

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

Contracting Party	<b>Liechtenstein</b>
<b>National Focal Point</b>	
Full name of the institution:	Amt für Wald, Natur und Landschaft, AWNL / Office for Forests, Nature and Landscape, OFNL
Name and title of contact officer:	Hermann Schmuck
Mailing address:	AWNL FL - 9490 Vaduz
Telephone:	+423 236 6419
Fax:	+423 236 6411
E-mail:	<u><a href="mailto:hermann.schmuck@awnl.llv.li">hermann.schmuck@awnl.llv.li</a></u>
<b>Contact officer for national report (if different)</b>	
Name and title of contact officer:	Dr. Felix Näscher
Mailing address:	AWNL FL - 9490 Vaduz
Telephone:	+ 423 236 64 00
Fax:	+ 423 236 64 11
E-mail:	<u><a href="mailto:felix.naescher@awnl.llv.li">felix.naescher@awnl.llv.li</a></u>
<b>Submission</b>	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	M Felix Näscher
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***Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report***

The following report has been prepared by the Office for Forests, Nature and Landscape, which forms the responsible governmental body for forest and related matters within the Ministry for the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry.

The report is based on all politically relevant and simultaneously important aspects which set the framework for forest conservation, forest utilization and forest management. It has been elaborated in cooperation with the Nature and Landscape Division of the OFNI.

**Decision IV/7 on Forest biological Diversity**

1. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this decision by your country?					
a) High	<b>X</b>	b) Medium		c) Low	
2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good	<b>X</b>	b) Adequate		c) Limiting	
d) Severely limiting					

3. Has your country assessed the status and trends of its forest biological diversity and identified options for its conservation and sustainable use? (Decision IV/7, paragraph 12)	
a) no	
b) assessment underway (please give details below)	
c) assessment completed (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
d) not relevant	

<b><i>If a developing country Party or a Party with economy in transition -</i></b>	
4. Has your country requested assistance through the financial mechanism for projects that promote the implementation of the focused work programme on forest biological diversity? (Decision IV/7, paragraph 7)	
a) no	
b) yes (please give details below)	

***Programme element 1: Holistic and inter-sectoral ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking account of social and cultural and economic considerations***

5. Has your country identified methodologies for enhancing the integration of forest biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into an holistic approach to sustainable forest management at the national level? (Work Programme, paragraph 13)	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
d) not applicable	
6. Has your country developed methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest-related knowledge into sustainable forest management, in accordance with Article 8(j)? (Work Programme, paragraph 14)	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	<b>X</b>
7. Has your country promoted cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological resources at all levels in accordance with Articles 5 and 16 of the Convention? (Work Programme, paragraph 15)	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
d) not applicable	

8. Has your country promoted the sharing of relevant technical and scientific information on networks at all levels of protected forest areas and networking modalities in all types of forest ecosystems? (Work Programme, paragraph 17)	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
d) not applicable	

***Programme element 2: Comprehensive analysis of the ways in which human activities, in particular forest-management practices, influence biological diversity and assessment of ways to minimize or mitigate negative influences***

9. Has your country promoted activities for an enhanced understanding of positive and negative human influences on forest ecosystems by land-use managers, policy makers, scientists and other relevant stakeholders ) (Work Programme, paragraph 29)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
d) not relevant	
10. Has your country promoted activities to assemble management experiences and scientific, indigenous and local information at the national and local levels to provide for the sharing of approaches and tools that lead to improved forest practices with regard to forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 30)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
d) not relevant	
11. Has your country promoted activities with the aim of providing options to minimize or mitigate negative and to promote positive human influences on forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 31)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
d) not relevant	

12. Has your country promoted activities to minimize the impact of harmful alien species on forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 32)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
d) not relevant	

13. Has your country identified means and mechanisms to improve the identification and prioritisation of research activities related to influences of human activities, in particular forest management practices, on forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 33)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
14. Does your country hold research results and syntheses of reports of relevant scientific and traditional knowledge on key forest biological diversity issues and, if so, have these been disseminated as widely as possible? (Work Programme, paragraph 34)	
a) not relevant	
b) some relevant material, but not widely disseminated	
c) significant material that could be more widely disseminated (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
d) yes - already widely disseminated (please give details below)	
15. Has your country prepared case-studies on assessing impacts of fires and alien species on forest biological diversity and their influences on the management of forest ecosystems and savannahs? (Work Programme, paragraph 35)	
a) no – please indicate below whether this is due to a lack of available case-studies or for other reasons	Not applicable
b) yes – please give below any views you may have on the usefulness of the preparation of case-studies for developing a better biological understanding of the problem and/or better management responses.	

***Programme element 3: Methodologies necessary to advance the elaboration and implementation of criteria and indicators for forest biological diversity***

16. Has your country assessed experiences gained in national and regional processes, identifying common elements and gaps in existing initiatives and improving indicators for forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 43)	
a) minimal activity	<b>X</b>
b) yes – limited assessment made (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant assessment made (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
17. Has your country carried out taxonomic studies and inventories at the national level which provide for a basic assessment of forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 43)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited assessment made (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant assessment made (please give details below)	<b>X</b>
d) not relevant	

*If you have ticked any of the boxes in questions 5 to 17 above which invite you to provide further details, please do so here.*

*(Information can include descriptions of methodologies and of activities undertaken, reasons for success or failure, outcomes and lessons learned)*

**Decisions IV/7 on Forest Biological Diversity –  
Further Details/Comments to Questions:**

**Question 3:**

The whole forest area has been classified with respect to its composition of Natural Forest-Vegetation Types (55 in total) in 1988; a survey on the naturalness of all forests stands is included.

The National Forest Inventory of Liechtenstein (1998) provides a large amount of data regarding the status and the development of tree diversity, structural diversity, biotope quality and the amount of dead wood during the period 1986-1998. It forms the scientific background for the National Forest Programme 2002-2012.

In 2000 26.7 % of the whole forest area have been declared as strictly protected forest reserves by the Ordinance LGBl. 2000 Nr. 230 in order either to allow forest ecosystems to develop according to their inherent dynamics (70 %) or to preserve endangered vegetation units by specific management and conservation measures (30 %).

Old stands of typical Forest-Vegetation Types are specially preserved in order to conserve the gene pools of the respective trees, also in respect of the – limited – afforestation activities or the artificial reproduction.

**Question 5:**

The principle of the application of a silvicultural praxis which is as near as feasible to natural processes is enshrined in the national Law on Forests, Waldgesetz (LGBl. 1991 Nr. 42) and the respective ordinances: Verordnung über Umfang und Leistung von Abgeltungen und Finanzhilfen, LGBl. 1995 Nr. 62 and Verordnung über Waldreservate und Sonderwaldflächen, LGBl. 2000 Nr. 230.

The principle of sustainability sets the framework for all forest management activities. To this end a number of articles, valid for the entire forest area, deal with the conservation and utilization of biological diversity – a symbiosis of utilization and protection, e. g.:

- The surface of the forest area is strictly protected.
- Silvicultural practices have to be oriented at the conditions of the site and the requirements of natural flora and fauna species.
- Clear-felling (area larger than 0.5 ha) is prohibited.
- The use of environmentally hazardous substances is prohibited.

As a selfbinding obligation to really implement and to further improve the concept of sustainability the National Forest Management Authority, the Office for Forests, Nature and Landscape, OFNL, has undergone, comprising the whole forest area, an assessment under the SGS-QUALIFOR Programm (in April 2001) and is certified as fulfilling all the requirements of a well managed forest according to the principles and standards of the FSC Forest Stewardship Council.

Although the protection of flora and fauna species in its natural living spaces is one of the pillars of the nature conservation act too (Naturschutzgesetz: LGBl. 1996 Nr. 117), the practical implementation of this target is completely up to the forest management authority. The respective ordinance Nr. 2000/230 with respect to forest reserves on the one hand and a binding concept on the realization of nature and landscape conservation activities with respect for the whole forest area (AWNL 2000) on the other hand build thereto the backbone.

In addition to these comprehensive forest laws and ordinances a number of strategies and projects, planned and implemented in related sectors, contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity strategies in

forests: Game management measures, ecological improvement and enhancement of the edge of forests in cooperation with the agricultural sector, enhancement of rare, threatened or endangered species, enhancement of “agro-forestry” on slightly wooded alpine pastures, enhancement of networks of small forest areas in the agricultural land ... .

**Question 7:**

Cooperation is well guaranteed and institutionalised between the National Forest Authority and the public forest owners (93 % of the forest area); if need is cooperation with private forest owners is secured.

On the governmental level there is also a broad and intensive cooperation within the different ministries through an institutionalised coordination group (Koordinationsgruppe Umwelt und Raum), which closely cooperates with regional and local authorities, non-governmental organizations or other stakeholders.

**Question 8:**

The ordinance on forest reserves (Verordnung über Waldreservate und Sonderwaldflächen, LGBl. 2000 Nr. 230) is in its content based on a comprehensive scientific inventory of forest sites or forest stands of high natural value. Prior to the adoption of the ordinance this inventory has been object of a broad discussion involving all relevant stakeholders with a view to simultaneously networking all types of forest ecosystems and harmonizing diverging sectoral interests.

**Question 9:**

Implementing the Law on Forests the National Forest Management Authority, the Office for Forests, Nature and Landscape, OFNL, has to commit itself to this field of work by doing such activities alone or, which is clearly favoured, by supporting research or training programmes, information or education campaigns or brochures /leaflets of non-governmental organizations.

**Question 10:**

There is a long tradition of applying a silvicultural praxis which is as near as feasible to natural processes and respecting local site conditions. Not only the Natural Forest-Vegetation Types (55 in total) have been mapped on the whole forest area, but also recommendations as regards the most suitable conservation and utilization measures have been formulated. On the basis of the binding concept on the realization of nature and landscape conservation activities on the whole forest area (AWNl 2000) education and training programmes are organized for foresters, forest workers and other interested people.

**Question 11:**

Negative impacts on forest ecosystems by recreation activities are generally prohibited by law, e.g., alpine skiing through mountain forests, mountain-biking aside of forest roads, camping ... . The deposition of any material from outside the forests or the construction of any building or infrastructural facilities are generally forbidden or have to undergo a interference procedure, in which also non-governmental organizations have a right to intervene..

A concept on the realization of nature and landscape conservation activities (AWNl, 2000) in all types of forests has been elaborated and serves as a practical manual providing information and guidance for foresters, forests owners and other stakeholders. Quite a number of education and information activities aiming at the broad public are undertaken on a regular basis, e. g. brochures, folders, exhibitions (also on the occasion of fairs), excursions, yearly organization of a “green week” for schoolchildren, ... . All the management or information activities with positive effects on forest biodiversity are supported by subsidies.

**Question 12:**

The question is not really relevant. There is a tiny number of old forest stands with alien tree species. In the management plans of the last decades alien tree species play no role; according to the National Forest Programme 2002 – 2012 the introduction and plantation of alien tree species in the forest area is generally not allowed or, as regards some exceptional cases, is subject to a special procedure. The same reservation is applied under the nature conservation act for any alien fauna species, which might be introduced or reintroduced.

**Question 13:**

Several research programmes deal with direct and indirect human influences on forest biological diversity, especially with regard to game species. The question of the installation of refuges, where no human activities, e.g., walking, jogging, skiing, cross-country skiing, mountain-biking, overflying, ... will be allowed, is subject of several programmes and is widely discussed at the moment.

**Question 14:**

Since two decades a systematic research programme on flora and fauna species and their ecosystems is established. The results are published as well in a scientific series “Naturkundliche Forschung im Fürstentum Liechtenstein” as in a more popular manner in the form of brochures, posters, fact sheets, articles in journals of specialized organizations, workshops, ... . Non-governmental organizations play a major role in the dissemination of the respective findings and practical knowledge.

**Question 16:**

The question of biodiversity indicators is not well developed yet. Although for example the National Forest Inventory of Liechtenstein (1998) provides a large amount of data regarding the development of tree diversity, structural diversity, biotope quality and the amount of dead wood during the period 1986-1998, those data are focused on tree species. First steps regarding the development of biodiversity indicators and establishing a respective monitoring system have started in cooperation with research institutes and non-governmental organizations; progress is slow, because there is a strong wish to base and to adapt national indicators to an internationally harmonized set of basic indicators.

**Question 17:**

As a result of the systematic research programme on flora and fauna species and their ecosystems a large systematic knowledge on species is available, particularly with respect to vascular plants, mammals, birds, butterflies, snails, reptiles, fungi, lichens; publications on their distribution, ecology and status of threat (red lists) are available.