

IRELAND

Third national report

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A. REPORTING PARTY

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Information on the preparation of the report

Box I.

Please provide information on the preparation of this report, including information on stakeholders involved and material used as a basis for the report.

As part of the process of preparing this Report, a range of stakeholders comprising Government Department and agencies, conservation NGOs and other bodies were consulted. 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 the report.

B. PRIORITY SETTING, TARGETS AND OBSTACLES

Box II.

Please provide an overview of the status and trends of various components of biological diversity in your country based on the information and data available.

Ireland's mild climate and exceptionally diverse geology have rendered it suitable for a relatively diverse flora and fauna. These factors have gone some way towards countering the effects of its separation from Europe in post-glacial times - before many species had a chance to (re-)colonise. Its extended coastline and large expanse of territorial waters have contributed to its exceptional maritime and marine diversity, while its "saucer-like" topography (with most of the montane areas concentrated near the coast, rather than along a central spine) created circumstances where extensive and diverse freshwater wetlands could develop.

Agriculture commenced in neolithic times and rural population reached its peak in the nineteenth century, so that much of the "natural" landscape was already altered at that stage and some species - such as the wolf - were lost. During this time, virtually all of Ireland's native woodlands were subject to clearance so that today's woodlands are virtually all of secondary origin. The famine of 1845-48 led a sharp decline in subsequent rural depopulation, with further fundamental changes in the landscape as a consequence.

The biodiversity resource of Ireland today is the combination of these climatic, geological, topographical and historical factors. Among the features of international importance are the unique juxtapositions of mediterranean flora (and fauna) with species of colder climates, the extensive coverage of peatlands, and the exceptional range of coastal and wetland bird species in summer and winter. Some of the habitats for which Ireland is most famous - such as the machair of the west and northwest coast and the limestone pavement (of which the most extensive areas are in the Burren, Co. Clare) - are the result of the interaction of nature with an agricultural regime that stabilised in post-famine times.

Accelerated development since 1960 - and, in particular, in recent decades, has tended to have negative impacts on Ireland's biodiversity. Habitat degradation and loss was the main cause, and the agricultural intensification which followed Ireland's entry into the then EEC, was a major contributory factor. More recently, the increased pace of economic growth (with the associated development of new roads, housing, tourist facilities etc.) has put further pressure on biodiversity.

Public awareness of biodiversity issues in Ireland lags behind that in most EU countries. This is partly because, until recently, Ireland was a relatively poor country and partly because of the perception - no longer the case - that our biodiversity resource was much more intact and less impacted by development. This poorly developed public awareness has impeded political momentum towards conservation - when there are competing economic considerations - and has resulted in conservation activities being under-resourced.

On the positive side, the legislative basis for protection biodiversity conservation has been greatly strengthened in recent decades with the adoption of national and European legislation dealing with a wide range of environmental issues, including nature conservation. Nevertheless, gaps remain in the legislation - for example, there is a need for statutory controls relating to alien invasive species.

Priority Setting

1. Please indicate, by marking an "X" in the appropriate column below, the level of priority your country accords to the implementation of various articles, provisions and relevant programmes of the work of the Convention.

Article/Provision/Programme of Work	Level of Priority		
	High	Medium	Low
a) Article 5 – Cooperation		X	
b) Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use	X		
c) Article 7 - Identification and monitoring	X		
d) Article 8 – <i>In-situ</i> conservation	X		
e) Article 8(h) - Alien species	X		
f) Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions			X
g) Article 9 – <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation		X	
h) Article 10 – Sustainable use of components of biological diversity	X		
i) Article 11 - Incentive measures	X		
j) Article 12 - Research and training	X		
k) Article 13 - Public education and awareness	X		
l) Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts	X		
m) Article 15 - Access to genetic resources			X
n) Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology			X
o) Article 17 - Exchange of information		X	
p) Article 18 – Scientific and technical cooperation			X
q) Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits		X	
r) Article 20 - Financial resources			X
s) Article 21 - Financial mechanism		X	
t) Agricultural biodiversity	X		

u) Forest biodiversity	X		
v) Inland water biodiversity	X		
w) Marine and coastal biodiversity	X		
x) Dryland and subhumid land biodiversity	X		
y) Mountain biodiversity		X	

Challenges and Obstacles to Implementation

2. Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the provisions of the Articles of the Convention (5, 6,7, 8, 8h, 8j, 9, 10, 11,12, 13, 14, 15,16, 17, 18, 19 and 20)	
3 = High Challenge	1 = Low Challenge
2 = Medium Challenge	0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome
N/A = Not applicable	

Challenges	Articles																	
	5	6	7	8	8h	8j	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
a) Lack of political will and support	0	2	2	1	2	N/a	1	2	1	2	2	1	N/a	N/a	1	0	0	2
b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	N/a	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	2	1	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	N/a
c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	2	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	2
d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	N/a	1	1	2	3	N/a	0	2	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	N/a	N/a	2
e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	1	2	1	2	3	N/a	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	1	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	0	1	1	0	N/a	N/a	1	1	0	1	1	N/a
g) Loss of	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	0	0	N/a	0	0	N/a	1	1	0	N/a	N/a	N/a

traditional knowledge																		
h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	N/a	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	N/a	2	1	1	0	1	1	1
j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	1
k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	N/a	1	N/a	1	N/a	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	1
m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	2	3	3	3	3	1	2	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	3	1	1	2
n) Lack of economic incentive measures	N/a	1	N/a	2	N/a	N/a	2	2	3	2	N/a	0	1	1	0	N/a	N/a	1
o) Lack of benefit-sharing	N/a	N/a	N/a	1	N/a	1	0	1	1	0	N/a	N/a	1	1	0	N/a	N/a	1
p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	1	1	1	1	3	N/a	0	1	1	0	N/a	N/a	1	1	0	N/a	N/a	1
q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	N/a	1	N/a	1	N/a	N/a	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	N/a	N/a	N/a
r) Lack of effective partnerships	1	1	1	1	1	N/a	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
s) Lack of engagement of scientific	N/a	1	1	1	1	N/a	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	N/a	N/a	N/a

community																		
t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	1	1	1	1	3	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
u) Poverty	N/a	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/a	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	N/a
v) Population pressure	N/a	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/a	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	N/a
w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	N/a	1	N/a	1	N/a	N/a	0	1	1	0	N/a	1	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	N/a
x) Lack of capacities for local communities	N/a	1	N/a	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	N/a
y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	N/a
z) Weak law enforcement capacity	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	N/a	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	N/a
ab) Others (please specify)	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	0	N/a	N/a	N/a

2010 Target

The Conference of the Parties, in decision VII/30, annex II, decided to establish a provisional framework for goals and targets in order to clarify the 2010 global target adopted by decision VI/26, help assess the progress towards the target, and promote coherence among the programmes of work of the Convention. Parties and Governments are invited to develop their own targets with this flexible framework. Please provide relevant information by responding to the questions and requests contained in the following tables.

Box III.

Goal 1	Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes.		
Target 1.1	At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
At least 10 per cent of each of Ireland's plant habitats effectively conserved. This target supports actions 31 and 78 of Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan, and specifically looks at conserving habitats rather than species			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
See Box 4			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box IV.

Target 1.2	Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
11% of the national territory has been designated as part of a network of European sites of conservation importance know as Natura 2000 for species and habitats that are considered threatened at European level.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
Favourable conservation status for habitats and species of European importance.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
Population and development pressures and landowner resistance.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box V.

Goal 2	Promote the conservation of species diversity		
Target 2.1	Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
Currently red data books exist for vertebrates, vascular plants and stoneworths. Further Red Data Books are planned for lichens and bryophytes and Red lists are in preparation for some invertebrate groups. A new vascular plant Red Data Book is planned for 2010.			
A National response to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation has been established, with 16 Targets to conserve Ireland's plant and fungi species: Ireland's National Strategy for Plant Conservation (NSPC) .			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		
b) Inland water	X		
c) Marine and coastal			
d) Dry and subhumid land			
e) Forest			
f) Mountain			

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
Improvement of conservation status for threatened species.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box VI .

Target 2.2	Status of threatened species improved
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X
Please provide details below.	
<p>A conservation plan for the Natterjack Toad is being implemented</p> <p>Ireland is bound by the terms of the EU Birds & Habitats Directives in relation to listed habitats and species.</p> <p>Four Draft Species Action Plans (SAPs) have been prepared in conjunction with our counterparts in Northern Ireland, the Environment & Heritage Services (EHS). The species are, the Irish Hare, the Pollan, the Corncrake and Irish Lady's Tresses Orchid. Drafts of these plans have been placed on the respective Departmental websites for public consultation.</p> <p>Species Action Plans are being prepared for Margaritifera Margaritifera (freshwater mussel), Killarney Fern, Red Squirrel and all Bat species, excluding the lesser horseshoe bat. The Red Squirrel and Margaritifera Margaritifera Species Action Plans will be joint projects with the EHS (NI) while the Killarney Fern and Bat Species Action Plans will be carried out by the NPWS.</p> <p>The National Botanic Gardens is the lead agency for the <i>National Strategy for Plant Conservation</i>. This plan has identified the importance of ex-situ actions with regard to Critically Endangered species of vascular plants in Ireland. The Gardens will participate in a programme with <i>PlantNetwork: the plant collections network of Britain and Ireland</i> to collate a complete dataset of cultivation protocols for all threatened species in Ireland (ca. 120 spp.).</p>	

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box VII.

Goal 3	Promote the conservation of genetic diversity
Target 3.1	Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	
	X

Please provide details below.

As part of **Ireland's National Strategy for Plant Conservation, Target 13** states: Safeguard the traditional practices based on plant resources, and their associated knowledge, that support local communities and their livelihoods in Ireland.

Target 9 of the NSPC states: Conserve the genetic diversity of all known indigenous traditional Irish agricultural plant varieties of crops, land races and crop relatives as well as other socio-economically valuable plant species.

The Department of Agriculture and Food operate a grant scheme to assist farmers who breed Irish Maol Cattle, Dexter Cattle, Kerry Cattle, Connemara Sheep, the Irish Draught Horse, the Connemara Pony and recently the Kerry Bog Pony.

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		See above
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	

III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X

Please provide details below.

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.

V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.

Continued availability of rare crop and livestock breeds.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box VIII .

Goal 4	Promote sustainable use and consumption.		
Target 4.1	Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Except in the Fisheries and Agriculture sectors, biodiversity based products in Ireland are not generally of economic importance.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box IX.

Target 4.2	Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
In the case of peatland protected areas one of the objectives is to control peat extraction. The Forestry legislation regulates the exploitation of timber. Ireland is bound by EU legislation governing the exploitation of Marine fisheries.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal	X		
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box X.

Target 4.3		No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target		X	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Ireland has ratified CITES and in addition is bound by stricter EU Wildlife legislation			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Ireland reports to the European Union on its implementation of CITES and related EU Wildlife Trade legislation.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XI .

Goal 5	Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.		
Target 5.1	Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
Ireland is bound in this regard by the provision of the EU Habitats, Birds and Water Framework Directives. These oblige us to ensure favourable conservation status of habitats of European importance and to implement a comprehensive water management regime.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
The above mentioned EU legislation governs all economic use of protected habitats and species.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
Favourable conservation status for habitats of European importance.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XII.

Goal 6	Control threats from invasive alien species.		
Target 6.1	Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>An all-island review of Alien Species has recently been completed in conjunction with the Northern Ireland authorities and a strategy is being drawn up for implementation of the recommendations. In the meantime measures are in place for the control and management of certain species such as the rhododendron, ponticum, and zebra mussel.</p> <p>A new list of prohibited weeds is being drafted in consultation the Northern Ireland authorities, with the aim of banning the sale, introduction, release or movement, notably of aquatic alien plants.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water	X		Control of invasive waterweeds by means of publicity and surveillance. Control of the spread of Zebra Mussels by publicity and surveillance
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XIII.

Target 6.2	Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
The management strategies for Ireland's National Parks provide for the eradication of rhododendron. The total eradication of two species from the localities where they have become established is planned: Hydrocotyle ranunculoides and Myriophyllum aquaticum.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XIV.

Goal 7	Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.		
Target 7.1	Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XV.

Target 7.2	Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
The EU Water Framework Directive and Nitrates Directive have specific obligations with regard to the reduction or elimination of water pollution.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water	X		See above under 1)
c) Marine and coastal	X		See above under 1)
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XVI .

Goal 8	Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods.		
Target 8.1	Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Many of Ireland's habitat protection measures contribute to the delivery of clean water.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XVII.

Target 8.2	Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Many of Ireland's habitat protection measures contribute to the delivery of clean water.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XVIII.

Goal 9	Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities.		
Target 9.1	Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>Under both EU Leader and the National Rural Development Program there are various measures that deal with the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices. Funds are allocated to the various local Leader Groups who are the decision making authority in relation to approving actions falling within its business plan. A checklist of archived materials and ethnographic records covering traditional practices with reference to plant materials is being prepared at the National Botanic Gardens.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XIX.

Target 9.2		Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No		X	
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No		X	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XX.

Goal 10	Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.		
Target 10.1	All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
The National Botanic Gardens has drawn up strict protocols in the transfer of plant genetic material into and out of their collections			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XXI .

Target 10.2		Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No		X	
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No		X	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XXII.

Goal 11	Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention.		
Target 11.1	New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target		X	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>Development Cooperation Ireland, Ireland's programme of assistance to developing countries, provides funding to the United Nations Environment Programme through a UNEP / Development Cooperation Ireland Multilateral Environmental Trust Fund for Africa. Over the period 2002-2004 Development Cooperation Ireland contributed over €1 million a year through the Trust Fund specifically towards biodiversity- related projects. These include: the Great Apes Survival Project; biodiversity of African Mangroves; strengthening protected areas and ecological networks in Africa; capacity-building for the promotion of community-based biodiversity protection and conservation in fragile mountain and hilly ecosystems focusing on major catchment and river basins in East Africa through best practices in land management.</p> <p>Development Cooperation Ireland has also provided funding to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). This aims to contribute to sustainable agriculture for food security in developing countries. Part of the funding goes on the development of policy relating to the maintenance of stocks of plant species.</p> <p>Development Cooperation Ireland has also focused on biodiversity conservation programmes on a number of its bilateral countries, for example Tanga Coastal Zone Conservation and Development Programme in Tanzania which it has supported since 1994.</p> <p>Ireland has contributed to the United Nations Environment Programme for 2002 and 2003 towards the conservation of biological diversity in Africa.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and			

strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	X
Please provide details below.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XXIII.

Target 11.2	Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No	No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Development Cooperation Ireland does not have any specific targets / activities related to technology transfer. Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), to which Development Cooperation Ireland contributes, incorporates elements of Technology Transfer in relation to seed conservation, alternative forms of production to reduce deforestation.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	

f) Mountain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)

The Conference of the Parties, in decision VI/9, annex, adopted the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Parties and Governments are invited to develop their own targets with this flexible framework. The Conference of the Parties considered the Strategy as a pilot approach for the use of outcome oriented targets under the Convention. In decision VII/10, the Conference of the Parties decided to integrate the targets into the reporting framework for the Third National Reports. Please provide relevant information by responding to the questions and requests contained in the following tables.

Box XXIV.

Target 1. A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Widely accessible preliminary census lists of all wild plant species, and fungi, found in Ireland. Many of the actions for this target would need to be undertaken in collaboration with the appropriate bodies in Northern Ireland. It is envisaged that checklists would be provided, as a starting point, and as Census catalogues became available electronically they could be updated to the website. This target will address actions 41 & 42 of Ireland's- <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> .	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
FUNGI; 3,500 spp., Checklist completed. FUNGI-Lichens; 957 spp. Census catalogue published in 1984, being updated. FUNGI-Lichenicolous specie; 150 spp., census catalogue completed in 2002 (to be published). ALGAE-Freshwater; ca. 1,000+?, Preliminary checklist being prepared. ALGAE-Marine; 579 spp., Checklist completed. BRYOPHYTES; 815 spp., Census catalogue published 2005. PTERIDOPHYTES; 78 spp, Census catalogue last published 1987, under revision. SEED PLANTS – Native; 815 spp, Census catalogue last published 1987, under revision. SEED PLANTS – Aliens; 1,108 spp., Census catalogue published 2004.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
Work at the National Botanic Gardens in support of this target is progressing well.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXV.

Target 2. A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, in Ireland completed and made widely available. The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) is currently sponsoring endangered Bryophyte surveys of a number of vice counties each year. A database of all threatened plants is currently being completed by Wildlife. This target will address actions 25 & 26 of Ireland's <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> .	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
The Red Data Lists for Irish flora are dated as follows: Charophytes: 1992; Vascular plants – 1988. Bryophytes – 1995. The Wildlife Service is compiling a national database of rare and scarce plants, and all red data list species are being reassessed.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXVI.

Target 3. Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Comprehensive and documented suite of practical solutions based on new or tested models, case studies, research and other experiences available for plant conservation and sustainable use in Ireland. The intention under this target is to provide a clearing house of practical guidance on how to conduct plant conservation and sustainable use activities in particular settings in Ireland. Techniques, technologies, protocols, practices, models, experiences and other forms of case studies so as to have a source of practical information. This is an important cross-cutting target and supports a number of actions of Ireland's <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> , including actions 18, 29, 34, 35, 40, 43, 44, 66, 75, 80, 81, and 84.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
A database of research activities is planned. Research publications from the past 25 years on threatened plant ecology, biology and other conservation studies in Ireland are being collated. Applications for licences to work on protected flora are also being databased.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXVII.

Target 4. At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
At least 10 per cent of each of Ireland's plant habitats effectively conserved. This target supports actions 31 and 78 of Ireland's <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> , and specifically looks at conserving habitats rather than species.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Ireland's national resource of ecological regions and habitats is being fully mapped. Once this stage is complete, we will assess the congruence of plant habitats and conservation areas already under legal protection, with a view to filling any gaps in coverage by 2010.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXVIII.

Target 5. Protection of fifty percent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Protection of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
At present there is no compilation of these areas.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
A Stakeholder meeting was held at the National Botanic Gardens on the 28 th /29 th September 2005 in order to develop a better understanding of Important Areas for Plant Biodiversity. Having identified and mapped these areas, an assessment of how well these fall within currently protected areas will be undertaken, with a view to filling any gaps in coverage.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXIX.

Target 6. At least thirty percent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Provision of resources and guidelines for hedge management and marginal lands are being developed.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
At least 30 per cent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity In the forestry sector there has already been a major shift from timber production to woodland creation in such projects as the Peoples Millennium Forests Project and the Native Woodland Scheme. The achievements of Target 3 will provide a valuable resource for this target also. Actions 20, 21, 23, 32, 33, 66 and 67 of Ireland's <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> address these issues also.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXX.

Target 7. Sixty percent of the world's threatened species conserved <i>In-situ</i>.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Conservation of at least 60 per cent of Ireland's threatened plant species assured in situ. Protected areas provide the only current means of conservation. Public awareness and landowner co-operation are potentially valuable avenues to explore. Actions 21, 22, 23 & 24 of the National Biodiversity Plan cover monitoring and assessment of protected area legislation.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Threatened Plant species & Habitats protected under national legislation. Licenses required to interfere with protected plants. Many areas for rare plants are incorporated into SAC's	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Database of threatened plants to determine geographical spread and location of threatened plants will be completed by 2007	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXI.

Target 8. Sixty percent of threatened plant species in accessible <i>Ex-situ</i> collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 percent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
All threatened plant species in accessible ex situ collections, and all Critically Endangered and Endangered category species included in effective conservation management programmes. A recent project launched by <i>PlantNetwork: the Plant Collections Network of Britain and Ireland</i> has prepared a set of eight sub-targets in order to develop three major goals: 1) a complete database of cultivation and propagation protocols for all the threatened plant species of Britain and Ireland; 2) formation of partnerships between ex situ and in situ conservation efforts, through developing horticultural knowledge of these species; and 3) to increase the number of species in cultivation so as to provide material for experimental or public awareness programmes.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
At present 25% of all the red data species in Ireland are in seed banks or being grown as ex situ collections.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
National Botanic Gardens has set up an endangered Irish Threatened Plant Species Conservation Programme. 12 species will be grown at the gardens, and Action plans developed for their maintenance in the wild.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXII.

Target 9. Seventy percent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Conserve the genetic diversity of all known indigenous traditional Irish agricultural plant varieties of crops, land races and crop relatives as well as other socio -economically valuable plant species. Heritage crops and vegetables will be highlighted, and the documentaton and securing of these varieties will be a priority. The genetic integrity of these agriculturally important species have also been addressed under action 35 of the <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> .	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
A checklist of Irish bred cultivars has been established and will be distributed to the appropriate stakeholders to determine the number of agricultural plant varieties still surviving in the State.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIII.

Target 10. Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Management plans in place for at least 10 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems in Ireland. This target addresses actions 28, 29 & 30 of the <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> .	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
An All-Ireland programme is being put in place to address the challenges posed by Invasive Alien Species	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
At present <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> is one of the few plants for which serious efforts are being made to control its population. The arrival in Lough Corrib of <i>Lagarosiphon major</i> is viewed seriously as a task force has been established to address the control of this species	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Irish Law prohibits the introduction into the wild of any exotic species except by licence under the Wildlife Acts. All Ireland programme on Invasive Species is being pursued.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Legislation is required to ban the importation, sale and movement of a number of known invasive plants.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIV.

Target 11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
No species of wild flora endangered by international trade. The <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> has an action to increase training and capacity (Action 27) for border control, and its impact on international trade. Action 53 of the <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> specifically allocates € 6 million to overseas initiatives.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
CITES is fully implemented by Customs officers in Ireland, and training workshops are held annually.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Lack of Public Awareness may be contributing to endangerment of plant species overseas.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXV.

Target 12. Thirty percent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
A research programme is required to determine the usage of plant-based products arising from within and outside of Ireland.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Harvesting of peat moss and turf is a major Industry in Ireland. There is now a moratorium on establishing new turf cutting of raised bogs.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Achieving a better understanding of sustainable practices specifically in regard to small holder turf cutting in the west of Ireland is dependent upon the provision of guidelines and protocols.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVI.

Target 13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Safeguard the traditional practices based on plant resources, and their associated knowledge that support local communities and their livelihoods in Ireland.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
A checklist of archived materials, ethnographic records and bibliography covering traditional practices with reference to plant materials is being developed.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVII .

Target 14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Ensure that plant conservation and biodiversity issues are incorporated into the formal educational curricula at all levels, and in informal education and national public awareness programmes. A major goal for this target is to have an efficient Clearing House Mechanism to act as the focal point for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Much of the materials for this website already exist, different levels for engaging the public will be vital, and could be used as a teaching resource for Primary and secondary level pupils. This target supports action 43 & 44 of the <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> .	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Achieving this target is dependent upon having a Clearing House Mechanism in operation.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVIII.

Target 15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, as required, to achieve the targets of this Strategy. This target supports actions 43 & 44 of the <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> .	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIX.

Target 16. Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Broadly based Irish network for plant conservation established to achieve the targets for this strategy.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XL.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this strategy specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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Ecosystem Approach

The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Application of the ecosystem approach will help to reach a balance of the three objectives of the Convention. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties has affirmed that the ecosystem approach is the primary framework for action under the Convention (decision II/8). The Conference of the Parties, at its fifth meeting, endorsed the description of the ecosystem approach and operational guidance and recommended the application of the principles and other guidance on the ecosystem approach. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties agreed that the priority at this time should be facilitating implementation of the ecosystem approach. Please provide relevant information by responding to the following questions.

3. ?¹ Is your country applying the ecosystem approach, taking into account the principles and guidance contained in the annex to decision V/6? (decision V/6)

a) No	
b) No, but application is under consideration	
c) Yes, some aspects are being applied	X
d) Yes, substantially implemented	

4. ? 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? (decision V/6)

a) No	
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¹ Please note that all the questions marked with ? have been previously covered in the second national reports and some thematic reports.

b) No, but development is under consideration	
c) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying some principles of the ecosystem approach	X
d) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying most principles of the ecosystem approach	

5. Is your country strengthening capacities for the application of the ecosystem approach, and providing technical and financial support for capacity-building to apply the ecosystem approach? (decision V/6)

a) No	X
b) Yes, within the country	
c) Yes, including providing support to other Parties	

6. ? Has your country promoted regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders? (decision V/6)

a) No	X
b) Yes, informal cooperation (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, formal cooperation (please provide details below)	

Further comments on regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders.

Management of cross-border conservation sites and river catchments

Bioforest: *Forestry and Environment Impacts Addressing Water Quality and Biodiversity*

This research project is looking at:

- (i) Biodiversity assessment of afforestation sites
- (ii) Assessment of biodiversity at different stages of the forest cycle
- (iii) Investigation of experimental methods to enhance biodiversity in plantation forests

Part (ii) of the study has been completed and the results show that the best indicator of changes in biodiversity over the forest cycle is stand structural stage. Fifteen recommendations were made in relation to forest planning and management practices that will maintain and / or enhance biodiversity in plantation forests. In order for twelve of these recommendations to be implemented, modifications would be required to the Forest Service's *Forest Biodiversity Guidelines*.

7. Is your country facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach? (decisions VI/12 and VII/11)

a) No	
b) No, some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising to assist with the implementation of the ecosystem approach.

The Marine Institute of Ireland is involved with ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Seas) in the development of frameworks for the implementation of the ecosystem approach in the marine area.

8. Is your country creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach, including through development of appropriate institutional frameworks? (decision VII/11)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant policies and programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the creation of an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach.

C. ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

Article 5 – Cooperation

9. ? 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) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	
c) Yes, multilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
d) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation (please give details below)	
e) Yes, other forms of cooperation (please give details below)	

Further comments on cooperation with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The Marine Institute of Ireland is involved in a wide range of national and international co-operative research programmes which will support the objective of sustaining biodiversity in marine ecosystems.

10. Is your country working with other Parties to develop regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 A)

a) No	
b) No, but consultations are under way	
c) Yes, some mechanisms and networks have been established (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, existing mechanisms have been strengthened (please provide details below)	

Further comments on development of regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention.

Much of the nature conservation activity carried out in Ireland takes place in the context of the EU programmes. Ireland has contributed to the recent review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

11. Is your country taking steps to harmonize national policies and programmes, with a view to optimizing policy coherence, synergies and efficiency in the implementation of various multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) and relevant regional initiatives at the national level? (decision VI/20)

a) No	
b) No, but steps are under consideration	
c) Yes, some steps are being taken (please specify below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive steps are being taken (please specify below)	

Further comments on the harmonization of policies and programmes at the national level.

Actions at National and EU level take account of obligations under global & regional MEA's.

Box XLI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this strategy specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use

12. Has your country put in place effective national strategies, plans and programmes to provide a national framework for implementing the three objectives of the Convention? (Goal 3.1 of the Strategic Plan)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant strategies, plans and programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the strategies, plans and programmes for implementing the three objectives of the Convention.

Our first National Biodiversity Plan was published in 2002 and an interim review on the implementation of the Plan was published in 2005.

13. ? Has your country set measurable targets within its national strategies and action plans? (decisions II/7 and III/9)

a) No	
b) No, measurable targets are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but measurable targets are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, relevant targets are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, reports on implementation of relevant targets available (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on targets set within national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

The interim review of the National Biodiversity Plan reported on progress of implementation of the targets.

14. Has your country identified priority actions in its national biodiversity strategy and action plan? (decision VI/27 A)

a) No	
b) No, but priority actions are being identified	
c) Yes, priority actions identified (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on priority actions identified in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Priority is given to actions that are relevant to the conservation of habitats and species of European importance.

15. Has your country integrated the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as benefit sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision VI/27 A)

a) No	
b) Yes, in some sectors (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, in major sectors (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, in all sectors (please provide details below)	

Further information on integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

The Department of Agriculture and Food have established biodiversity units for agriculture and forestry.

16. Are migratory species and their habitats addressed by your country's national biodiversity strategy or action plan (NBSAP)? (decision VI/20)

a) Yes	X
b) No	

I) If YES, please briefly describe the extent to which it addresses

(a) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species	Major management programmes introduced over the past 7 years for Atlantic salmon. Objective is to ensure that all stocks reach their Conservation limits. Major review ongoing in relation to eel stocks
(b) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats, including protected areas	Introduction of SAC's for salmon in all major river systems in Ireland. Designation of SPA's under the Birds directive (79/409/eec) and SAC's under the habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) for migratory species and their habitats e.g. Greenland White-Fronted Goose, salmon, Bottle nosed dolphin and Wetlands.
(c) Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration	
(d) Research and monitoring for migratory species	Extensive research and monitoring on a national and international scale is ongoing
(e) Transboundary movement	Through International Council for the Exploraztion of the Seas (ICES) intensive transboundary monitoring of migratory species is carried out.

II) If NO, please briefly indicate below

(a) The extent to which your country addresses migratory species at national level	
(b) Cooperation with other Range States since 2000	

Biodiversity and Climate Change

17. Has your country implemented projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use? (decision VII/15)

a) No	
b) No, but some projects or programs are under development	X
c) Yes, some projects have been implemented (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

The National Climate Change Strategy, published in 2000, provides the framework for Ireland to meet its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. The strategy recognises the importance of a strengthened relationship between agriculture and forestry policy, in order to maximise the dividends from land use change. Among the criteria for the management of land use change are landscape, biodiversity, pollution control and agriculture. Furthermore the Strategy recognises the importance of sinks in mitigating climate change.

The Marine Institute recently commissioned an overview of climate change impacts and their possible implications for the marine environment, this document will be published shortly and should assist in identifying the areas where additional research is urgently required. The report will also emphasise the need to incorporate the possible effects of climate change into any future biological models. Fundamental to this whole process are the changes which climate change will bring to biodiversity and the development of predictive ecological models which will take account of various future temperature scenarios.

18. Has your country facilitated coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification? (decision VII/15)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, relevant mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the UNFCCC and the UNCCD.

Box XLII .

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 7 - Identification and monitoring

19. ? On Article 7(a), does your country have an ongoing programme to identify components of biological diversity at the genetic, species, ecosystem level?

a) No	
b) Yes, selected/partial programmes at the genetic, species and/or ecosystem level only (please specify and provide details below)	X
c) Yes, complete programmes at ecosystem level and selected/partial inventories at the genetic and/or species level (please specify and provide details below)	

Further comments on ongoing programmes to identify components of biodiversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.

Ecosystems

Surveys have been carried out on a number of habitat types of conservation importance including coastal habitats, bogs, woodlands, turloughs (seasonal lakes) etc.

Species

The National Parks and Wildlife Service have a number of surveys ongoing for a number of species including rare flora, certain mammals e.g. hare and other wetland birds, countryside breeding birds, waders, certain fish species (lampry, shad, pollan) and certain invertebrates (e.g. hover flies, whorled snails)

Genetic level

Genetic diversity within and between populations of Nationally rare flora (e.g. *Spiranthes romanzoffiana* & *Saxifraga hirculus*) is being investigated to determine viable population sizes.

20. ? On Article 7(b), which components of biological diversity identified in accordance with Annex I of the Convention, have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes?

a) at ecosystem level (please provide percentage based on area covered)	X
b) at species level (please provide number of species per taxonomic group and percentage of total known number of species in each group)	X
c) at genetic level (please indicate number and focus of monitoring programmes)	

Further comments on ongoing monitoring programmes at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.

20a Ecosystems

Raised Bogs

A project is currently being implemented by NPWS to monitor the condition of a representative number of raised bogs which were surveyed in 1994. Some restoration work has been initiated on these bogs. The sites selected for monitoring harbour the following habitats; active raised bog, degraded raised bog, and bog woodland.

Coastal Dune Systems and associated Salt Marshes

Monitoring methodology is currently being developed and piloted by NPWS to monitor the conservation status of a selection of dune habitats and associated salt marsh habitats.

Rivers & Inland Waters

Benthic Macro-invertebrate and Physico-chemical monitoring of rivers and inland waters is carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

20b Species

- To complement ongoing roost monitoring surveys of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), a bat monitoring programme is currently being undertaken.. The methodology is suitable for 4 bat species
- A national monitoring programme for the Otter (*Lutra lutra*) is currently being conducted to determine the conservation status of this species. Presence /absence data will be recorded together with notable pressures to the species.
- The focus of the bird monitoring programme has been on certain priority species and groups of migratory birds such as wintering waterbirds and breeding seabirds. A Countryside Bird Survey monitors the abundance and distribution of breeding bird populations, which will allow the assessment of the effects of temporal changes in the change of the environment on the more common species.
- A monitoring programme has been initiated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service for the Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*). This programme will record essential baseline information on population structure and investigate interactions with environmental parameters.
- The Central Fisheries Board carry out surveillance of salmon populations in selected rivers.
- A pilot monitoring programme for the freshwater mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) has recently been initiated. This programme involves monitoring mussel numbers in permanent transects and life cohorts in randomly selected plots. Any changes in population structure will be assessed against a number of environmental parameters such as river structure and water quality.
- A study on the conservation ecology of *Saxifraga hirculus* has been initiated. This research will provide details on the population dynamics of the species and will also derive indicators for future monitoring.

21. ? On Article 7(c), does your country have ongoing, systematic monitoring programmes on any of the following key threats to biodiversity?

a) No	
b) Yes, invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, climate change (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, pollution/eutrophication (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, land use change/land degradation (please provide details below)	X
f) Yes, overexploitation or unsustainable use (please provide details below)	

Further comments on monitoring programmes on key threats to biodiversity.

22c Climate change

Ireland participates in the monarch programme with the UK in order to model and monitor effects of climate change.

Physico-chemical monitoring of rivers and inland waters is carried out by the Environmental Protection

Agency.

A Site Inspection Reporting (SIR) programme has been set up to report on impacts that may potentially affect the integrity of protected areas.

The impacts of grazing is being monitored by the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) in areas of upland and coastal ecosystems.

22. ? On Article 7 (d), does your country have a mechanism to maintain and organize data derived from inventories and monitoring programmes and coordinate information collection and management at the national level?

a) No	
b) No, but some mechanisms or systems are being considered	
c) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are being established	X
d) Yes, some mechanisms or systems are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, a relatively complete system is in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the coordination of data and information collection and management.

A Biological Records Centre is being established. The Centre will be an essential mechanism and resource for documentation, monitoring and research in the area of biodiversity.

23. ? Does your country use indicators for national-level monitoring of biodiversity? (decision III/10)

a) No	
b) No, but identification of potential indicators is under way (please describe)	X
c) Yes, some indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	
d) Yes, a relatively complete set of indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)	

Further comments on the indicators identified and in use.

A set of indicators are being developed by Teagasc (The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority) to monitor the effect of national agri-environmental measures.

Specific indicators are being derived by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to assess conservation status at a habitat or species level. These will also tie into the EU set of Headline Indicators where appropriate.

Box XLIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

a & b) Identifying components of biodiversity allows progress with setting conservation priorities. Monitoring conservation status or the effects of conservation management will influence future management to ensure adequate conservation measures will be taken to prevent the loss of biodiversity

c) The designation of protected areas and legal protection for threatened species affords protection to many of our important ecosystems and species.

d) In 2005 Ireland undertook a review of the implementation of the National Biodiversity Plan which showed a good level of progress in its implementation.

Decisions on Taxonomy

24. ? Has your country developed a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1? (decision IV/1)

a) No	X
b) No, but a plan is under development	
c) Yes, a plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, reports on implementation available (please provide details below)	

Further information on a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1.

25. ? Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections? (decision IV/1)

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on investment on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections.

26.? Does your country provide training programmes in taxonomy and work to increase its capacity of taxonomic research? (decision IV/1)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on training programmes in taxonomy and efforts to increase the capacity of taxonomic research.

Basic training provided by some Universities.

27.? Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable? (decision IV/1)

a) No	
b) No, but steps are being considered	
c) Yes, for some institutions	
d) Yes, for all major institutions	X

28.*² Is your country collaborating with the existing regional, subregional and global initiatives, partnerships and institutions in carrying out the programme of work, including assessing regional taxonomic needs and identifying regional-level priorities? (decision VI/8)

a) No	X
b) No, but collaborative programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessments)	
d) Yes, comprehensive collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessment and priority identification)	

Further information on the collaboration your country is carrying out to implement the programme of work for the GTI, including regional needs assessment and priority identification.

29.* Has your country made an assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities at the national level for the implementation of the Convention? (annex to decision VI/8)

a) No	
b) Yes, basic assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and	X

² The questions marked with * in this section on Taxonomy are similar to some questions contained in the format for a report on the implementation of the programme of work on the Global Taxonomy Initiative. Those countries that have submitted such a report do not need to answer these questions unless they have updated information to provide.

capacities identified)	
c) Yes, thorough assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
Further comments on national assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities.	
A questionnaire has been sent to all taxonomists as part of an assessment of taxonomic needs.	

30. * Is your country working on regional or global capacity building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	X
b) Yes, relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
Further comments on regional or global capacity-building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties.	

31. * Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	X
b) Yes, for forest biodiversity (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for marine and coastal biodiversity (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for dry and sub-humid lands (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for inland waters biodiversity (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for mountain biodiversity (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for protected areas (please provide details below)	
h) Yes, for agricultural biodiversity (please provide details below)	
i) Yes, for island biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention.	

32. * Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8?

a) No	
b) Yes, for access and benefit-sharing (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for Article 8(j) (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for the ecosystem approach (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for impact assessment, monitoring and indicators (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for invasive alien species (please provide details below)	X
g) Yes, for others (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention.

A detailed catalogue of all known Alien Invasive Plants in Ireland has been published by the National Botanic Gardens in 2002.

Article 8 - *In-situ* conservation

[excluding paragraphs (a) to (e), (h) and (j)]

33. ? On Article 8(i), has your country endeavored to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are being identified	
c) Yes, some measures undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.

34. ? On Article 8(k), has your country developed or maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations?

a) No	
b) No, but legislation is being developed	
c) Yes, legislation or other measures are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the legislation and/or regulations for the protection of threatened species and populations.

There are provisions of the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, that relate or are relevant to the issue of protection of threatened species. A number of EU Directives and Regulations also protect threatened species.

35. ? On Article 8(I), does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant processes and categories of activities being identified	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the regulation or management of the processes and categories of activities identified by Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biodiversity.

The Rural Environment Protection Scheme provides incentives to farmers to manage their lands in an environmentally sensitive fashion. Farmers must maintain their land in good environmental condition in order to draw down EU farm payments.

Box XLIV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation

Programme of Work on Protected Areas (Article 8 (a) to (e))

36. Has your country established suitable time bound and measurable national-level protected areas targets and indicators? (decision VII/28)

a) No (please specify reasons)	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes, some targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on targets and indicators for protected areas.

A number of targets have been set by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the natural heritage in the Department's Statement of Strategy.

Key Performance Indicators relating to these targets are as follows:

- Complete designation of Natura 2000 sites (of European importance) and progress designation of

sites of national importance.

- Monitor threats to conservation status of designated sites
- Publish species and habitats surveys and report on monitoring of conservation status of habitats and species
- Implement species action plans and report on invasive species, jointly with Northern Ireland authorities
- Promote wider co-operation on North-South biodiversity strategies and plans
- Publish Guidelines and Codes of Best Practice for natural heritage conservation
- Conserve and develop National Parks and Nature Reserves.
- Adopt Management Plans for all National Parks and Natura 2000 sites

Significant progress has been made on all these fronts. Significant resources have been expended in particular in completion of the Natura 2000 network of sites. The network represents areas that have been identified as being of the highest ecological value for natural habitats and species of rare, endangered or vulnerable plants and animals. Ireland has substantially met commitments under Natura 2000 and is seeking to finalise minor outstanding commitments by early 2006.

37. Has your country taken action to establish or expand protected areas in any large or relatively unfragmented natural area or areas under high threat, including securing threatened species? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on actions taken to establish or expand protected areas.

Designated Sites

In the west of Ireland the vast bulk of natural and semi-natural habitats are contained within extensive designated Natura 2000 sites.

It is current policy to abide by the criteria and standards for National Parks laid down by the IUCN. The management objectives for National Parks are detailed below:-

- To protect the natural heritage allowing for, and if necessary, managing for the continuation and restoration of natural processes
- To protect and where appropriate to restore and develop other heritage and aesthetic qualities
- To provide for public access and to encourage public appreciation and enjoyment of the parks under conditions compatible with the above objectives
- To develop a harmonious relationship between National Parks and the surrounding communities, taking into account the social and economic needs of local communities

At present there are six National Parks as follows:

Killarney National Park, Co. Kerry (10,289 ha)

Glenveagh National Park, Co. Donegal (16,958 ha)

Connemara National Park, Co. Galway (2,957 ha)

Wicklow Mountain National Park, Co. Wicklow (15,925 ha)

The Burren National Park, Co. Clare (1,673 ha)

Ballycroy National Park, Co. Mayo (11,779 ha)

38. Has your country taken any action to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) Not applicable	
c) No, but relevant actions are being considered	
d) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on actions taken to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas.

Approximately 428,000 hectares of marine areas have been proposed for designation as Natura 2000 sites. These proposals are being evaluated by the European Commission. It is anticipated that the EU evaluation will lead to a requirement for more marine sites. These are likely to relate to offshore habitats, e.g. sandbanks, rather than intertidal coastal habitats. It is proposed that in the medium term, Ireland will proposed additional marine areas as Special Areas of Conservation, most notably, the cold deep sea corral off the west coast.

39. Has your country identified and implemented practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on practical steps for improving integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures.

Protected areas are required under statute to be incorporated into Development Plans of local authorities. Local authorities are the planning authorities in Ireland and are required to take account of the ecological sensitivity of sites when considering planning applications.

In addition, the provisions of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will ensure the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme. The process should build on experience gained from implementation of the EU Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and provide a mechanism for improving the integration of protected areas into broader planning policy.

40. Is your country applying environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant EIA guidelines are under development	
c) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to some projects or plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to all relevant projects or plans (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on application of environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas.

THE FOLLOWING ARE CRITERIA REQUIRED TO BE USED UNDER IRISH STATUTE FOR DETERMINING WHETHER A DEVELOPMENT WOULD OR WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

1. Characteristics of proposed development

The characteristics of proposed development, in particular:

- the size of the proposed development,
- the cumulation with other proposed development,
- the use of natural resources,
- the production of waste,
- pollution and nuisances,
- the risk of accidents, having regard to substances or technologies used.

2. Location of proposed development

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by proposed development, having regard in particular to:

- the existing land use,
- the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area,
- the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:
 - (a) wetlands,
 - (b) coastal zones,
 - (c) mountain and forest areas,
 - (d) nature reserves and parks,
 - (e) areas classified or protected under legislation, including special protection areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC,**
 - (f) areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the EU have already been exceeded,
 - (g) densely populated areas,
 - (h) landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.

3. Characteristics of potential impacts

The potential significant effects of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and having regard in particular to:

- the extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population),
- the transfrontier nature of the impact,
- the magnitude and complexity of the impact,
- the probability of the impact,
- the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact

41. Has your country identified legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes, some gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	

Further comments on identification of legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas.

One of the critical methods to ensure the conservation of nature, in line with the requirements of both European and national legislation, is with the full co-operation and participation of landowners. It is acknowledged that farmers, in particular play and will continue to play a crucial role in conserving nature. One of the gaps to date in Ireland has been the completion of an effective communication strategy to ensure that landowners are fully involved with the nature conservation process.

Significant progress has been made to date in developing management plans for Natura 2000 sites. Management Plans provides a framework for the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage in these sites. The plan covers the policies and practical actions in relation to all aspects of management as well as other functions such as consultation with interested parties. The life span of this plan is 5 years

In total, 295 draft conservation management plans for Natura 2000 sites have been produced. Progress has also been made in designating plans for National Parks. Management Plans for Wicklow Mountains National Park and Killarney National Park were published in 2005. Both plans completed a phase of public consultation. Text for management plans for Glenveagh National Park, Ballycroy National Park, Co.Mayo and the Burren National Park are currently being finalised.

42. Has your country undertaken national protected-area capacity needs assessments and established capacity building programmes? (decision VII/28)

a) No	X
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, a basic assessment undertaken and some programmes established (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, a thorough assessment undertaken and comprehensive programmes established (please provide details below)	

Further comments on protected-area capacity needs assessment and establishment of capacity building programmes.

43. Is your country implementing country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant plan is under development	X
c) Yes, relevant plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant plan is being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on implementation of country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas.

A number of national initiatives have been developed to support national systems of protected areas. Two of the main schemes are detailed below the REPS Scheme and the Farm Plan Scheme.

Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)

Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS), is a scheme designed to reward farmers for carrying out their farming activities in an environmentally friendly manner and to bring about environmental improvement on existing farms.

The objectives of the Scheme are to:

- establish farming practices and production methods which reflect the increasing concern for conservation, landscape protection and wider environmental problems;
- protect wildlife habitats and endangered species of flora and fauna;
- produce quality food in an extensive and environmentally friendly manner.

Lands within protected areas are defined as 'Target Areas' under this scheme. Farmers in the target areas who participate in the REPS scheme receive higher payments than those farming elsewhere. Farmers with small areas of land in a protected area can get REPS payments for that part of their farm. In either case, the farmer is subject to certain conditions regarding farming and land use practices, set out in the REPS plan for the farm.

Farm Plan Scheme for Designated Areas and Commonages

Where a farmer chooses not to participate in REPS, and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government seek to change the farm operation in some way or to end a particular activity, the Department can prepare a farm plan. This will normally be confined just to the designated lands, and will address the conservation requirements.

44. Is your country implementing appropriate methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant methods, standards, criteria and indicators are under development	
c) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use and some international methods, standards, criteria and indicators in use (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance.

The integrity of designated sites is monitored on a 3 year cycle. All impacts and activities, their influence and intensity are recorded. Activity codes are derived from the Natura 2000 forms. The area affected by specific activities is estimated and trends will be derived.

Scientific monitoring programmes are being designed and implemented for species and habitats listed in the annexes of the Habitats Directive. These programmes monitor the conservation status of a representative sample of the national resource of the protected species or habitat. In this way the effectiveness of protected areas can be evaluated. Pressure, state and response indicators developed are specific to the species or habitat, e.g. trends in population size or area negatively affected by development.

Box XLV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 8(h) - Alien species

45. Has your country identified alien species introduced into its territory and established a system for tracking the introduction of alien species?	
a) No	
b) Yes, some alien species identified but a tracking system not yet established	X
c) Yes, some alien species identified and tracking system in place	
d) Yes, alien species of major concern identified and tracking system in place	

46. ? Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) No	
b) Yes, but only for some alien species of concern (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for most alien species (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the assessment of the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species.

A comprehensive review of alien invasive species in the island of Ireland has been developed and a

strategy is being developed to implement the recommendations.

47. ? Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate, those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under consideration	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

Active control programmes for *Rhododendron ponticum* and *Heracleum mantegazzianum* are in place.

Awareness campaigns are underway for *Zebra Mussel* and *Lagarosiphon major*.

48. ? In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed, or involved itself in, mechanisms for international cooperation, including the exchange of best practices? (decision V/8)

a) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation	X
c) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation	
d) Yes, multilateral cooperation	

49. ? Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species? (decision V/8)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the use of the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches in work on alien invasive species.

The above mentioned study on invasive alien species takes account of the eco-system and precautionary approaches.

50. Has your country identified national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but needs and priorities are being identified	X
c) Yes, national needs and priorities have been identified (please provide below a list of needs and priorities identified)	

Further comments on the identification of national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles.

51. Has your country created mechanisms to coordinate national programmes for applying the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the mechanisms created to coordinate national programmes for implementing the Guiding Principles.

52. Has your country reviewed relevant policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles, and adjusted or developed policies, legislation and institutions? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but review under way	X
c) Yes, review completed and adjustment proposed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, adjustment and development ongoing	
e) Yes, some adjustments and development completed (please provide details below)	

Further information on the review, adjustment or development of policies, legislation and institutions in light of the Guiding Principles.

53. Is your country enhancing cooperation between various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but potential coordination mechanisms are under consideration	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on cooperation between various sectors.

54. Is your country collaborating with trading partners and neighboring countries to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity in ecosystems that cross international boundaries? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) Yes, relevant collaborative programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, relevant programmes are in place (please specify below the measures taken for this purpose)	

Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighboring countries.

Work as mentioned above is being carried out jointly with Northern Ireland and in liaison with the wider UK.

55. Is your country developing capacity to use risk assessment to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity and incorporate such methodologies in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA)? (decision VI/23)

a) No	
b) No, but programmes for this purpose are under development	
c) Yes, some activities for developing capacity in this field are being undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further information on capacity development to address threats of invasive alien species.

Risk assessments will be used on IAS for the Water Framework Directive, preparation underway .

56. Has your country developed financial measures and other policies and tools to promote activities to reduce the threats of invasive species? (decision VI/23)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant measures and policies are under development	
c) Yes, some measures, policies and tools are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures and tools are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development of financial measures and other policies and tools for the promotion of activities to reduce the threats of invasive species.

Box XLVI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions

GURTS

57. Has your country created and developed capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to GURTs.	

Status and Trends

58. Has your country supported indigenous and local communities in undertaking field studies to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)	
a) No	X
b) No, but support to relevant studies is being considered	
c) Yes (please provide information on the studies undertaken)	
Further information on the studies undertaken to determine the status, trends and threats related to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and priority actions identified.	

Akwé:Kon Guidelines

59. Has your country initiated a legal and institutional review of matters related to cultural, environmental and social impact assessment, with a view to incorporating the Akwé:Kon Guidelines into national legislation, policies, and procedures?	
a) No	X
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, a review undertaken (please provide details on the review)	
Further information on the review.	

60. Has your country used the Akwé:Kon Guidelines in any project proposed to take place on sacred sites and/or land and waters traditionally occupied by indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)

a) No	X
b) No, but a review of the Akwé: Kon guidelines is under way	
c) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further information on the projects where the Akwé:Kon Guidelines are applied.

Capacity Building and Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities

61. Has your country undertaken any measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities to be effectively involved in decision-making related to the use of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/16)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes being developed	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities.

Ireland supports capacity building for the promotion of community based biodiversity protection and conservation in fragile catchment and river basin ecosystems in East Africa through best practices in land management

62. Has your country developed appropriate mechanisms, guidelines, legislation or other initiatives to foster and promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in decision making, policy planning and development and implementation of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at international, regional, subregional, national and local levels? (decision V/16)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are under development	
c) Yes, some mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the mechanisms, guidelines and legislation developed.

63. Has your country developed mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities with specific provisions for the full, active and effective participation of women in all elements of the programme of work? (decision V/16, annex)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are being developed	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all elements of the programme of work.

Support to implementation

64. Has your country established national, subregional and/or regional indigenous and local community biodiversity advisory committees?

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes	

65. Has your country assisted indigenous and local community organizations to hold regional meetings to discuss the outcomes of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and to prepare for meetings under the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details about the outcome of meetings)	X

Further information on the outcome of regional meetings.

Ireland provided €50,000 to the Ad-hoc Open-ended Working Group on ABS and 8J held in Granada in 2006.

66. Has your country supported, financially and otherwise, indigenous and local communities in formulating their own community development and biodiversity conservation plans that will enable such communities to adopt a culturally appropriate strategic, integrated and phased approach to their development needs in line with community goals and objectives?

a) No	X
b) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further information on the support provided.

Box XLVII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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Article 9 - Ex-situ conservation

67. ? On Article 9(a) and (b), has your country adopted measures for the *ex-situ* conservation of components of biological diversity native to your country and originating outside your country?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures adopted for the *ex-situ* conservation of components of biodiversity native to your country and originating outside your country.

Seed collections of genetically representative samples of selected threatened native vascular plants and Irish crop varieties are stored in the Irish Threatened Plant Genebank, housed at Trinity College, Dublin. Other crop varieties are stored as living and seed genebanks by the Irish Seed Savers Association. Selected native forage species, including some grasses and clovers, are stored in genebanks at Teagasc Oak Park Research Centre, and University College Dublin's Department of Agriculture and Food Science. Ex situ living collections of vascular plants, including numerous threatened taxa, are maintained at Trinity College Botanic Garden, and at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. Both of these institutions are currently drawing up a set of targets for PlantNetwork (the UK and Ireland network of plant collections) to help implement Target 8 of the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* (ex situ conservation & recovery).

The Irish Threatened Plant Species Conservation Programme has been developed as a cooperative venture between the National Botanic Gardens, Trinity Botanic Gardens and the Wildlife Service. Irish threatened plants will be grown ex situ in order to develop cultivation and propagation protocols for all threatened plant species in Ireland.

Dublin Zoo and Fota Island Zoo participate in a number of programmes of ex-situ conservation in relation to endangered species.

68. ? On Article 9(c), has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions.

Selected threatened vascular plants have been reintroduced or translocated by Trinity College Botanic Garden and by BEC Consultants Ltd:

Otanthus maritimus (translocation & reintroduction) – Cotton Weed

Gymnocarpium robertianum (translocation) – Limestone Fern

Trifolium subterraneum (reintroduction) – Subterraneum Clover

Inula salicina (reintroduction) – Irish Fleabane

Hordeum secalinum (translocation) – Meadow Barley

Schoenoplectus triqueter (translocation) – Triangular Club-Rush

The Irish Threatened Plant Species Conservation Programme intends to undertake species recovery or management programmes for all Irish Priority Species.

The natterjack toad was reintroduced to one historical site in Kerry, in south-west Ireland, in the early 1990s. This site now supports a self-sustaining population of the toad. There are plans to expand the breeding habitat for the toad at this site. Strategic pond creation has been undertaken within the natural range of the toad in Kerry. This is to facilitate genetic exchange between isolated populations and to ensure the long-term survival of the species at the edge of its European range. A project to reintroduce the Golden Eagle to Glenveagh National Park commenced in 2000. The project has been very successful with 40 birds out of the 43 released surviving to date.

69. ? On Article 9(d), has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex-situ* conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and *in-situ* populations of species?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex-situ* conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and *in-situ* populations of species.

Licensing is undertaken by the National Parks & Wildlife Service for the taking or interference with Protected species and Protected habitats.

Box XLVIII .

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

70. ? On Article 10(a), has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making?

a) No	
b) No, but steps are being taken	
c) Yes, in some relevant sectors (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, in most relevant sectors (please provide details below)	

Further information on integrating consideration of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making.

National Wildlife legislation regulates the exploitation on hunting of huntable species.

Exploitation of Salmon in freshwaters is regulated by National Fisheries legislation.

Exploitation of Marine fisheries is regulated at EU level.

71. ? On Article 10(b), has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures adopted relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity.

See answer to Q70

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72. ? On Article 10(c), 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?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements.

This provision is of less relevance in an Irish context.

73. ? On Article 10(d), 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?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biodiversity has been reduced.

Certain Agri-environmental incentives are directed at helping local communities to restore overgrazed common grazing land.

74. ? Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)

a) No	
b) No, but assessment of potential indicators and incentive measures is under way	
c) Yes, indicators and incentive measures identified (please describe below)	X

Further comments on the identification of indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

A package of incentive measures is directed at the farming sector.

75. ? Has your country implemented sustainable use practices, programmes and policies for the sustainable use of biological diversity, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation? (decision V/24)

a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, programmes and policies are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on sustainable use programmes and policies.

Sustainable Development is a guiding principle for Ireland's overseas aid programme, Development Cooperation Ireland. Through its environment policy, the development cooperation programme will seek to strengthen Ireland's support to biodiversity conservation to reduce poverty.

The programme intends to build capacities in partner countries to ensure the better integration of biodiversity related issues into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD).

Development Cooperation Ireland is also working to raise the awareness of its staff to and capacity to mainstream environmental concerns into all policies and programmes.

76. ? Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)

a) No	X
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please describe below)	

Further comments on the development of mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity.

77. Has your country initiated a process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)

a) No	X
b) No, but the principles and guidelines are under review	
c) Yes, a process is being planned	
d) Yes, a process has been initiated (please provide detailed information)	

Further information on the process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.

78. Has your country taken any initiative or action to develop and transfer technologies and provide financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some technologies developed and transferred and limited financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many technologies developed and transferred and significant financial resources provided (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development and transfer of technologies and provision of financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.

Biodiversity and Tourism

79. ? Has your country established mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please specify below)	
d) Yes, existing mechanisms are under review	

Further comments on the establishment of mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity.

In June 2005, Failte Ireland (The National Tourism Body) established an Environment Unit. The Unit will undertake research in association with partner organizations on a range of environmental issues to develop a clearer understanding of the impact of tourism on the environment. The Unit will also work to raise standards in environmental practice across a range of tourism providers. The Unit will co-ordinate an environmental awareness and promotion programme which will emphasize the importance of environmental conservation to the future of Irish tourism

80. ? Has your country provided educational and training programmes to the tourism operators so as to increase their awareness of the impacts of tourism on biodiversity and upgrade the technical capacity at the local level to minimize the impacts? (decision V/25)

a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please describe below)	

Further comments on educational and training programmes provided to tourism operators.

The National Tourism Development Authority (Failte Ireland) also does not specifically deal with biodiversity and tourism but have a range of training programmes for the industry on the broad issue of environmental protection.

With Failte Ireland the Marine Institute has established a range of training programmes for Marine and Countryside guides.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service are implementing an environment awareness programme on a pilot basis, called 'Leave no Trace'. This programme, originally developed in the United States, aims to encourage visitors to take personal responsibility for their impact on the natural environment.

81. Does your country provide indigenous and local communities with capacity-building and financial resources to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management? (decision VII/14)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are being considered	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments in the capacity-building and financial resources provided to indigenous and local communities to support their participation in tourism policy-making, development planning, product development and management.

Individuals and businesses in local communities are supported in all aspects of tourism development through the measures of the EU-supported Leader Programmes. Local tourism enterprises participate in and are assisted by the network of Exchequer-supported Regional Tourism Authorities.

82. Has your country integrated the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development in the development or review of national strategies and plans for tourism development, national biodiversity strategies and actions plans, and other related sectoral strategies? (decision VII/14)

a) No, but the guidelines are under review	
b) No, but a plan is under consideration to integrate some principles of the guidelines into relevant strategies	
c) Yes, a few principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	X
d) Yes, many principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	

Further information on the sectors where the principles of the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development are integrated.

One of the principles of funding under Tourism Programmes is that all projects must obtain planning approval from the relevant local authority and the project promoter must comply with any conditions laid down in the approval. As stated above at Question 79, it would be a matter for the planning authority to judge if an Environmental Impact Assessment would be required for any individual project which would cover impact on all aspects of biodiversity.

Box XLIX.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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Article 11 - Incentive measures

83. ? Has your country established programmes to identify and adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the programmes to identify and adopt incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The revised Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) introduced on 1st June 2004 includes far greater emphasis on biodiversity with specific actions for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity at farm level. The Department of Agriculture and Food will seek to ensure, in any future revisions of REPS, that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is a priority.

The Department of Agriculture and Food support policies and measures to adapt support mechanisms for extensive farming systems which will preserve and promote biodiversity and be environmentally sensitive. The Single Farm Payment Scheme commenced in 2005. Implementation of cross compliance requires all applicants under the scheme to maintain all their land in "Good Agriculture and Environmental Condition" (GAEC) and comply with 19 statutory Management Requirements.

The National Parks and Wildlife Farm Plan Scheme, launched the summer of 2005, provides compensation for losses, and payment for works done by farmers whose land is designated as SAC, SPA, NHA or commonage. It applies only to farmers who do not join the REPS scheme

The Native Woodland Scheme, introduced in July 2001 with the aim of encouraging the proactive protection and expansion of Irelands native woodland resource and associated biodiversity, using appropriate "close to nature" silviculture. The scheme provides financial support for landowners to protect and enhance both existing native woodlands. The 2005 allocation for the scheme is €2 million.

The Kerry Cattle grant scheme and the Irish Draught Mare scheme are grant funded schemes aimed at providing incentives to promote the conservation of these rare breeds. The preservation of these breeds is also an optional undertaking with additional payment in REPS.

84. ? Has your country developed the mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas? (decisions III/18 and IV/10)

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, review of impact of mechanisms available (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the mechanism or approaches to incorporate market and non-market values of biodiversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes.

85. ? Has your country developed training and capacity-building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private -sector initiatives? (decision III/18)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place	<p>X - REPS training for farmers and planners is based on the requirements and measures of the scheme, which now includes far greater emphasis on biodiversity actions</p> <p>Implementation of biodiversity awareness strategy for farmers involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - countryside management series of information I - regular articles/features in farming publications - Teagasc bimonthly publication, "Today's Farm" farm walks - Development of a module on ecology and biodiversity for delivery on training programmes for prospective farmers. <p>In the Certificate in Farming programme run by Teagasc a number of modules incorporating</p>

	biodiversity are taken, including Farming and the Environment, Farming and Biodiversity, Safe Use of Pesticide Products and Introduction to Crop Pesticides.
d) Yes, many programmes are in place	

86. Does your country take into consideration the proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures as contained in Annex I to decision VI/15 when designing and implementing incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision VI/15)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the proposals considered when designing and implementing the incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
The provisions of this decision are consistent with National Policy on incentive measures.	

87. Has your country made any progress in removing or mitigating policies or practices that generate perverse incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (decision VII/18)	
a) No	
b) No, but identification of such policies and practices is under way	
c) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified but not entirely removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified and removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
Further information on perverse incentives identified and/or removed or mitigated.	
Implementation of cross compliance requires all applicants for farm payments to maintain all their land in "Good Agriculture and Environmental Condition" (GAEC) and comply with 19 statutory Management Requirements	

Box L.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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Article 12 - Research and training

88. ? On Article 12(a), 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?

a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the programmes for scientific and technical education and training in the measures for identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Biodiversity conservation is integrated into a number of courses at both Second & Third level education.

89. ? On Article 12(b), does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

A National Platform for Biodiversity Research has been established. A draft framework document has been developed setting out a framework for a biodiversity knowledge programme .

There is an active environmental research sector in Ireland. Research is carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, who co-ordinate and work in partnership with environmental research underway by Government agencies and the third level sector. The environmental research base in Ireland has been fostered through EPA's Environmental Research, Technological Development and Innovation Programme under the current National Development Plan and through the biodiversity research programme managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Many of the work programmes of the Marine Institute are designed to monitor the status of a wide range of Marine Biological systems. The institute has, over the past twelve months, re-organised its marine data services to upgrade the collation, analysis and provision to outside agencies and individuals of key marine data sets.

90. ? On Article 12(c), 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?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the use of scientific advances in biodiversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The results of Biodiversity research is implemented at operational level.

Box LI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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Article 13 - Public education and awareness

91. Is your country implementing a communication, education and public awareness strategy and promoting public participation in support of the Convention? (Goal 4.1 of the Strategic Plan)

a) No	
b) No, but a CEPA strategy is under development	X
c) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a limited extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the implementation of a CEPA strategy and the promotion of public participation in support of the Convention.

A Public Awareness campaign is being developed as part of Irelands CEPA strategy. This Public Awareness campaign will be launched during 2006.

92. Is your country undertaking any activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness as contained in the annex to decision VI/19? (decision VI/19)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on CEPA.

ENFO (Ireland's Public Environmental Information Service) produce a number of biodiversity related leaflets which are available on its website. ENFO have a drop in information center in central Dublin which is open to the public and includes a reference library of environmental material and a childrens corner. They have also produced a number of exhibitions related to the conservation of biodiversity. These exhibitions are made available to local authorities and community groups across the country.

A revised science syllabus for the Junior Certificate was introduced in September 2004. A specific aim is to foster an appreciation of and respect for the environment which includes the importance of

conservation, pollution and waste management to the environment and the impact of humans on the environment. At Leaving Certificate level the biology syllabus has a specific aim of developing an appreciation of nature and biodiversity. The Green Schools Programme, administered by an Taisce (the National Trust for Ireland), is playing an important role promoting environmental awareness in schools.

Ireland's National Parks and Nature Reserves with visitor facilities promote Public Awareness through the provisions of training programmes and interpretive material.

93. Is your country strongly and effectively promoting biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level? (decision VI/19)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the promotion of biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level.

94. Does your country promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level? (decision VI/19)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the efforts to promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity at the local level.

Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan has a section dealing with providing for biodiversity at local level, under which there are two specific actions for Local Authorities

- Each Local Authority to prepare a local Biodiversity Plan in consultation with relevant stakeholders
- Each Local Authority to designate a contact officers for natural heritage conservation matters in its area.

The majority of the local authorities have appointed Heritage Officer with biodiversity responsibilities. A number of local authorities have commenced the production of their Local Biodiversity Action Plans.

95. Is your country supporting national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness? (decision VI/19)

a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities supported (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many activities supported (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the support of national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness.

96. Has your country developed adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness?	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness.	
See 94	

97. Does your country promote cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness at the national, regional and international levels? (decisions IV /10 and VI/19)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the promotion of cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness, at the national, regional and international levels.	
<p>Development Cooperation Ireland has supported the training of African partner country hydrologists through a specialized scholarship programme in Ireland. The training had a strong focus on holistic approaches to water resource management with a strong focus on environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Since 2003, Development Cooperation Ireland has been providing funds to an Operational Research programme in Ethiopia. This programme brings together Ethiopian, Irish and British academic institutions to consider issues around sustainable development, including integrated watershed management, soil and water conservation.</p> <p>Development Cooperation Ireland has also contributed to the hosting of the first conference on health and biodiversity which was held in Ireland in August 2005.</p>	

98. Is your country undertaking some CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention?	
a) No (please specify reasons below)	X
b) Yes, some activities undertaken for some issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, many activities undertaken for most issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for all issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention.	

99. ? Does your country support initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes as well as into their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies? (decision IV/10 and Goal 4.4 of the Strategic Plan)

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biodiversity conservation in their practice and education programmes as well as their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.	

100. Is your country communicating the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and establishing appropriate linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in the implementation of your national CEPA programmes and activities? (decision VII/24)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes developed and activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes developed and many activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the communication of the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and the establishment of linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.	
The 2010 target at International & EU level will form a key element to the Public Awareness campaign to be launched during 2006.	
Ireland contributed funds to the IUCN for the development of the 2010 strategy.	

Box LII .

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

101. ? On Article 14.1(a), has your country developed legislation requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity?

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) No | |
| b) No, legislation is still in early stages of development | |
| c) No, but legislation is in advanced stages of development | |
| d) Yes, legislation is in place (please provide details below) | X |
| e) Yes, review of implementation available (please provide details below) | |

Further information on the legislation requiring EIA of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biodiversity.

National Planning legislation requires prior assessment of most types of works that are likely to grossly alter landscapes and sites.

In addition, under EU legislation any plan or project that might effect a Natura 2000 site must be subject to impact assessment and can only proceed if it is judged not to have an impact or otherwise for reasons of overwhelming public interest.

102. ? On Article 14.1(b), has your country developed mechanisms to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity?

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) No | |
| b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development | |
| c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development | |
| d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below) | X |

Further comments on the mechanisms developed to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity.

The National Spatial Strategy and the provisions of the EU SEA directive provide a basis for prior screening of programmes and policies that could impact on biodiversity.

103. ? On Article 14.1(c), is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction?

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) No | |
| b) No, but assessment of options is in progress | |
| c) Yes, some completed, others in progress (please provide details below) | X |
| d) Yes (please provide details below) | |

Further information on the bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biodiversity outside your country's jurisdiction.

Matters relating to Trade Marine Fisheries and Agriculture are largely governed by EU rather than National legislation.

104. ? On Article 14.1(d), has your country put mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your territory to biological diversity in the territory of other Parties or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction?

a) No	X
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place based on current scientific knowledge	

105. ? On Article 14.1(e), has your country established national mechanisms for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	X
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on national mechanisms for emergency response to the activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biodiversity.

There are operational plans to deal with certain types of emergencies from a biodiversity point of view e.g. oil spillages, an outbreak of Avian Influenza.

106. Is your country applying the Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environment-Impact-Assessment Legislation or Processes and in Strategic Impact Assessment as contained in the annex to decision VI/7 in the context of the implementation of paragraph 1 of Article 14? (decision VI/7)

a) No	
b) No, but application of the guidelines under consideration	
c) Yes, some aspects being applied (please specify below)	
d) Yes, major aspects being applied (please specify below)	X

Further comments on application of the guidelines.

EU Environmental legislation takes the principles of VI/7 into account.

107. On Article 14 (2), has your country put in place national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity? (decision VI/11)

a) No	
b) Yes (please specify the measures)	X

Further comments on national legislative, administrative or policy measures regarding liability and redress for damage to biological diversity.

National legislation imposes penalties for damage to biodiversity.

108. Has your country put in place any measures to prevent damage to biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being developed	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the measures in place to prevent damage to biological diversity.

Wildlife Rangers employed by the Ministry of the Environment carry out work in the field to enforce National Wildlife legislation. Court action is taken when required.

109. Is your country cooperating with other Parties to strengthen capacities at the national level for the prevention of damage to biodiversity, establishment and implementation of national legislative regimes, policy and administrative measures on liability and redress? (decision VI/11)

a) No	
b) No, but cooperation is under consideration	
c) No, but cooperative programmes are under development	X
d) Yes, some cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on cooperation with other Parties to strengthen capacities for the prevention of damage to biodiversity.

See responses on earlier Questions in relation to Capacity Building.

Box LIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 15 - Access to genetic resources

110. ? Has your country endeavored to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Parties, on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms, in accordance with paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of Article 15?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further information on the efforts taken by your country to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Parties, on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms.

Ireland has provided national funding towards the establishment and maintenance of national genebanks. It has recently up-loaded details of cereals and potato genebank collections to the EURISCO web site to facilitate germplasm information exchange. AS part of the funding programme Ireland has provided financial assistance for the propagation of endangered native Irish Apple varieties.

The National Botanic Gardens provides access to germplasm under a Material Transfer Agreement. The Gardens has drawn up a set of policies with regard to the extent of such access, and the terms under which such material is provided to third parties.

Ireland has contributed funds to UNEP to support the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization in Africa.

111. ? Has your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Parties, in accordance with Article 15(6)?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the 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.

Research carried out under the Exchequer funded Grant Scheme for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is used in the development and formulation of conservation plans for rare domestic breeds. All relevant stakeholders are involved in consultations about the research being undertaken.

Research carried out under this funding is published and made freely available to all stakeholders who may be involved in the conservation of the relevant genetic resource. In addition the research may be presented at relevant International and National conferences.

Material in the National Botanic Gardens obtained during overseas expeditions is governed by Mutually Agreed Terms, whereby provision to third parties is only undertaken with full consent and knowledge of the original country.

112. ? Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and of the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources, in accordance with Article 15(7)?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the type of measures taken.

Research carried out under the Advisory Committee for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is published and made freely available to all stakeholders who may be involved in the conservation of the relevant genetic resource .

To date no circumstances of commercial exploitation have arisen. Research undertaken on plant material at the National Botanic Gardens is published in a journal, Glasra, which is distributed under exchange agreements with over 400 other institutions.

113. ? In developing national measures to address access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, has your country taken into account the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on national measures taken which consider the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing as set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Ireland is currently reviewing the need to update national legislation in keeping with our commitments under international agreements such as International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources & the Convention on Biological Diversity.

114. Is your country using the Bonn Guidelines when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and/or when negotiating contracts and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for access and benefit-sharing? (decision VII/19A)

a) No	
b) No, but steps being taken to do so (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

Please provide details and specify successes and constraints in the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines.

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115. Has your country adopted national policies or measures, including legislation, which address the role of intellectual property rights in access and benefit-sharing arrangements (i.e. the issue of disclosure of origin/source/legal provenance of genetic resources in applications for intellectual property rights where the subject matter of the application concerns, or makes use of, genetic resources in its development)?

a) No	
b) No, but potential policies or measures have been identified (please specify below)	X
c) No, but relevant policies or measures are under development (please specify below)	
d) Yes, some policies or measures are in place (please specify below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive policies or measures adopted (please specify below)	

Further information on policies or measures that address the role of IPR in access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

116. Has your country been involved in capacity-building activities related to access and benefit-sharing?

a) Yes (please provide details below)	
b) No	X

Please provide further information on capacity-building activities (your involvement as donor or recipient, key actors involved, target audience, time period, goals and objectives of the capacity-building activities, main capacity-building areas covered, nature of activities). Please also specify whether these activities took into account the Action Plan on capacity-building for access and benefit-sharing adopted at COP VII and available in annex to decision VII/19F.

Box LIV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology

117. ? On Article 16(1), has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other 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?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.

Development Co-Operation Ireland has contributed funds to UNEP to support the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines on " Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization in Africa"

118. ? On Article 16(3), has your country taken measures so that Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative arrangements are in place	
g) Not applicable	

119. ? On Article 16(4), 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?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and measures are in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	

Further information on the measures taken.

Box LV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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Programme of Work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation

120. Has your country provided financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation? (decision VII/29)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the provision of financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation.

See 117

121. Is your country taking any measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation? (decision VII/29)

a) No	X
b) No, but some measures being considered	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation.

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122. Has your country made any technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	X
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, basic assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, thorough assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building.

123. Has your country made any assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	X
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies.

124. Has your country identified and implemented any measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation, including assessing capacity building needs? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some programmes are in place and being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	

Further comments on measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation.

Development Cooperation Ireland has contributed to UNEP's Africa Environment Information Network Programme which works to strengthen the capacity of African countries to harness and access environmental data and information to support the management of Africa's natural resources. UNEP also received funds to promote and encourage, biodiversity conservation and protection through capacity-building and pilot projects.

125. Has your country taken any of the measures specified under Target 3.2 of the programme of work as a preparatory phase to the development and implementation of national institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation as well as access to and adaptation of technologies of relevance to the Convention? (annex to decision VII/29)

a) No	X
b) No, but a few measures being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please specify below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please specify below)	

Further comments on the measures taken as a preparatory phase to the development and implementation of national institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation as well as access to and adaptation of technologies of relevance to the Convention.

Box LVI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 17 - Exchange of information

126. ? On Article 17(1), has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources with a view to assist with the implementation of the Convention and promote technical and scientific cooperation?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	

The following question (127) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

127. ? On Article 17(1), do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries and include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?

a) No	X
b) Yes, but they do not include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	
c) Yes, and they include categories of information listed in Article 17 (2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	

Box LVII .

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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Article 18 - Technical and scientific cooperation

128. ? On Article 18(1), has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation.

The Marine Institute of Ireland are involved in a wide range of national and international co-operative research programmes which will support the objective of sustaining biodiversity in marine ecosystems.

Ireland has provided voluntary additional financial contributions to enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate in CBD meetings.

Ireland has supported the training of African partner country hydrologists through a specialized scholarship programme in Ireland.

The Operational Research Programme in Ethiopia supported by Development Cooperation Ireland also responds to research into local crop varieties, soil and water conservation to improve watersheds etc. as does support to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

129. ? On Article 18(4), 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?

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant methods are under development	
d) Yes, methods are in place	

130. ? On Article 18(5), 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?

a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide some examples below)	

Examples for the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention.

131. Has your country established links to non-governmental organizations, private sector and other institutions holding important databases or undertaking significant work on biological diversity through the CHM? (decision V/14)

a) No	X
b) No, but coordination with relevant NGOs, private sector and other institutions under way	
c) Yes, links established with relevant NGOs, private sector and institutions	

The following question (132) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

132. Has your country further developed the CHM to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation? (decision V/14)

a) No	X
b) Yes, by using funding opportunities	
c) Yes, by means of access to, and transfer of technology	
d) Yes, by using research cooperation facilities	
e) Yes, by using repatriation of information	
f) Yes, by using training opportunities	
g) Yes, by using promotion of contacts with relevant institutions, organizations and the private sector	
h) Yes, by using other means (please specify below)	

Further comments on CHM developments to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation.

133. Has your country used CHM to make information available more useful for researchers and decision-makers? (decision V/14)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant initiatives under consideration	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on development of relevant initiatives.

134. Has your country developed, provided and shared services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of the CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions? (decision V/14)

a) No	X
b) Yes (please specify services and tools below)	

Further comments on services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions.

Box LVIII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

135. ? On Article 19(1), 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?

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation are in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy and subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place	

136. ? On Article 19(2), has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access by Parties, on a fair and equitable basis, to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Parties?

a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	

Box LIX.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 20 – Financial resources

Box LX.

Please describe for each of the following items the quantity of financial resources, both internal and external, that have been utilized, received or provided, as applicable, to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, on an annual basis, since your country became a Party to the Convention.

a) Budgetary allocations by national and local Governments as well as different sectoral ministries	See Box LX
b) Extra-budgetary resources (identified by donor agencies)	
c) Bilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	
d) Regional channels (identified by donor agencies)	
e) Multilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	
f) Private sources (identified by donor agencies)	
g) Resources generated through financial instruments, such as charges for use of biodiversity	

Box LXI.

Please describe in detail below any major financing programmes, such as biodiversity trust funds or specific programmes that have been established in your country.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is the lead Department with responsibility for the implementation of the National Biodiversity Plan. The budget allocated for this purpose for the years 2002-2004 was €69.636m. Other Departments such as Agriculture and Food, Communication Marine and Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs and the Environment Protection Agency have also allocated significant financial resources towards the implementation of the National Biodiversity Plan.

137. ? On Article 20(1), has your country provided financial support and incentives to those national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes, incentives only (please provide a list of such incentives below)	
c) Yes, financial support only	X
d) Yes, financial support and incentives (please provide details below)	

Further comments on financial support and incentives provided.

The next question (138) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

138. ? On Article 20(2), 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 fulfill the obligations of the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes (please indicate the amount, on an annual basis, of new and additional financial resources your country has provided)	X

Further comments on new and additional financial resources provided.

Additional financial resources, totaling €3 million over the 2002-2004 period were provided through the establishment of the UNEP/Development Cooperation Multilateral Environmental Trust Fund.

The next question (139) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

139. ? On Article 20(2), has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable it to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?

a) No	
b) Yes	

140. ? Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector? (decision V/11)

a) No	
b) No, but procedures being established	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on processes to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector.

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141. ? Has your country considered any measures like tax exemptions in national taxation systems to encourage financial support to biodiversity? (decision V/11)

a) No	X
b) No, but exemptions are under development (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, exemptions are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on tax exemptions for biodiversity-related donations.

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142. Has your country reviewed national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance allocated to biodiversity, with particular attention paid to positive incentives and their performance as well as perverse incentives and ways and means for their removal or mitigation? (decision VI/16)

a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	X
c) Yes (please provide results of review below)	

Further comments on review of national budgets and monetary policies, including the effectiveness of official development assistance.

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143. Is your country taking concrete actions to review and further integrate biodiversity considerations in the development and implementation of major international development initiatives, as well as in national sustainable development plans and relevant sectoral policies and plans? (decisions VI/16 and VII/21)

a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) Yes, in some initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on review and integration of biodiversity considerations in relevant initiatives, policies and plans.

Development Co-operation Ireland (DCI) adopted a policy for environmentally sustainable development in May 2005, which will help to ensure that support through aid will take account of biodiversity in recipient countries. One of the guiding principles of this policy is that poverty reduction depends on good stewardship of the environment.

144. Is your country enhancing the integration of biological diversity into the sectoral development and assistance programmes? (decision VII/21)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, into some sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, into major sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the integration of biodiversity into sectoral development and assistance programmes

See 143

The next question (145) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

145. Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which area your country has provided financial support to developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.

A r e a s	Support provided
a) Undertaking national or regional assessments within the framework of MEA (decision VI/8)	
b) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)	X
c) Enhance national capacity to establish and maintain the mechanisms to protect traditional knowledge (decision VI/10)	
d) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation (decision V/26)	X
e) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)	

f) Implementation of the Bonn Guidelines (decision VI/24)	X
g) Implementation of programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (decision V/5)	X
h) Preparation of first report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources (decision VI/17)	
i) Support to work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and development of regional and sub regional networks or processes (decision VI/27)	X
j) Development of partnerships and other means to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the programme of work on dry and subhumid lands biological diversity (decision VII/2)	
k) Financial support for the operations of the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VII/9)	
l) Support to the implementation of the Action Plan on Capacity Building as contained in the annex to decision VII/19 (decision VII/19)	X
m) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity (decision VII/27)	
n) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas (decision VII/28)	X
o) Support to the development of national indicators (decision VII/30)	
p) Others (please specify)	

Further information on financial support provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Through its Central America Programme, Ireland is supporting programmes to assist communities to manage and protect reserves for the preservation of biodiversity.

The next question (146) is for DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

146. Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which areas your country has applied for funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), from developed countries and/or from other sources. The same area may have more than one source of financial support. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.

Areas	Applied for funds from		
	GEF	Bilateral	Other
a) Preparation of national biodiversity strategies or action plans			
b) National capacity self-assessment for implementation of Convention (decision VI/27)			
c) Priority actions to implement the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision V/9)			
d) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)			

e) Development of national strategies or action plans to deal with alien species (decision VI/23)			
f) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation, establishment and maintenance of <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation facilities (decision V/26)			
g) Projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 (Education and Public Awareness) (decision VI/19)			
h) Preparation of national reports (decisions III/9, V/19 and VI/25)			
i) Projects for conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity (decision IV/4)			
j) Activities for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity (decision V/5)			
k) Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision VI/26)			
l) Implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative			
m) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity			
n) Others (please specify)			
Further information on application for financial support.			

Box LXII .

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this article and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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D. THEMATIC AREAS

147. Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the thematic programmes of work of the Convention (marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands and mountain biodiversity).

3 = High Challenge

1 = Low Challenge

2 = Medium Challenge

0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome

N/A = Not applicable

Challenges	Programme of Work					
	Agricultural	Forest	Marine and coastal	Inland water ecosystem	Dry and subhumid lands	Mountain
(a) Lack of political will and support	1	1	2	2	N/A	1
(b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	1	2	3	3	N/A	2
(c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	1	2	3	3	N/A	2
(d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	2	2	3	3	N/A	2
(e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	1	1	2	2	N/A	1
(f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
(g) Loss of traditional knowledge	1	1	1	1	N/A	1
(h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	2	2	2	2	N/A	2
(i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	1	1	2	2	N/A	2
(j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	2	2	2	2	N/A	2
(k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	2	2	2	2	N/A	2

(l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	2	2	2	2	N/A	2
(m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	2	2	2	2	N/A	2
(n) Lack of economic incentive measures	1	1	2	2	N/A	1
(o) Lack of benefit-sharing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
(p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	1	1	1	1	N/A	1
(q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	1	1	2	2	N/A	2
(r) Lack of effective partnerships	1	1	2	2	N/A	1
(s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	1	1	1	1	N/A	1
(t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	1	2	2	2	N/A	2
(u) Poverty	1	1	1	1	N/A	1
(v) Population pressure	1	2	3	3	N/A	1
(w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	2	2	3	2	N/A	1
(x) Lack of capacities for local communities	2	2	2	2	N/A	2
(y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	2	2	2	2	N/A	2
(z) Weak law enforcement capacity	1	1	2	2	N/A	1
(aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	1	1	1	1	N/A	1
(bb) Others (please specify)						

Inland water ecosystems

148. Has your country incorporated the objectives and relevant activities of the programme of work into the following and implemented them? (decision VII/4)

Strategies, policies, plans and activities	No	Yes, partially, integrated but not implemented	Yes, fully integrated and implemented	N/A
a) Your biodiversity strategies and action plans	X			
b) Wetland policies and strategies		X		
c) Integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans being developed in line with paragraph 25 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development		X		
d) Enhanced coordination and cooperation between national actors responsible for inland water ecosystems and biological diversity	X			

Further comments on incorporation of the objectives and activities of the programme of work

The NBP Action 79 aimed at maintaining and expanding the catchment based strategy for the protection and improvement of water quality in line with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. Effective implementation of that Directive will meet many of the CBD objectives for inland water ecosystems; especially that a catchment level ecosystem approach be adopted to the protection and sustainable use of inland waters and their biodiversity. The WFD requires that no deterioration of water quality should occur and that where significant departures have occurred from a near natural state that action be taken to restore the impacted area to 'good status' by 2015. Good Status is dependant on achieving near natural ecological conditions for various ecological groupings, such as macrophytes and macroinvertebrates, etc. and also providing the water requirements of wetlands and water dependant species. As such, it is a powerful tool for biodiversity protection.

The implementation of the WFD has been vigorously pursued with regulations bringing it into force in Ireland being published in December 2003 (S.I.No. 722 of 2003). These Regulations establish seven River Basin Districts (RBDs), three of which are shared with Northern Ireland. It requires the Local Authorities, acting jointly in each RBD, to establish environmental objectives and programs of measures to achieve them). They have to produce River Basin Management Plans and to set up River Basin District Advisory Councils. Co-ordination and guidance at a national level is to be provided by the Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA).

Work has been done in describing conditions in each RBD and in identifying areas at risk of failing to achieve good status. In addition a Register of Protected areas has been established which includes over 300 Natura 2000 sites whose water needs now have to be met. Work is now underway to set up monitoring programs to provide a baseline for future reporting and to start to develop programs of measures to deal with the problems identified. Detailed timetables have been set down by which draft RB Management Plans have to be produced for public consultation, final plans are to be in place and the program of measures is to be fully operational. In parallel with and supporting all this activity a considerable amount of national and international research and liaison is underway to ensure that scientifically robust and consistent methods are adopted.

While no comprehensive wetland policy currently exists and effective protection of their biodiversity has been limited to those designated as Natura site sites or NHAs a recent Ministerial circular from DoEHLG to the planning authorities, highlighted the importance of wetlands and the need to restore sites damaged by illegal waste activities. This indicates the increasing appreciation of their functions and values which is developing in Ireland. In addition, a Review of Government Policy on Flood Relief, 2003 recommended that wetlands be considered not as a problem but as a resource for reducing flooding damage.

149. Has your country identified priorities for each activity in the programme of work, including timescales, in relation to outcome oriented targets? (decision VII/4)

a) No	X
b) Outcome oriented targets developed but priority activities not developed	
c) Priority activities developed but not outcome oriented targets	
d) Yes, comprehensive outcome oriented targets and priority activities developed	

Further comments on the adoption of outcome oriented targets and priorities for activities, including providing a list of targets (if developed).

150. Is your country promoting synergies between this programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level? (decision VII/4)

a) Not applicable (not Party to Ramsar Convention)	
b) No	X
c) No, but potential measures were identified for synergy and joint implementation	
d) Yes, some measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	

Further comments on the promotion of synergies between the programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level.

151. Has your country taken steps to improve national data on: (decision VII/4)

Issues	Yes	No	No, but development is under way
a) Goods and services provided by inland water ecosystems?			X
b) The uses and related socioeconomic variables of such goods and services?			X
c) Basic hydrological aspects of water supply as they relate to maintaining ecosystem function?	X		

d) Species and all taxonomic levels?	X		
e) On threats to which inland water ecosystems are subjected?	X		
Further comments on the development of data sets, in particular a list of data sets developed in case you have replied "YES" above.			

152. Has your country promoted the application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems? (decision VII/4)	
a) No, the guidelines have not been reviewed	X
b) No, the guidelines have been reviewed and found inappropriate	
c) Yes, the guidelines have been reviewed and application/promotion is pending	
d) Yes, the guidelines promoted and applied	
Further comments on the promotion and application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.	

Box LXIII.

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Marine and coastal biological diversity

General

153. Do your country's strategies and action plans include the following? Please use an "X" to indicate your response. (decisions II/10 and IV/15)

a) Developing new marine and coastal protected areas	X
b) Improving the management of existing marine and coastal protected areas	X
c) Building capacity within the country for management of marine and coastal resources, including through educational programmes and targeted research initiatives (if yes, please elaborate on types of initiatives in the box below)	X
d) Instituting improved integrated marine and coastal area management (including catchments management) in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loads into the marine environment	X
e) Protection of areas important for reproduction, such as spawning and nursery areas	X
f) Improving sewage and other waste treatment	X
g) Controlling excessive fishing and destructive fishing practices	X
h) Developing a comprehensive oceans policy (if yes, please indicate current stage of development in the box below)	
i) Incorporation of local and traditional knowledge into management of marine and coastal resources (if yes, please elaborate on types of management arrangements in the box below)	X
j) Others (please specify below)	
k) Not applicable	

Please elaborate on the above activities and list any other priority actions relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

C) Survey programmes to obtain better information which will lead to informed management decisions.

D) in early stages as part of Ireland's commitments to the EU Water Framework Directive

E) and G) to a limited extent, as determined by the EU Common Fisheries Policy

I) under development

Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

154. Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?

a) No	
b) Early stages of development	
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	X
e) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management.

155. Has your country implemented ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal resources, for example through integration of coastal management and watershed management, or through integrated multidisciplinary coastal and ocean management?

a) No	
b) Early stages of development	X
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of application of the ecosystem to management of marine and coastal resources.

In early stages of development, through implementation of the EU Water Framework and Habitats Directives

Marine and Coastal Living Resources

156. Has your country identified components of your marine and coastal ecosystems, which are critical for their functioning, as well as key threats to those ecosystems?

a) No	X
b) Plans for a comprehensive assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
c) A comprehensive assessment is currently in progress	
d) Critical ecosystem components have been identified, and management plans for them are being developed (please provide details below)	
e) Management plans for important components of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of assessment, monitoring and research relating to marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as key threats to them

157. Is your country undertaking the following activities to implement the Convention's work plan on coral reefs? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.

Activities	Not implemented nor a priority	Not implemented but a priority	Currently implemented	Not applicable
a) Ecological assessment and monitoring of reefs			X	
b) Socio-economic assessment and monitoring of communities and stakeholders		X		
c) Management, particularly through application of integrated coastal management and marine and coastal protected areas in coral reef environments		X		
d) Identification and implementation of additional and alternative measures for securing livelihoods of people who directly depend on coral reef services				X
e) Stakeholder partnerships, community participation programmes and public education campaigns			X	
f) Provision of training and career opportunities for marine taxonomists and ecologists	X			
g) Development of early warning systems of coral bleaching				X
h) Development of a rapid response capability to document coral bleaching and mortality				X
i) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded coral reef habitats	X			
j) Others (please specify below)				

Please elaborate on ongoing activities.

These answers relate to cold water corals, not all questions relevant.

a) Efforts are being made to carry out ecological assessment for all developments in marine Special Areas of Conservation designated under the EU Habitats Directive. Reefs (non coral reefs) have to be monitored on a 6 year cycle under the EU Habitats Directive.

f) A limited number of jobs are created for marine ecologists and surveyors with moderate taxonomic skills across a broad range of taxa

g) and h) Ireland does not have any shallow water tropical reefs

i) Ireland does have deepwater coral reefs. Restoration and rehabilitation is not considered necessary at present.

Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

158. Which of the following statements can best describe the current status of marine and coastal protected areas in your country? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.

a) Marine and coastal protected areas have been declared and gazetted (please indicate below how many)	X
b) Management plans for these marine and coastal protected areas have been developed with involvement of all stakeholders	X
c) Effective management with enforcement and monitoring has been put in place	X
d) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas is under development	X
e) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas has been put in place	X
f) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas managed for purpose of sustainable use, which may allow extractive activities	X
g) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas which exclude extractive uses	X
h) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas is surrounded by sustainable management practices over the wider marine and coastal environment.	
i) Other (please describe below)	
j) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of marine and coastal protected areas.

Some 70 marine / coastal sites have been designated Special Area of Conservation under the EU habitats Directive.

84 sites have been designated Special Areas of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. Management plans for a small number of these sites have been drafted, and the next step is to have stakeholder input into the plans

Mariculture

159. Is your country applying the following techniques aimed at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity? Please check all that apply.

a) Application of environmental impact assessments for mariculture developments	X
b) Development and application of effective site selection methods in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management	X
c) Development of effective methods for effluent and waste control	X
d) Development of appropriate genetic resource management plans at the hatchery level	X
e) Development of controlled hatchery and genetically sound reproduction methods in order to avoid seed collection from nature.	
f) If seed collection from nature cannot be avoided, development of environmentally sound practices for spat collecting operations, including use of selective fishing gear to avoid by-catch	X

g) Use of native species and subspecies in mariculture	X
h) Implementation of effective measures to prevent the inadvertent release of mariculture species and fertile polypoids.	X
i) Use of proper methods of breeding and proper places of releasing in order to protect genetic diversity	X
j) Minimizing the use of antibiotics through better husbandry techniques	X
k) Use of selective methods in commercial fishing to avoid or minimize by-catch	X
l) Considering traditional knowledge, where applicable, as a source to develop sustainable mariculture techniques	X
m) Not applicable	
Further comments on techniques that aim at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.	
<p>a) An EIA for farming more than 100 tonnes of Salmon and Trout framing per annum is required under the EU EIA Directive. Assessments are being requested for mariculture in Special Areas of Conservation</p> <p>c) Effluent and waste controls are monitored through discharge licensing for some aquaculture facilities.</p> <p>J) Efforts to minimize the use of antibiotics in the salmon farming sector are ongoing to improve organic conversions rates.</p> <p>K) Increased mesh sizes and escape hatches have been employed in some towed gear fisheries regulated through the CFP.</p> <p>L) Can be achieved through the government-stakeholder Co-ordinated Local Aquaculture Management Systems (CLAMS) fora where applicable.</p> <p>Very detailed fin fish and shellfish management protocols are in place.</p>	

Alien Species and Genotypes

160. Has your country put in place mechanisms to control pathways of introduction of alien species in the marine and coastal environment? Please check all that apply and elaborate on types of measures in the space below.

a) No	X
b) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from ballast water have been put in place (please provide details below)	
c) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from hull fouling have been put in place (please provide details below)	
d) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from aquaculture have been put in place (please provide details below)	
e) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from accidental releases, such as aquarium releases, have been put in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	

Further comments on the current status of activities relating to prevention of introductions of alien species in the marine and coastal environment, as well as any eradication activities.

Box LXIV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Agricultural biological diversity

161. ? Has your country developed national strategies, programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components? (decisions III/11 and IV/6)

a) No	
b) No, but strategies, programmes and plans are under development	
c) Yes, some strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on agrobiodiversity components in national strategies, programmes and plans.

The National Biodiversity Plan sets out a comprehensive list of actions under various themes and sectors, including agriculture. Significant progress has already been made in addressing many of the action points relating to agriculture. Preliminary work on a sectoral Biodiversity Action Plan for agriculture, which will address the relevant action points in greater detail, is being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Ireland has completed and submitted to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) a Country Report on Farm Animal Genetic Resources as part of the State of the World Report. This Country report assessed the state of agricultural biodiversity in the farm animal sector in Ireland and identified national priorities for the conservation and utilisation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources and made recommendations for enhanced international co-operation in the field of farm animal biodiversity. The National priorities listed in the above report are being currently implemented.

162. ? Has your country identified ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the *In-situ* and *Ex-situ* conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity? (decision V/5)

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
c) Yes, some measures identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures identified (please provide details below)	

Further information on ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the *In-situ* and *Ex-situ* conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.

This is addressed at EU level

Annex to decision V/5 - Programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

Programme element 1 – Assessment	
163. Has your country undertaken specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity such as on plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are in progress (please specify components below)	X
c) Yes, assessments completed (please specify components and results of assessments below)	
Further comments on specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity.	
<p>Breed surveys of farm animal genetic resources have been carried out in the past and plans are in place to continue these surveys into the future. The results of these surveys were posted on the FAO Domestic Animal Diversity-Information System and the EAAP Animal Genetic Data Bank. Funding has also been provided from the national Exchequer for the conservation of Irish Genetic Resources including identification, evaluation, characterisation and conservation.</p> <p>Ag-Biota, an agri-environmental research project focusing on biodiversity is funded by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency and will run for a period of five years from January 2002. The aims of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of suitable bio -indicators for the assessment of environmental quality and the validation of agri-environmental policy. • To inform agri-environmental policy, by providing experimentally objective information concerning the potential environmental impact of current and proposed future agricultural practices • To promote a greater understanding of agro -ecology and the development of a more environmentally-compatible agriculture that conserves, and utilises biological processes. • To further advance understanding in an area of current ecological theory that has important practical relevance and consequence. <p>Irish Seed Savers Association in partnership with University College Dublin are assembling an extensive collection of native crop varieties.</p>	
164. Is your country undertaking assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity referred to in Annex I of the Convention (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance)?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are under way	X
c) Yes, some assessments completed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments completed (please provide details below)	
Further comments on assessment of biodiversity components (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance).	
<p>Projects include Termoncarragh EU Life Project investigating best practice in the management of farmland to benefit nature conservation and the Farmland Birds Project which aims to assess the impact of the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) on breeding and wintering bird population on farmland.</p> <p>A comprehensive EU Life funded assessment is also in progress on the interactions between farming practices and nature conservation in the Burren area of Co Clare.</p>	

The 'Conservation of Galway Sheep' project investigated the practices of Galway sheep breeders in their conservation efforts.

165. Has your country carried out an assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for food production and food security?

a) No	X
b) Yes, assessment is under way	
c) Yes, assessment completed (please specify where information can be retrieved below)	

Further comments on assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities.

166. Has your country been monitoring an overall degradation, status quo or restoration/rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity since 1993 when the Convention entered into force?

a) No	X
b) Yes, no change found (status quo)	
c) Yes, overall degradation found (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below)	

Further comments on observations.

Programme element 2 - Adaptive management

167. Has your country identified management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive, and mitigate the negative, impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods?

a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, technologies and policies being identified	
c) Yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies.

National legislation introduced prescribing farming practices on conservation sites
 Commonage Framework Plans - prescriptions for farming to allow recovery of degraded areas.
 Code of Good Farming Practice
 Under the new EU Single Payment Scheme, farmers will have to comply with a range of statutory management requirements including maintaining their lands in "Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition".

Details of a National Nitrates Action Programme, which will place limits on the quantity and timing of fertiliser application in line with the EU Nitrates Directive, is being negotiated with the European Commission.

The Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) is a voluntary scheme that has been in existence since 1994. Participating farmers must follow an agri-environmental plan drawn up in accordance with the scheme specifications. A revised scheme (REPS 3) was introduced in June 2004 with a considerably greater emphasis on biodiversity issues.

Programme element 3 - Capacity-building

168. Has your country increased the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainable agricultural biodiversity and to develop strategies and methodologies for *In-situ* conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biological diversity?

a) No

b) Yes (please specify area/component and target groups with increased capacity)

X

Further comments on increased capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders.

Compensation provided to sheep farmers for destocking under Commonage Framework Plans.

Increased payments in REPS 3 with introduction of compulsory biodiversity requirements.

Incorporation of increased biodiversity content in national farmer training programmes.

Training provided to breeders of rare farm animals to maintain genetic variation and agricultural biodiversity.

Projects funded by the Department of Agriculture and Food under the Conservation of Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture fund.

169. Has your country put in place operational mechanisms for participation by a wide range of stakeholder groups to develop genuine partnerships contributing to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity?

a) No

b) No, but potential mechanisms being identified

c) No, but mechanisms are under development

d) Yes, mechanisms are in place

X - The National Advisory Committee on Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture was established in 1996 to advise and aid in the development and implementation of plans aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- the development and utilisation of genetic resources to increase national food security;
- the identification, evaluation and

	<p>conservation of unique genetic resources whose survival is being threatened or endangered;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the promotion of public awareness and support for genetic resource conservation management strategies and • the participation in international and EU programmes aimed at co-ordinated management of genetic resources. <p>National Platform for Biodiversity Research Regular involvement of stakeholders in the design and implementation of REPS3 including the biodiversity oriented elements</p>
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170. Has your country improved the policy environment, including benefit-sharing arrangements and incentive measures, to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity?

a) No	X
b) No, but some measures and arrangements being identified	
c) No, but measures and arrangements are under development	
d) Yes, measures and arrangements are being implemented (please specify below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to improve the policy environment.

Not relevant in Ireland

Programme element 4 – Mainstreaming

171. Is your country mainstreaming or integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes?

a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) No, but potential frameworks and mechanisms are being identified	
d) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed and integrated into some sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed into major sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on mainstreaming and integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes.

The National Biodiversity Plan is being implemented since 2002.

The development of a Biodiversity Action Plan for Agriculture is currently in progress.

172. Is your country supporting the institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans, and its integration into wider strategies and action plans for biodiversity?

a) No	
b) Yes, by supporting institutions in undertaking relevant assessments	X
c) Yes, by developing policy and planning guidelines	X
d) Yes, by developing training material	
e) Yes, by supporting capacity-building at policy, technical and local levels	
f) Yes, by promoting synergy in the implementation of agreed plans of action and between ongoing assessment and intergovernmental processes.	X

Further comments on support for institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms.

The Department of Agriculture and Food established a Biodiversity Unit in 2004 to advance biodiversity policy in agriculture and produce Biodiversity Action Plan for Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture and Food is represented on the Interdepartmental Steering Group on the Implementation of the National Biodiversity Plan 2002-2006.

The Department of Agriculture and Food is represented on National Platform for Biodiversity Research.

173. In the case of centers of origin in your country, is your country promoting activities for the conservation, on farm, *In-situ*, and *Ex-situ*, of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including their wild relatives?

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on of the conservation of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture in their center of origin.

In-situ conservation of rare native animal breeds and plant varieties supported through REPS.

Support for both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation provided through cattle, sheep and horse breed societies and for plant varieties through Irish Seed Savers Association.

Box LXV.

Please provide information concerning the actions taken by your country to implement the Plan of Action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.

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Box LXVI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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Forest Biological Diversity

General

174. Has your country incorporated relevant parts of the work programme into your national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes?	
a) No	
b) Yes, please describe the process used	X
c) Yes, please describe constraints/obstacles encountered in the process	X
d) Yes, please describe lessons learned	X
e) Yes, please describe targets for priority actions in the programme of work	X
Further comments on the incorporation of relevant parts of the work programme into your NBSAP and forest programmes	
<p>a) Not applicable</p> <p>b) National Biodiversity Plan, inspection procedures, consultation procedures, forest Service Guidelines, conditions of grant aid and felling licenses and research.</p> <p>c) There is a need for further re search.</p> <p>Public and stakeholder consultation has a positive outcome.</p>	

Box LXVII.

Please indicate what recently applied tools (policy, planning, management, assessment and measurement) and measures, if any, your country is using to implement and assess the programme of work. Please indicate what tools and measures would assist the implementation.
Please see comments for 174

Box LXVIII.

Please indicate to what extent and how your country has involved indigenous and local communities, and respected their rights and interests, in implementing the programme of work.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: Due to Irelands history of practically 100% deforestation in the centuries up to 1900, there is very limited activities involving the use of traditional forest related knowledge, or traditional rights in forests. Although a lot of the traditional knowledge has been lost there are attempts to promote and encourage use of the remaining forest knowledge available.

Box LXIX.

Please indicate what efforts your country has made towards capacity building in human and capital resources for the implementation of the programme of work.

- Recruitment of dedicated ecologists in the Forest Service, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Coillte, the State Forestry Company.
- Development of GIS databases and plans.
- Funding and development of the Native Woodland Scheme. The provision of relevant training for forestry inspectors and consultants in relation to the scheme.
- Protection against invasive alien species (through inspections).
- Forest service inspections and audits to ensure that forestry operations are in compliance with national standards and guidelines.
- The development of the afforestation consent system and procedures, which is enshrined in legislation.

Box LXX.

Please indicate how your country has collaborated and cooperated (e.g., south-south, north-south, south-north, north-north) with other governments, regional or international organizations in implementing the programme of work. Please also indicate what are the constraints and/or needs identified.

- Ireland has particularly collaborated and cooperated with Northern Ireland (UK). Ireland, North and South, comprises one biogeographical unit and co-operation on biodiversity issues.
- The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe has improved and developed the indicators relating to the criteria pertaining to Sustainable Forest Management.
- Ireland is an active participant in the United Nations Forum on Forests.
- Ireland is an active member of many other international forestry and conservation processes.

Expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity

Programme element 1 – Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing	
175. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?	
<p>a) No (please provide reasons below)</p> <p>b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below)</p> <p>c) Yes (please provide details below)</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>
Comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impact on forest management, constraints, needs, tools, and targets).	
<p>Ireland's forest policy requires that forest development and operations must be sustainable and compatible with the protection of the environment.</p> <p>This entails:</p> <p>(a) Designating areas that have particular sensitivities and planning forestry with these to the fore.</p> <p>(b) Using published guidelines, including the Forest Biodiversity Guidelines, (the Forest Service Guidelines are obligatory and must be complied with) and the Code of Best Forest Practice</p> <p>(c) Inspections to ensure compliance</p> <p>(d) Audit the Irish National Forest Standard to gauge changes over time,</p> <p>(e) Coillte Teo (the State Forest Company) uses Forest Management Unit (FMU) planning, which is based on the ecosystem approach.</p> <p>The inventory and classification of broadleaf woodlands will provide a framework for the Native Woodland Scheme, selection of protected areas and biodiversity guidelines.</p> <p>Legislation: Forestry Acts 1946, 1988 and Statutory Instrument 538 of 2001 make implicit the need for good forest management, control felling and make forest operations subject to the Wildlife and Planning Acts.</p> <p>Sustainable Forest Management (SFM): Ireland is committed to the principles of SFM and is a signatory to the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) Lisbon Agreement 1998. Ireland has developed and published the Irish National Standard, which outlines the criteria and indicators relating to the national implementation of SFM.</p> <p>Research: The BIOFOREST project is investigating biodiversity in plantation forestry and will augment existing research. The BIOSCAPE project is examining the biodiversity of different forests and forested landscapes. The BioAssess project (the Biodiversity Assessment Tools Project) is developing a tool-box for assessing the impacts of policies on biodiversity in Europe, in addition it is measuring the impact of land-use change on biodiversity across Europe's biogeographic regions.</p> <p>The Native Woodland Scheme (NWS), launched in 2001, applies an ecosystem approach. The scheme includes training courses in native woodland appreciation, conservation, management and establishment.</p>	

176. Has your country undertaken measures to reduce the threats to, and mitigate its impacts on forest biodiversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to reduce threats to, and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

The National Biodiversity Plan includes a commitment to prepare a national study on alien species. To this end, a joint all-Ireland review of alien species has been initiated with Northern Ireland.

With regard to the impact of pollution on forest biodiversity, Ireland participates in the European Commission's Forest Focus monitoring programme. Efforts to reduce pollution are ongoing through the Integrated Pollution Control licensing system from the Environmental Protection Agency.

With regard to fragmentation and changes to other land uses, the Forestry Acts and the Wildlife Act (1976, 2000) in addition to other legislation such as Planning legislation provides protection to existing woodlands, while agricultural schemes give some protection and provide enhancement measures for hedgerows. (Hedgerows are a valuable component of woodland connectivity in Ireland.) Some areas of broadleaf woodland/scrub continue to be cleared. The Native Woodland Scheme places particular importance on connectivity in the creation of new native woodlands.

The importance of deadwood is recognised by the Forest Biodiversity Guidelines, which require that some deadwood should be left *in situ* after both thinning and final harvesting.

177. Is your country undertaking any measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

All forest operations must adhere to Forest Service environmental and forest practice guidelines which include the Forest Biodiversity Guidelines, and which encourage an ecosystem approach to forest planning and management. Most measures are habitat oriented rather than species oriented. However, where a rare/threatened species is present, for example Hen Harrier, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, the site must be managed in a way to ensure the protection, survival and where possible enhancement of the species.

The Native Woodland Scheme and to some extent the Woodland Improvement Scheme and NeighbourWood Scheme perform this function. The National Biodiversity Plan pays particular attention to the need for the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in all sectors.

178. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the promotion of the sustainable use of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

There is very little harvesting of non-timber resources in Ireland – practically all harvesting is timber harvesting (logging). The Forestry Acts control timber harvesting - a Felling Licence is required from the Forest Service before harvesting and there is usually a condition to replant. The Forest Harvesting and the Environment Guidelines ensure that forest harvesting adopts sound planning procedures, operating techniques and control measures to reduce any potentially adverse effects. They address issues relating to soil conservation, protection of water quality, biodiversity as well as the maintenance of forest health and productivity.

179. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 5 and describe measures undertaken
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the promotion of access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources. (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets)

Programme element 2 – Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment

180. Is your country undertaking any measures to enhance the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the enhancement of the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

The Forestry Acts, Wildlife Acts, Forest Service Guidelines. Code of Best Forest Practice, National Irish Forest Standard, consultation procedures and inspections by Forest Service personnel and personnel from the National Parks and Wildlife Service as well as other stakeholders ensure that the requirements of the above legislation/regulations are implemented. A new Forestry Bill will be drafted in 2006.

181. Is your country undertaking any measures to address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on review of socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

The majority of Irish forests are non-indigenous plantations and many of the larger semi-natural woods are protected either by State ownership or through designation. Measures are available to protect these areas.

182. Is your country undertaking any measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

Guidelines published, public consultation, Native Woodland Scheme training, information days, funding of NGOs that promote Sustainable Forest Management. Ireland's National Tree Week promotes and raises public awareness of all aspects of forests including their biodiversity values. The Peoples Millennium Forest Project was also very effective in this regard.

Programme element 3 – Knowledge, assessment and monitoring

183. Is your country undertaking any measures to characterize forest ecosystems at various scales in order to improve the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on characterization of forest ecosystems at various scales (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

The National Forest Inventory, the Inventory of semi-natural woodlands and the Bioforest research project have begun this task.

184. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve knowledge on, and methods for, the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on improvement of knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

Some research programmes are implemented, for example the BIOFOREST project, BIOSCAPE project and BIOASSESS project (see question 8). Long term research has also been conducted around the country, for example in the Wicklow and Killarney National Parks, Brackloon Wood and the ICP plots.

The National Forest Inventory includes forest biodiversity.

185. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the improvement of the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

Criteria and indicators for Sustainable Forest Management have been adopted and improved through the Ministerial Conferences for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and incorporated into the Irish National Forest Standard and progressed through involvement with the Cost Action Programmes.

186. Is your country undertaking any measures at national level to improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biodiversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the improvement of the infrastructure for data and information management (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).

The European Commissions Forest Focus monitoring programme is providing funding for a bio-soils monitoring programme which will commence in 2005.

An audit of the Irish National Forest Standard is being developed at present , which will include the biodiversity criterion. Research programmes are also in place.

Box LXXI.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

187. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work? (decisions V/23 and VII/2)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on scientific, technical and financial support, at the national and regional levels, to the activities identified in the programme of work.

This part is not relevant to Ireland

188. Has your country integrated actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands integrated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD.

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189. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD process and other processes under related environmental conventions? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)

a) No	
b) Yes, some linkages established (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, extensive linkages established (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures to ensure the synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD processes and other processes under related environmental conventions.

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Programme Part A: Assessment

190. Has your country assessed and analyzed information on the state of dryland biological diversity and the pressures on it, disseminated existing knowledge and best practices, and filled knowledge gaps in order to determine adequate activities? (Decision V/23, Part A: Assessment, Operational objective, activities 1 to 6)

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) No | |
| b) No, but assessment is ongoing | |
| c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below) | |
| d) Yes, comprehensive assessment undertaken (please provide details below) | |

Further comments on the relevant information on assessments of the status and trends and dissemination of existing knowledge and best practices.

Programme Part B: Targeted Actions

191. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences? (part B of annex I of decision V/23, activities 7 to 9)

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) No | |
| b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below) | |
| c) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below) | |

Further comments on the measures taken to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences.

192. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work?

a) No	X
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, all identified capacity needs met (please provide details below)	

Further comments on measures taken to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work.

Box LXXII.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Mountain Biodiversity

Programme Element 1. Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing

193. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity

Currently the main impacts on uplands result from overstocking, plantation forestry operations, peat extraction, fire, farm abandonment, erosion and potentially climate change

Prevention of damage has focused on the designation of Natura 2000 sites. Under this legislation many sites (Natural Heritage Areas) have recently been designated for the habitat blanket bog and several of these occur in uplands.

A recently introduced measure under the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) gives financial incentives to farmers to farm hill land in a sustainable manner. This measure which applies to shared grazing, to Natura 2000 sites and to other designated sites was developed jointly by representatives of agriculture and nature .

National Parks (state-owned properties) have been established in several upland areas. Their management is elaborated through management plans in association with local stakeholders.

Infrastructure especially access roads is a threat particularly that associated with wind energy installations. Guidelines on wind energy development have recently been produced by Dept Of Environment, Heritage & Local Government and include guidance on mitigation of natural heritage impact.

In specific areas of high recreational impact paths have been constructed to mitigate impact.

194. Has your country taken any measures to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity

See 193

195. Has your country taken any measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems?

a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems

See 193

196. Has your country taken any measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources, including preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge?

a) No	X
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources

**Programme Element 2. Means of implementation for conservation,
sustainable use and benefit sharing**

197. Has your country developed any legal, policy and institutional framework for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing this programme of work?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant frameworks are being developed	
c) Yes, some frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the legal, policy and institutional frameworks for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing the programme of work on mountain biodiversity.

Cross compliance inspections provide a means for joint Department initiatives to target inappropriate farming activities within designated areas and commonages.

198. Has your country been involved in regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but some cooperation frameworks are being considered	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further information on the regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

There has been some work to develop a joint approach to the conservation of biological diversity in mountain areas with Northern Ireland. Draft management plans for these areas have been exchanged.

(MONARCH 11 the UK / Ireland Research programme on climate change selected a largely upland, trans-boundary study site and the habitat blanket bog for modelling the potential impacts of climate change on a number of selected flora and fauna species from this habitat)

Trans – national co-operation is a feature of the Wicklow Uplands Council an NGO that represents rural development interests in Wicklow. This is actively involved in trans-national projects (with Wales) funded by INTERREG the objectives of which are the development of walking routes, sustainable tourism and forestry centers of excellence in mountain areas They also have close contacts with a similar organization in Northern Ireland; the Mourne Heritage Trust.

**Programme Element 3. Supporting actions for conservation,
sustainable use and benefit sharing**

199. Has your country taken any measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biological diversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biodiversity

A comprehensive monitoring exercise commenced in November 2004.

200. Has your country taken any measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

201. Has your country taken any measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems?

a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems

Box LXXIII .

Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

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E. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

202. Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention? (decision V/20)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on the regional and subregional activities in which your country has been involved.

See box LXXV

203. Is your country strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, enhancing integration and promoting synergies with relevant regional and subregional processes? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on regional and subregional cooperation and processes.

See box LXXV

The following question (204) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

204. Is your country supporting the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, included in existing cooperation frameworks (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities ongoing (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on support for the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes.

See box LXXV

205. Is your country working with other Parties to strengthen the existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	
b) Yes	X

206. Has your country contributed to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

Further comments on contribution to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms.

Box LXXIV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of the above decisions specifically focusing on:

- a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Ireland participates in a number of regional activities and meetings aimed at both preparation for CBD meetings and to improve the implementation of the Convention. These fora include European Working Groups on the Environment, the European Biodiversity Expert Group and the Pan European Biodiversity (PEBLDS)

F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT

Box LXXV.

Please provide below recommendations on how to improve this reporting format.
