

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

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Date of submission:	25 TH July 2001

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

This Report was compiled by the National Focal Point for the Convention on Biological Diversity in Ireland.

As part of the process of preparing this Report, a range of stakeholders comprising Government Departments and agencies, conservation NGOs and other bodies were consulted (Annex 1). These bodies were notified about the preparation of the report and were requested or invited to provide input and information in response to the questions set out in report.

Input was received from 7 of the 27 bodies consulted. Some conservation NGOs stated they were unable to provide information for this report without specific assistance to do so given the extensive nature of the report and the time that would be required to provide input.

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

Since the completion and submission of Irelands first National Biodiversity Report there have been various developments directly relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Ireland. Some of the more important ones include the following.

The primary wildlife/biodiversity legislation has been considerably improved by the enactment of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000. This legislation inter alia:-

- Gives specific and explicit functions to the relevant Government Minister to 'promote the conservation of biological diversity';
- Provides the legal basis for the designation and permanent conservation of the network of nationally important biodiversity sites (Natural Heritage Areas);
- Includes provisions required to enable Ireland to ratify the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA); and
- Introduces a variety of new measures and enhances many existing ones for the conservation of wildlife species and their habitats.

The Second Report on the state of Ireland's environment was published in 2000 (copy attached). With regard to the natural heritage and biodiversity, the report concluded that "despite the slow progress in the management of the natural environment, it is concluded that aspects of the natural heritage are being better resourced than ever before".

Since 1998, major progress has been made in the conservation of protected areas. Legislation is now in place for the designation and conservation of networks of sites of European as well as of national importance. The bulk of the sites considered to be of European significance have now been afforded statutory protection.

A major programme, involving protected areas, commonage framework plans, and monitoring is now underway to address the serious problem of overgrazing by sheep in some upland areas.

In the case of forestry, a number of significant initiatives which should benefit biodiversity have been introduced in the context of Sustainable Forest Management. These include a specific Biodiversity Woodland Scheme, Forestry and Biodiversity Guidelines and a research programme on forest biodiversity.

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

Agricultural biological diversity

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

Forest biological diversity

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

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

Ireland's inland water, marine and coastal, agricultural and forest ecosystems are all important for biodiversity in Ireland. Agriculture is the main land use in Ireland and exerts considerable influence on biodiversity. Being an island, Ireland has a relatively extensive area of marine and coastal ecosystems. The country has been substantially deforested. Little native woodland remains though a scheme to increase the area of native woodlands was recently initiated. Some wetland habitats, such as turloughs and peatlands, are of considerable significance for biodiversity not only in Ireland, but in a European or even global context. The OECD Environmental Performance Review of Ireland (2000) concluded in respect of nature and biodiversity that one key issue was the need to conserve peatlands. As each of the four ecosystems referred to above are significant for biodiversity in Ireland, action to conserve the biodiversity of all four ecosystems must continue.

Over the past decade or so, much of the focus of conservation in Ireland has been the creation and protection of a network of sites of significance for biodiversity at the national and EU levels.

While most sectors recognise the importance of biodiversity, some sectors are further advanced than others in explicitly taking biodiversity on board (e.g. forestry). The integration of biodiversity into all relevant sectors, in particular into those affecting the ecosystems referred to here, is now recognised and is being pursued as a priority. The pursuit of this approach is underpinned and driven to a large extent by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Article 5 Cooperation

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

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

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

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

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

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

Decision V/21. Co-operation with other bodies

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Co-operation with Northern Ireland is a particular and high priority. For many years there has been co-operation and joint projects on biodiversity issues between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland at official level as well as between NGOs, academic bodies, etc. In developing the respective biodiversity strategies for Ireland and Northern Ireland, there has been consultation to provide a common approach as appropriate and to identify issues for co-operation and joint actions. A number of issues are identified in both draft strategies for joint action (e.g. on alien species).

Co-operation on many biodiversity issues is strong in the EU context and this has benefited the conservation of biodiversity in Ireland.

Q14

Yes, with Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) in respect of rivers Foyle and Erne catchments.

Article 6 General measures for conservation and sustainable use

18. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>		
19. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
Both the preparation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan and seeking the integration of biodiversity into all other relevant sectors is now being pursued as a high priority.							

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

<p>20 & 21.</p> <p>Ireland is developing one Biodiversity 'Plan'. The National Biodiversity Plan is now in the final stages of development and is expected to be adopted by Government and published this year (2001).</p> <p>23.</p> <p>A core focus of the Draft National Biodiversity Plan is the integration of biodiversity into other sectors. The draft Plan identifies a variety of 'generic' actions to pursue this as well as including specific chapters on the key sectors for biodiversity in Ireland (i.e. agriculture, forestry, marine and coastal, inland waters and wetlands).</p> <p>26. Particularly with Northern Ireland (UK). Ireland, North and South, comprises one biographical unit and co-operation on biodiversity issues is likely to benefit the conservation of biodiversity in both jurisdictions. Both draft strategies emphasis this and include proposals for co-operation or joint action in a number of areas (e.g. alien species, agricultural genetic resources, red data books, cross border catchments and protected areas).</p> <p>Ireland's draft Biodiversity Plan is also coordinated generally with the European Community (EC) approach.</p> <p>27.</p> <p>Targets are generally framed as strategic targets within the draft National Biodiversity Plan.</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		b) Medium		X		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							
<p>Major national inventory programmes have been carried out for many habitats recognised as being of biodiversity importance and for some species or groups of species. A particular effort has gone into the identification of sites of special biodiversity importance - this work has been supported by the EC. A programme to monitor the conservation status of protected areas is under development.</p> <p>Knowledge of many groups of species, especially invertebrates, is limited. Work at the genetic level, with a few exceptions, is very much in its infancy.</p> <p>Overall, it is generally considered, that there are many gaps in knowledge and that much remains to be done in relation to identification, monitoring and the development of indicators for biodiversity.</p> <p>The recent report on the state of Ireland's environment (Ireland's Environment: A Millennium Report (EPA, 2000) - copy attached) concludes that inadequate data is a serious problem in relation to managing biodiversity in Ireland.</p> <p>NGOs, academic institutions, private individuals, etc. play a significant role in work on identification and monitoring.</p>							

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

Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment

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

42. Is your country using rapid assessment and remote sensing techniques?	
a) no	
b) assessing opportunities	x
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(limited extent)
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(limited extent)
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 (some activities)

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

47. Is your country actively involved in co-operating with other countries in your region in the field of indicators, monitoring and assessment?	
a) no	
b) limited co-operation	
c) extensive co-operation on some issues	x
d) extensive co-operation on a wide range of issues	
48. Has your country made available case studies concerning the development and implementation of assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
c) yes - through the national CHM	

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The report 'Ireland's Environment' (EPA, 2000) includes information on various identification, monitoring and assessment programmes relating to the environment generally.

The EPA has commissioned a large scale project titled 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions' and Climate Change which includes the assessment of the impacts of climate change in Ireland and the establishment of indicators of climate change in Ireland.

Ireland will participate in EU "Quality of Life" Project aimed at establishment of European Online database of European ex-situ collections of PGRFA. Data available will include taxonomic, passport and characterisation details. Data base expected to be established by 2003.

41.C.

Yes, for example the use of key macroinvertebrate groups in the assessment of river water quality by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)

42.C.

Yes, for example the use of remote sensing for lake water quality by the EPA.

Decisions on Taxonomy

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

50. Has your country carried out a national taxonomic needs assessment, and/or held workshops to determine national taxonomic priorities?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of assessment	
c) advanced stages of assessment	
d) assessment completed	
51. Has your country developed a national taxonomic action plan?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) action plan in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
52. Is your country making available appropriate resources to enhance the availability of taxonomic information?	
a) no	
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	X
b) some opportunities	
c) significant opportunities	
54. Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections?	
a) no	
b) some investment	
c) significant investment	X
55. Is your country encouraging partnerships between taxonomic institutions in developed and developing countries?	
a) no	X
b) yes - stated policy	
c) yes - systematic national programme	
56. Has your country adopted any international agreed levels of collection housing?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) being implemented by some collections	
d) being implemented by all major collections	

57. Has your country provided training programmes in taxonomy?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	
58. Has your country reported on measures adopted to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy, to designate national reference centres, and to make information housed in collections available to countries of origin?	
a) no	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	X
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	
d) yes - significant extent	
61. Has your country given special attention to international funding of fellowships for specialist training abroad or for attracting international experts to national or regional courses?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
62. Has your country provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

The Draft National Biodiversity Plan includes proposals for some strengthening of taxonomic capacity and to encourage taxonomic research.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
71. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Severely limiting <input type="checkbox"/>					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
With regard to protected areas, resources are considered 'adequate'. In the case of conservation outside of protected areas, resources are considered to be 'limiting'.					

72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?	
a) system under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) national review of protected areas coverage available	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) national protected area systems plan in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) relatively complete system in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) no, under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) programme or policy in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) reports on implementation available	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X
80. Has your country made attempts to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components (8i)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	

81. Has your country developed and maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations (8k)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	X
82. Does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity (8l)?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a significant extent	X
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
83. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for <i>in-situ</i> conservation particularly to developing countries (8m)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
84. Does your country receive financial and other support for <i>in situ</i> conservation (8m)?	
a) no	X(generally no; other than GEF)
b) yes (if so, please give details below)	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

PROTECTED AREAS

There is a comprehensive policy and legislation framework now in place to provide for protected areas of both European and National importance. Major process of formal implementation of European network in Ireland now in final phase.

Legislation to provide a specific statutory basis for nationally important sites was outstanding until recently. In 2000, a statutory basis was provided for the designation and conservation of Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) - the network of sites of national importance - in the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000. The approach adopted ensured that the NHA system is scientifically based and will guarantee the permanent protection of NHAs (without the need for compulsory purchase). The legislation also provides for notification of landowners, right of objection to proposed designations or restrictions, compensation, arbitration, and the continuation of use or activities that are compatible with conserving the ecological interest of the site.

The various types and extent of protected areas in Ireland were outlined in the previous National Biodiversity Report. Since then legislation has been enacted to provide a statutory basis for NHAs as noted above, and also to provide for the designation and conservation of 'Refuges for Flora'. An update of the current extent of the main types of protected areas established primarily for biodiversity conservation is provided in the Table below.

The recent report on the state of Ireland's environment (EPA, 2000) noted that while significant resources have been devoted to the protection of areas of national and European importance, little attention has been given to sites of local significance which cumulatively constitute an important part of Ireland's natural heritage.

Species Protection

Comprehensive legislation for species protection in place since 1976 and updated and enhanced in 2000.

Table. Categories and approximate extent of protected areas in Ireland in 2001

Category	Objectives	Area covered (ha.)	Number of sites
Nature Reserves	Conservation of flora and fauna and habitats	18,095	78
National Parks	Nature conservation and public use and appreciation	59,060	6
Special Protection Areas [SPAs]	Conservation of bird species and habitats of European importance	Approx. 230,000	110
Special Areas of Conservation [SACs]	Conservation of flora, fauna and habitats of European importance	Approx. 990,000	362
Proposed Natural Heritage Areas [NHAs]	Protection of flora, fauna, habitats and geological sites of national importance	Approx. 900,000	1,100+
Wildfowl Sanctuaries	Hunting of birds prohibited	n/a	68
Refuges for Fauna	Conservation of the habitat of named species of animals	n/a	7
Ramsar Sites	Conservation of wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention	70,550	47
UNESCO Biosphere Reserves	Nature conservation and sustainable use	11,500	2
Biogenetic Reserves	Conservation of biodiversity in sites recognised by Council of Europe	6,587	14

n/a = figure not available

Article 8h Alien species

86. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	x	c) Low	
87. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	x
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Overall the priority is rated at 'medium'. It is considered that the priority varies from high to low depending on the sector or aspect of alien species involved.					

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	
b) discussion on potential projects under way	
c) active development of new projects	X
92. Does your national strategy and action plan address the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X (in draft in preparation)

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

93. Is your country applying the interim guiding principles for prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species in the context of activities aimed at implementing article 8(h) of the Convention, and in the various sectors?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) limited implementation in some sectors	x
d) extensive implementation in some sectors	
e) extensive implementation in most sectors	
94. Has your country submitted case-studies to the Executive Secretary focusing on thematic assessments?	
a) no	X
b) in preparation	
c) yes	
95. Has your country submitted written comments on the interim guiding principles to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
96. Has your country given priority to the development and implementation of alien invasive species strategies and action plans?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
97. In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed or involved itself in mechanisms for international co-operation, including the exchange of best practices?	
a) no	
b) trans-boundary co-operation	x
c) regional co-operation	

d) multilateral co-operation	
98. Is your country giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
99. Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
100. Has your country developed effective education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
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

The draft National Biodiversity Plan contains a commitment to review the issue of alien species and to prepare a comprehensive strategy.

In some cases, specific policies relating to alien species already exist (e.g. alien insects and diseases relevant to forestry).

Improved provisions to enable the regulation of alien species were introduced in recent legislation (Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000).

In the context of co-operation with Northern Ireland (UK) on biodiversity, the issue of alien species is being addressed amongst the first priorities.

Ireland has submitted a thematic report on alien 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	X	c) Limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
There are no indigenous communities per se within the meaning of the CBD//Article 8j in Ireland.					

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	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
106. Is your country working to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	

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

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

108. Has your country supplied information on the implementation of Article 8(j) to other Contracting Parties through media such as the national report?	
a) no	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - CHM	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
109. Has your country submitted case-studies to the Executive Secretary on measures taken to develop and implement the Convention's provisions relating to indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
110. Is your country participating in appropriate working groups and meetings?	
a) none	
b) some	X
c) all	
111. Is your country facilitating the active participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities in these working groups and meetings?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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

112. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in the annex to the decision, and identified how to implement those tasks appropriate to national circumstances?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes (please provide details)	
113. Is your country integrating such tasks into its ongoing programmes, taking into account the identified collaboration opportunities?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	X
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	
114. Is your country taking full account of existing instruments, guidelines, codes and other relevant activities in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	X
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	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	X
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	
116. Has your country fully incorporated women and women's organizations in the activities undertaken to implement the programme of work contained in the annex to the decision and other relevant activities under the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
117. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	X
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	X (at international level, supports right to such participation in CBD meetings)
118. Has your country provided case studies on methods and approaches concerning the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge, and the control of that information by indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
d) yes - through the national CHM	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	
119. Does your country exchange information and share experiences regarding national legislation and other measures for the protection of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
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	X
c) some measures	

d) extensive measures	
121. Has your country supported the development of registers of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, in collaboration with these communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
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	X
c) partly	
d) fully	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
128. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>originating outside</i> your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
129. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
130. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources <i>native</i> to your country (9b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

131. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources <i>originating elsewhere</i> (9b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
132. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
133. Has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions (9c)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X(limited)
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
134. Has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for <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	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
135. Has your country cooperated in providing financial and other support for <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	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

There is a National Programme in operation aimed at conservation, characterisation and utilisation of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The National Botanic Gardens grow a number of exotic species which are threatened or rare in their native habitats. These include a large collection of orchids collected in Belize over the past 5 years.

Ireland supports ex-situ conservation via the CGIAR system.

Article 10 Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

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

139. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making (10a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) review of implementation available	
140. Has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity (10b)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
e) review of implementation available	

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

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

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

146. Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	X(SOME)

147. Has your country assisted other Parties to increase their capacity to implement sustainable-use practices, programmes and policies at regional, national and local levels, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) to a limited extent	
d) to a significant extent (please provide details)	X
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	X
b) mechanisms under development	
c) mechanisms in place (please describe)	
149. Has your country identified areas for conservation that would benefit through the sustainable use of biological diversity and communicated this information to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	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	X
b) yes	
153. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Mountains?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
154. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Ireland's National Sustainable Development Strategy was published in 1997.

Q147. Provision of sustainable development assistance is a guiding principle for the Ireland Aid Funding. Ireland's priorities for development are undertaken in consultation with the partner Government and where relevant, biodiversity issues would arise and be addressed in that context.

Q150. Sustainable Development underlines the tourism inputs of the new regional operational programmes for the period to 2006. A special pilot Tourism and the Environment Initiative formed part of the 1994-1999 Operational Programme for Tourism. It consisted of 22 practical projects which researched best practice where tourism and the environment interface.

Q155. Funding will be available for new tourism product developments under the EU assisted regional operational programmes. Such support may be availed of by both the business and voluntary sector.

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	x	c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>In the case of agriculture in particular, one major incentive scheme (The Rural Environment Protection Scheme - REPS - which implements the EU agri-environment measure) is in place which seeks to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Resources available for REPS are 'good'.</p> <p>In the case of most other sectors, incentive measures are in the early stages of development.</p>							

158. Are programmes in place to identify and ensure the adoption of economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	x
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	x
e) review of implementation available	x (principally for one agriculture programme)
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	
c) some reviews complete	X (limited number)
d) as far as practically possible	

161. Has your country ensured the development of mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas, <i>inter alia</i> , national accounting systems and investment strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of identifying mechanisms	x
c) advanced stages of identifying mechanisms	
d) mechanisms in place	
e) review of impact of mechanisms available	
162. Has your country developed training and capacity building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives?	
a) no	
b) planned	
c) some	X (mainly limited to REPS)
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	x
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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

165. Is your country actively designing and implementing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	x
c) advanced stages of development	
d) measures in place	
e) review of implementation available	
166. Has your country identified threats to biological diversity and underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including the relevant actors, as a stage in designing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) partially reviewed	x
c) thoroughly reviewed	

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

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Q172 The National Climate Change Strategy was published by the Minister for the Environment & Local Government in November 2001. The Strategy sets out how Ireland will meet its Kyoto target to reduce emissions of a basket of six greenhouse gases to 13% above 1990 levels by the period 2008-2012. The National Climate Change Strategy is a cross sectoral strategy and responsibility for implementation of measures is spread across a number of departments.

The principles of biodiversity and sustainability have been taken on board in the Strategy. The National Climate Change Strategy specifically recognises the principles set out in the National Sustainable Development Strategy including the precautionary principle, the integration of environmental considerations into all areas, the polluter pays principle, shared responsibility to achieve sustainable development objectives and social equity which is also referred to in the draft National Biodiversity Plan.

The issue of biodiversity has particular relevance in terms of agriculture and forestry policy within the National Climate Change Strategy. The administration of REPS now places a greater emphasis on strengthening the relationship between forestry policy and agricultural policy. It is envisaged that assessments for all applications to REPS will include identification of land suitable for productive afforestation. The criteria to be applied on prioritisation of land use between forestry and agriculture will include biodiversity, landscape, pollution control, carbon sequestration, wildlife and productivity/sustainability of land for forestry and agriculture.

The national afforestation programme is set out in Growing for the Future, A Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Ireland. Both the Forestry Strategy and the National Climate Change Strategy acknowledge that from the biodiversity perspective forest policy should favour broadleaves to the greatest extent possible. The reduction of Sitka Spruce planting to 60% represents the sector's commitment to achieving increased biodiversity, albeit at some cost to forest production.

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	
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 (limited extent)
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	

If a developed country Party -

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

a) no	
b) yes, where relevant	x

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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

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

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

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	
b) still to be done	x
c) under development	
d) yes	
191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x
<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(in draft)
c) yes (please give details)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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Article 14 Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

194. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	x	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	d) Severely 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	x
c) yes - significant extent	
200. Is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) no, assessment of options in progress	
c) some completed, others in progress	x
b) yes	
201. Has your country mechanisms in place to notify other States of cases of imminent or grave danger or damage to biological diversity originating in your country and potentially affecting those States (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	x
e) no need identified	
202. Has your country mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your State to biological diversity in other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	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	x
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	
d) information provided on the national CHM	
206. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting Parties information on measures and agreements on liability and redress applicable to damage to biological diversity?	
a) no	x
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	
d) information provided on the national CHM	

Decision V/18. Impact assessment, liability and redress

207. Has your country integrated environmental impact assessment into programmes on thematic areas and on alien species and tourism?	
a) no	
b) partly integrated	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	
c) fully	x
209. When developing new legislative and regulatory frameworks, does your country have in place mechanisms to ensure the consideration of biological diversity concerns from the early stages of the drafting process?	
a) no	
b) in some circumstances	
c) in all circumstances	x
210. Does your country ensure the involvement of all interested and affected stakeholders in a participatory approach to all stages of the assessment process?	
a) no	
b) yes - in certain circumstances	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	
c) many programmes in place	x
d) integrated approach to building expertise	
212. Has your country carried out pilot environmental impact assessment projects, in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide further details)	x
213. Does your country use strategic environmental assessments to assess not only the impact of individual projects, but also their cumulative and global effects, and ensure the results are applied in the decision making and planning processes?	
a) no	
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	
b) yes (please append or summarise)	x

Further comments on implementation of this Article

There is comprehensive EIA system in place reflecting EC requirements and comprehending all types of activities with potentially adverse implications for the environment, including biodiversity.

The Government is committed to introducing a specific Strategic Environmental Assessment System and work on its development and pilot application has been underway for some time.

More generally at the strategic level, the procedures in place for the adoption by Government of legislation, national plans, etc. are intended to ensure that all relevant issues including biodiversity are considered.

Development co-operation projects are subject to environmental assessment as appropriate.

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	x	c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>While not a high priority to date in terms of implications for biodiversity within this country, Ireland recognises and supports the need for further work on this objective.</p>							

218. Has your country endeavoured to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties (15(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	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	x
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
220. Has your country an open participation planning process, or any other process in place, to ensure that access to resources is subject to prior informed consent (15(5))?	
a) no	x
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) processes in place	
221. Has your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Contracting Parties (15(6))?	
a) no measures	x
b) some measures in place	
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	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 or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	

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

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

Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources

229. Has your country designated a national focal point and one or more competent national authorities to be responsible for access and benefit-sharing arrangements or to provide information on such arrangements?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
c) yes, and Executive Secretary notified	
230. Do your country's national biodiversity strategy, and legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, contribute to conservation and sustainable use objectives?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X (in draft NBP)
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	x
b) legislation under development	
c) yes	
234. Is your country co-ordinating its positions in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes	x
235. Has your country provided information to the Executive Secretary on user institutions, the market for genetic resources, non-monetary benefits, new and emerging mechanisms for benefit sharing, incentive measures, clarification of definitions, <i>sui generis</i> systems and "intermediaries"?	
a) no	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

The issue of addressing 'Access to genetic resources' through Irelands ODA is being examined and pursued by the Government, including in consultation with relevant stakeholders (government departments, NGOs, overseas stakeholders).

More generally, a proposal to carry out a comprehensive review of this issue in the Irish context is currently with Government Departments.

Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology

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

240. Has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment (16(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	x
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
241. Is your country aware of any initiatives under which relevant technology is transferred to your country on concessional or preferential terms (16(2))?	
a) no	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	
c) yes - significant extent	x

Decision III/17. Intellectual property rights

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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

Article 18 Technical and scientific cooperation

252. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	x
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	x
d) comprehensive measures in place	
255. Do the measures taken to promote cooperation with other Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention pay special attention to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution building (18(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	x
256. Has your country encouraged and developed methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention (18(4))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) methods in place	X(some)

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	x
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	

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

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

Ireland has a designated CHM Focal Point, through whom information on biodiversity can be accessed (including by e-mail). There is no specific CHM website as yet.

Article 19 Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

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

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

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	x	c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	
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
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
276. Has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention, as agreed between you and the interim financial mechanism (20(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes	x
<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	X (under consideration)
b) yes	

Decision III/6. Additional financial resources

280. Is your country working to ensure that all funding institutions (including bilateral assistance agencies) are striving to make their activities more supportive of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	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	x
b) procedures being established	
c) yes (please provide details)	
283. Are details available of your country's financial support to national biodiversity activities?	
a) no	
b) not in a standardized format	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

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

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

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

292. Has your country provided information on experiences gained through activities funded by the financial mechanism?							
a) no activities							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

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)	0
b) COP 2 (Jakarta)	1
c) COP 3 (Buenos Aires)	12
d) COP 4 (Bratislava)	3
e) COP 5 (Nairobi)	1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

295 Ireland participates in EU preparatory meetings for COPs.

296 & 298 Two voluntary contributions were made in the years 1997 and 1999 each of IR£30,000. These were provided to facilitate the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in meetings of the COP and SBSTTA. Some of these funds were used to support a regional meeting.

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

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)	2
b) SBSTTA II (Montreal)	1
c) SBSTTA III (Montreal)	1
d) SBSTTA IV (Montreal)	0
e) SBSTTA V (Montreal)	1

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Article 26 Reports

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

Decision IV/14 National reports

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

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

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

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

An extensive programme to monitor the biological quality of rivers and streams (some 3,200 locations sampled every 3 years) has been in operation since 1971 and forms the basis for the National River Quality Classification System.

A less extensive system is in place to monitor the quality of lakes (covering only a minor proportion of the estimated 6,000 lakes over 1ha).

A national monitoring programme for groundwaters commenced in 1995 - previous investigations have been of a local nature.

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

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

326. Is your country contributing to the implementation of the work plan on coral bleaching?	
a) no	
b) yes	
c) not relevant	X
327. Is your country implementing other measures in response to coral bleaching?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details below)	
c) not relevant	X
328. 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

An assessment of the quality status of Ireland's marine and coastal areas and adjacent seas was undertaken by the Marine Institute (Boelans et al., 1999) as part of a wider OSPAR assessment of the waters of the north-east Atlantic.

Q321. A specific coastal zone management strategy is being elaborated.

Q325. A review has been undertaken and published on marine biodiversity and the report identifies priorities for national action.

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

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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
336. Is your country promoting the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	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	x
b) yes	

342. Is your country promoting regional and thematic co-operation within this framework of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some co-operation	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	x
b) limited additional funds	
c) significant additional funds	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
344. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity, in particular for capacity building and case-studies, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition?	
a) no	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	x
b) signed - ratification in process	
c) instrument of ratification deposited	
348. Is your country supporting the application of the Executive Secretary for observer status in the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation?	
a) no	
b) yes	x

349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	x
b) yes	
350. Is your country compiling case-studies and implementing pilot projects relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	x
b) yes (please provide details)	
351. Has information on scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies been supplied to other Contracting Parties through media such as the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) not applicable	x
b) no	
c) yes - national report	
d) yes - through the CHM	
e) yes - other means (please give details below)	
352. Has your country considered how to address generic concerns regarding such technologies as genetic use restriction technologies under international and national approaches to the safe and sustainable use of germplasm?	
a) no	
b) yes - under consideration	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, <i>inter alia</i> , the specific nature of variety-specific and trait-specific genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	x
b) yes - developed but not yet applied	
c) yes - developed and applied	
358. Has information about these regulations been made available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	x
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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

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	X
c) yes - significant extent	
362. Does your country give high priority to allocation of resources to activities that advance the objectives of the Convention in respect of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
For developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition -	
363. When requesting assistance through the GEF, Is your country proposing projects which promote the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes	

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

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

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

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

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

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

The Council for Forest Research (COFORD) has developed a programme of forest research with the Environmental Protection Agency. It has commissioned a large scale project entitled "Forestry and Environmental Impacts: Addressing Water Quality and Biodiversity". Among the projects within the programme are:

- Biodiversity assessment of afforestation sites;
- Assessment of biodiversity by different stages of the forest cycle; and
- Investigation of experimental methods to enhance biodiversity in plantation forests.

Decision V/20. Operations of the Convention

375. Does your country take into consideration gender balance, involvement of indigenous people and members of local communities, and the range of relevant disciplines and expertise, when nominating experts for inclusion in the roster?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
376. Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	X
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:

Specific activities which have been carried out as a direct result of ratification of The CBD include:

- a) The development of a National Biodiversity Action Plan. It is expected that this Plan will be adopted by Government and published this year (2001).
- b) A Minister of Government - The Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands - has been given specific and explicit functions to 'promote the conservation of biological diversity' (in the wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000).
- c) Between Government Departments, a Biodiversity Steering Group - comprising designated focal points in key departments - has been established.

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

Co-operation on biodiversity, including the development of biodiversity strategies/plans, with Northern Ireland (UK) is a particular priority.

Ireland is involved with other member states of the EU on biodiversity, both in terms of implementation within the Community and on the international level.

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

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

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

Annex I Stakeholders consulted for the preparation of this report

<u>Name of Organisation</u>	<u>Type of Organisation</u>	<u>Submission Received</u>
Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands(DAHGI)- National Parks and Wildlife	Government	No
DAHGI - Education and Visitor Service	Government	No
DAHGI - National Botanic Gardens	Government	Yes
DAHGI - Natural History Museum	Government	No
Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development	Government	Yes
Dept. of Education and Science	Government	No
Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	Government	No
Dept. of Environment and Local Government	Government	Yes
Dept. of Finance	Government	No
Dept. of Foreign Affairs	Government	No
Dept. of the Marine and Natural Resources (Forest Service)	Government	Yes
Dept. of the Marine and Natural Resources (marine side)	Government	Yes
Dept of Tourism, Sport and Recreation	Government	Yes
Heritage Council	Statutory Body	No
Central Fisheries Board	Statutory Body	No
Environmental Protection Agency	Statutory Body	Yes
Coillte Teoranta	Statutory Body	No
Comhar - The National Sustainable Development Partnership	Non-Statutory Government advisory body	No
Royal Irish Academy	NGO	No
An Taisce	NGO	No
	NGO	No
Irish Peatland Conservation Council	NGO	No
Irish Seed Savers Association	NGO	No
Irish Wildlife Trust	NGO	No
National Association of Regional Game Councils	NGO	No
Trócaire	NGO	No
VOICE	NGO	No