Conservation courses in Greek universities.</p> <p>3. Rec. 9e (Monitoring and assessment) of Decision IV/4.</p> <p>Examples illustrating the efforts in Greece to promote monitoring can be found in relevant literature.</p>
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Wetland Monitoring methodology is one of the subjects developed by the MedWet initiative. Finally, monitoring water quantity and quality data are collected nation-wide for a number of rivers and lakes by various agencies. Monitoring of key environmental parameters will be an obligation under the recent Water Framework Directive 2000/60. Work has been also carried out with regard to the functional assessment of Greek wetlands (project EVALUWET European Valuation and Assessment tools Supporting Wetland Ecosystem).

q. 317.As examples we refer to the National Strategy for Wetland Resources and the National Strategy on the Sustainable Development of Water Resources for Agriculture.

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	X
d) arrangements in place	
322.Has your country provided the Executive Secretary with advice and information on future options concerning the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
323.Has your country undertaken and/or exchanged information on demonstration projects as practical examples of integrated marine and coastal area management?	
a) no	
b) yes – previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	X
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
324.Has your country programmes in place to enhance and improve knowledge on the genetic structure of local populations of marine species subjected to stock enhancement and/or sea-ranching activities?	
a) no	
b) programmes are being developed	
c) programmes are being implemented for some species	X
d) programmes are being implemented for many species	
e) not a perceived problem	

325.Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in an annex to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
c) yes	

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

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

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

q. 320.

Greece is participating in the elaboration of a Strategic Action Plan for the coastal and marine biodiversity of the Mediterranean (SAP ' BIO, in the framework of the UNEP-MAP. The relevant national action plan is expected to be drafted in 2002 .

The "National Programme for the Sustainable Development of Coastal areas and Islands" was initiated in 1996 and is being implemented since.

q.321.

As a contribution we make reference of the high costal and marine component in the sites of the NATURA 2000 Network in Greece as well as the Coastal Zone Land use Plans.

The present institutional framework for the coastal and marine areas comprise" the establishment of protected areas, protection of wild flora and fauna and their habitats, as well as of natural habitats, procedures for Environmental Impact Assessment of infrastructure and other development projects, Regulations on hunting, fishing, agriculture, aqua-culture, Regulations on town planning, land use and construction development.

Two National Parks have been established, namely the National Marine Park of Alonissos and Northern Sporades Islands, 1992 in the Aegean Sea and the National Marine Park of Zakynthos in the Ionian Sea, 2000 . The coastal National Park Schinia- Marathona, was established in 2000 and although not characterized as marine, it includes an extensive marine part.

q.323.

Between 1996 and 1999, Greece has participated in the European Union Demonstration Programme on Integrated Management of Coastal Zone with 6 Demonstration Projects, funded by EU financial instruments LIFE- TERRA.(<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/iczm/home.htm>).

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	
c) advanced stages of review and assessment	X
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
332. Is your country taking steps to share experiences addressing the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes – case-studies	X
c) yes – other mechanisms (please specify)	
333. Has your country conducted case-studies on the issues identified by SBSTTA: i) pollinators, ii) soil biota, and iii) integrated landscape management and farming systems?	
a) no	
b) yes – pollinators	
c) yes – soil biota	
d) yes – integrated landscape management and farming systems	X

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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
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	X
d) mechanisms in place	
336. Is your country promoting the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
337. Is your country promoting the use of farming practices that not only increase productivity, but also arrest degradation as well as reclaim, rehabilitate, restore and enhance biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
338. Is your country promoting mobilization of farming communities for the development, maintenance and use of their knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
339. Is your country helping to implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

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

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

341. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	
b) yes	X early stages
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	X
c) widespread co-operation	
d) full co-operation in all areas	
343. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) limited additional funds	X
c) significant additional funds	
<i>If a developed country Party –</i>	
344. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity, in particular for capacity building and case-studies, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition?	
a) no	X
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	
348. Is your country supporting the application of the Executive Secretary for observer status in the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	
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 <u>in situ</u> and <u>ex situ</u> 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, <u>inter alia</u> , 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

q. 330

A draft National Strategy on the Genetic Resources (i.e. crops, farm animals and fish) has been prepared . The preparation of a semi-final text which will incorporate the recommendations of the stakeholders is in progress.

q. 334

There are specific mechanisms with regard to public awareness for small scale efforts. Examples: Publication of an illustrated booklet on the races of Greek horses , collection and dissemination of unimproved vegetable varieties by farmers.

q. 335

The Strategy text referred to in Question 330 will be normally followed by an action plan.

q. 336

The transformation is carried out through the implementation of the incentive measures described in the context of the EU Agroenvironmental Regulation (see comments on question 156-164).

q. 340

Greece collaborates mainly with the other member states of the European Union, in meetings and conferences, a network on organic farming specialists and joint research projects.

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

359.Has your country included expertise on forest biodiversity in its delegations to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) not relevant	
360.Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
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	

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

364. Do the actions that your country is taking to address the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity conform with the ecosystem approach?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
365. Do the actions that your country is taking to address the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity take into consideration the outcome of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
366. Will your country contribute to the future work of the UN Forum on Forests?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
367. Has your country provided relevant information on the implementation of this work programme?	
a) no	
b) yes – submission of case-studies	
c) yes – thematic national report submitted	X
d) yes – other means (please give details below)	
368. Has your country integrated national forest programmes into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans applying the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
369. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure participation by the forest sector, private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes – some stakeholders	X
c) yes – all stakeholders	

370. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities including local capacities, to enhance the effectiveness and functions of forest protected area networks, as well as national and local capacities for implementation of sustainable forest management, including restoration?	
a) no	
b) some programmes covering some needs	X
c) many programmes covering some needs	
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	
e) no perceived need	
371. Has your country taken measures to implement the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on valuation of forest goods and services?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) measures taken	X

*Further comments on implementation ON Decisions II/9 and IV/7
(Forest biological diversity)*

q. 359

Delegates for the IFF / IPF and UNFF are mainly experts in forest management and forest biodiversity with relevant academic titles.

q. 360

Greece has been preparing new Forest Management Guidelines for the construction of Forest Management Plans, integrating the priorities of the Work Programme towards the protection of biological diversity in forest ecosystems. At the same time, endangered and rare fauna and flora species are described in the main forest law of the country and protection measures are planned according to this description. At the research level, several research institutions implement research projects on the conservation of forest biodiversity in all levels (genes, species, ecosystems). Applied management guidelines derive from these projects. Furthermore, there have been numerous LIFE NATURE projects focusing on the management of forest areas, aiming at the protection of specific biodiversity features.

q. 361

Greece is participating in several international fora related to forest biodiversity in research (i.e. IUFRO) or policy (i.e. MCPFE, UNFF, FAO, etc.). The main policy of Greece in these fora is the protection of forest biodiversity and the high consideration of services provided by the forests.

q. 362, 364

In Greece, sustainable forest management began in 1839, when a decree “on Forestry personnel” was promulgated and the first (Bavarian) expert forestry officials were appointed.

In 1893 a special forestry service was established and the first chief foresters were appointed. As an additional measure, the top six graduates from the Athens Technical University were given scholarships to study forestry abroad.

In 1911 an Austrian team was invited to come and organise Greece’s forestry service. Model forestry stations were set up, a law was passed regulating low-level forestry personnel, and the country’s first forestry school was established in Vytina.

In 1916 the first 25 Greek graduates from secondary level schools were sent to Austria for a 3-year forestry course. The Superior School of Forestry created in that same year opened its doors in Athens in 1917, and was transferred to the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki 10 years later (1927).

In 1924 the Forestry Service was reorganised into Forest Authorities and Forest Wardenships. In 1937 the first State Management Services were created; these were responsible for the systematic sustainable management of all public forests. In Greece, the public forests represent 65% of the total forested area. Since 1937 it has been mandatory to prepare integrated management plans for public forests as well as for communal, church-owned and private forests, the implementation of which is monitored by the forestry services.

Greece practices a natural silvicultural system, based on the natural composition of the forest ecosystems, natural regeneration and systematic cultivation. In this way our forests maintain high genetic diversity of individual species, the diversity of species and ecosystems, and the composition of landscapes. Other measures that have contributed to the preservation of biodiversity in Greece include the

proclamation of 585 wildlife refuges, 7 controlled hunting zones, 17 reserves for native game (a few more are in the process of proclamation), the regulation, control and licensing of hunting and the prohibition and control of grazing in high forests.

The proclamation of 10 national parks, 19 aesthetic forests and 16 biogenetic reserves had positive effects of biodiversity. Furthermore 270 sites (80% of which contain forest ecosystems) are eligible for inclusion in the NATURA 2000. Although many of these sites include areas already protected under various previously mentioned protection regimes much progress in biodiversity conservation is expected from the creation of the NATURA 2000 network.

Unlike some other Mediterranean European countries, Greece has not, except in very few instances, converted natural forest ecosystems into artificial ones (even reforestation projects use local native species as a rule), which also helps preserve the high biodiversity of our forests at all levels.

1. Research on identification, description and systematic classification of the forest plant communities of this country, which host a high diversity of phytocoenoses and ecosystems, ranging from those of semi-desert areas (palm forests) to the ones of continental, sub-alpine and alpine zones.
2. Research on the genetic diversity of forest species, particularly of the Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), the Norwegian spruce (*Picea abies*) the Beech and the Fir, which appear in a great number of variants and consequently a very wide range of inherited traits. Typical of the Greek situation is the fact that within a single hectare one can find all the varieties of the Scotch pine, from the narrow-crowned slender-branched alpine varieties to the broad-crowned thick-branched pines typical of the plains of Poland. The same is true of the Norwegian spruce. These species which have migrated to Greece during the glacial period from various parts of Northern Europe, due to their high diversity of genotypes that they show, may be thought of as a gene bank not only for Greece but for the whole of Europe. The populations of beech (*Fagus moasiaca*) and fir (*Abies borisii regis*) are more or less hybridised, and display an equally high diversity. Also interesting are the different populations of black pine (*Pinus nigra ssp pallasiana*). This species displays a vast genetic diversity in populations ranging from Mt Parnon and Mt Taygetus to northern Pindus and Rhodopi, plus the isolated populations on certain islands (Thasos, Lesbos, Evia, Samos, etc.).
3. Restoration of degraded forest ecosystems and conversion of coppice forests to high forests.

q. 368

Biodiversity conservation strategies in Greece adopt a managerial approach in conservation and frequently use SFM as a tool. I.e., Action plans and strategies for the conservation of species and habitats describe forestry measures, such as selective logging for the maintenance of forest openings, restoration of riparian forests for the creation of habitats for certain bird species, etc.

q. 369

Greece has taken several measures towards participation of all relevant stakeholders in forestry. Some characteristic measures are:

- The new legal framework for protected areas (2742/99) established in 1999, according to which national and local stakeholders (state, municipalities, scientists, NGOs) are directly involved in management decisions and implementation of specific measures, including several forestry issues in these areas.
- The new national guidelines (2000) that allow Municipalities to take over the management of forest areas around cities and other settlements (green belts), after signing special contracts with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- The legal framework for the involvement of private bodies, NGOs and municipalities in restoration activities of burnt forests.

The experience gained so far includes several difficulties, which are connected with the public character of most forest areas and the inability of many stakeholders to see the long-term importance of forests for

the society. Small scale political interests of different involved parties make the coordination of such activities difficult. The establishment of a legal and organizational framework for the involvement of stakeholders in forest programs is needed, in order to secure and monitor their effectiveness. The main obstacles identified are:

- The largest part of the Greek forests belongs to the state; there is no experience in the cooperation between the forest authorities and other stakeholders in forest management.
- Because forestry in Greece has no major financial importance, but rather a protective one, the main stakeholders do not give high priority to sustainable management.

q. 370

Forest protected areas in Greece belong to the overall system of Protected Areas, which is explained in the relevant chapter of this report. Forest ecosystems are not seen separately from any other ecosystem. Furthermore, most Protected Areas cover a significant variety of ecosystems, including forests, making the term “forest protected areas” meaningless. As far as SFM and restoration is considered, Greece has implemented several small scale projects for the training and education of both forestry personnel and other stakeholders involved, such as:

- 300 foresters and forest technicians were hired in the central and regional forest authorities in 2002. Persons with post graduate studies were preferred, while computer knowledge and foreign languages were required.
- Several programmes for capacity building of forest service employees in new technologies, financed by the Greek State.
- Programmes for capacity building of rural population, involved in forestry, such as forest workers and members of forest cooperatives (unions), co-financed by the Greek State and the EU social fund.

The experience so far has shown that while the level of foresters is high, the level of knowledge and expertise in lower levels (workers, etc.) is inadequate, mainly due to the seasonal character of employment. It is also recognized that the effectiveness of courses and seminars should be monitored in practice. Finally, a main obstacle in the fulfillment of such measures is the inadequacy of funds, which is a general problem for forestry, as explained above.

q. 371

The measures taken on the valuation of forest goods and services include mainly research projects by Universities, Technical Universities and Forest Research Institutes. An example is “MULTIFOR, a project on the opinion of the public about forest values and multi-purpose forestry in two rural areas. The first phase (research) is completed. Communication and awareness measures are implemented (General Directorate of Forests, University of Thessaloniki, NAGREF, Municipalities, Local Forest Workers Unions). The experience so far shows that people of different origin have different perceptions about the value of sustainable forestry and its benefits to the society. The distance of most forests to large urban centers, where the majority of the population lives, is responsible for the ignorance of the society on the subject of sustainable forest management.

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

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

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

Evidence on how Greece is implementing this decision may be found in various sections of the national strategies on renewable resources i.e. wetlands, water, soil, genetic material, and in the plethora of general and specific actions that Greece has taken during 1998-2000 .Multiple co-operation constantly takes place within the European Union.

Decision V/20. Operations of the Convention

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

Most of the activities undertaken by the Hellenic Republic for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and referred to in previous questions were results of synergies amongst several environmental and sustainable development policies. However, the setting up of a Co-ordination Unit for the implementation of the CBD at the University of Athens (1996-2000), and its Steering Committee, the drafting of the National Biodiversity Strategy (1999-2000) and the elaboration of the National Master Plan for the Natural Environment (1999), all by the Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works have been the activities carried out as a direct result of becoming a Contracting Party of the CBD.

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

The European communities Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans and the Strategic Action Plan for the Coastal and Marine Biodiversity in the Mediterranean: A joint initiative in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and the CBD, are considered good examples of the regional cooperation, which is a priority for Greece.

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

The draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans are expected to be redrafted, finalised and adopted following the 2002 WSSD in Johannesburg, within 2003.

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

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

Date of completion:	
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government	
By which authority?	
On what date?	
If the NBSAP has been published please give	
Title:	
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:	
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:			
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

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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

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