

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Third National Report
Latvia

Ministry of the Environment
Riga, 2005

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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.

The Third National Report was prepared with financial assistance from UNDP Latvia program, within the frame of Global Environment Facility funded project "Preparation of the Third National Report on Biodiversity: GEF Additional Funding for Biodiversity Enabling Activities".

For the preparation of Third National Report, interviews with the key persons as well as workshops were organized with the involvement of environmental NGOs, scientific community as well as national and regional institutions. The draft final report was discussed at the Environmental Consultative Board, established by the Ministry of Environment and consisting of the major players in the environmental field (NGOs, professional and scientific organizations) as well as with heads of protected areas

administrations.

For the preparation of the Third National report the following information was analyzed: previous 2 country reports to the CBD and relevant Convention Background documents, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, National Biodiversity Protection Plan for implementation of Natura 2000 requirements in Latvia (2003-2013), relevant sectoral strategies, especially as concerns the use of EU Structural funds and other relevant financial instruments and programs. Reports of biodiversity monitoring program and inventories made for the purpose of establishment of the EU network of protected areas Natura 2000 were used. Results of UNDP/GEF funded project "Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)" were used in this report as well.

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.

With **accession to European Union** in 2004, Latvia has faced major changes in legislation and shifted priorities towards Europe-scale approach to nature conservation. Most effort (both financial and human resource) was put on approximation of the EU legislation in implementation of requirements for accession to EU. Protection of biodiversity has gained higher profile in Latvia, due to accession to EU as network of specially protected areas of EU importance Natura 2000 sites has been established, stronger requirements for assessing potential impact of economical activities on species and habitats are required, EU LIFE funding for nature conservation activities is available to Latvia, among others. Along with these positive changes, negative trends to maintenance of biological diversity are appearing, for example, in regards to development of agriculture (please see more details below).

Biodiversity protection in Latvia is based on 2 main **Laws** – Law "On Specially Protected Nature Territories" (1993, amended in 1997 and 2003) and Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" (2000). Based on these Laws, Cabinet of Ministers has adopted several supporting Regulations. In general, the legislation of nature conservation in Latvia corresponds to requirements of Convention on Biological Diversity.

Regards to **Article 6** of the Convention, National Program for Biological Diversity was prepared in 2000, this strategic document serve as basis for implementation of Convention. Action plan on Biodiversity was prepared in 2000 and updated in 2003. According to Article 6 of the Convention, issues of biodiversity protection have been integrated into Latvian Forest Policy plan (1998) and Rural Development Plan for Latvia (2004-2006), as well as into Single Programming Document (2004-2006) being main strategy document outlining in detail how EU Structural Funds (ERDF, ESF, EAGGF and FIFG) will be used in Latvia in the period of 2004-2006. Maintenance of biological diversity is one of the key priorities in recently updated Environmental Policy plan for Latvia (2004).

To implement provisions of the **Article 7**, National monitoring program was prepared in 2002, including monitoring of biological diversity. National Environmental Monitoring program contains 16 sub-programs (e.g. Baltic sea habitats and species monitoring, monitoring of invasive species etc.). Each sub-program describes also insufficiencies and required monitoring actions along with cost estimates and potential funding mechanisms. Biodiversity monitoring sub-program is currently under review and update is proposed in order to comply with all requirements as provided by the EU biodiversity legislation.

In order to improve public awareness and educate general public about biodiversity protection (**Article 13** of the Convention), Public Information Strategy and Action Plan was elaborated in 2001.

To implement **Article 18**, Latvia has elaborated national information and cooperation network (CHM). This information system supports thematic and cross-sectoral issues of the Convention; information on species and habitat diversity in Latvia is published on the home page www.lva.gov.lv/daba.

Maintenance of **forest biological diversity** is affected by weak regional development and subsequently difficult economic situation in the countryside. Forest in many cases is seen as only income for inhabitants of the countryside, leading to unsustainable use of forests, especially private ones. The fact that ca 45% of Latvian forests are private reveals the extent of the problem.

Maintenance of **coastal biological diversity** faces major challenge of economic development and housing. Very high pressure both political and financial is put on protected areas in coastal zone. Maintenance of coastal zone is to a great extent responsibility of local municipalities not always having enough capacity to withstand high pressure.

Maintenance of **biodiversity in agricultural landscape** is another issue potentially becoming a problem. Accession to EU has attracted large amount of funding for intensification of agricultural practices. Although these funds request compliance with environmental and nature protection legislation, the overall tendency is towards intensification of agricultural practices potentially leading to decrease of biological diversity.

In 2003, the report of the **project ‘Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)’** was published, identifying major capacity problems and obstacles related to implementation of the Convention. They are grouped in 5 main groups, as follows:

- 1) *Capacity related to implementation of Action Programs and Technologies.* Main insufficiency endangering maintenance of biological diversity is related to unsolved problem of lack of compensations, especially for restrictions on use of forest resources. At the same time, the legislative basis for solving this problem is prepared; the main obstacle is obtaining financial resources.
- 2) *Science and training of specialists.* Main insufficiencies are related to lack of scientifically authoritative science center for nature conservation and biodiversity problems; lack of financial and intellectual capacity in scientific sector; overload of university personnel dealing with education programs, lack of professional training and education materials.
- 3) *Identification, monitoring and information exchange.* Capacity problems identified in the field of biological diversity include absence of prioritizing of actions and goals set in NPBD and National Monitoring Program (due to lack of finances). Another problem is dealing with management of data – lack of unified principles for data flow to Latvian Environmental Agency. At the same time, positive feedback about establishment of CHM has been received.
- 4) *Involvement of public, education and cooperation with NGOs.* Level of communication between state institutions and landowners in the process of establishment of protected areas is evaluated as insufficient. The need for more involved dialogue between NGOs and state institutions was also identified, especially related to long-term state environmental policymaking. Insufficient involvement of public in decision-making is another insufficiency identified.
- 5) *Coordination between institutions and their capacity.* One capacity problem is related to dialogue between Environment and Agriculture ministries over differences in long-term goals for forest management and protection. Regional implementing agencies are facing major capacity problems, but it is not assessed how to overcome them. Lack of unified cartographic system in the country and problems with digitizing borders of protected areas is obstacle to successful maintenance of biological diversity. Lack of capacity of municipalities is another obstacle to successful implementation of the Convention and EU requirements.

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			N/A
y) Mountain biodiversity			N/A

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	1	2	2	2	1	N/A	1	2	2	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	3		
b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	1	1	1	2	1	N/A	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1		
c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	1	3	2	2	2	N/A	1	3	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	2		
d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	1	2	1	3	3	N/A	2	2	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2		
e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	2	2	2	3	1	N/A	1	3	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1		
f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	1	1	1	1	2	N/A	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1		
g) Loss of	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	N/A											

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

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

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	x
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	

Please provide details below.

National Programme on Biological Diversity (NPBD) sets several priority strategic targets that contribute to achieving global 2010 Target. They are following:

- Maintain and improve the diversity of ecosystems and their natural elements.
- Maintain and improve natural species diversity.
- Maintain the genetic diversity of natural species, as well as of crop plants and animal breeds.
- Promote the conservation of the traditional landscape structures.
- Ensure sustainable use of natural resources.

Although specific 10% target is not mentioned in planning documents, it is indirectly promoted by implementing the National Biodiversity Strategy.

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	<p>National Programme on Biological Diversity sets several targets for Agriculture, although without specific mention of 10% target. Among them, the most relevant to mentioned target could be following:</p> <p>14.1. Maintain the characteristic habitat mosaic of rural landscapes. 14.3. Ensure management of semi-natural meadows and fens 14.4. Prevent a decrease in coverage of semi-natural meadows 14.5. Retard simplification of meadow communities 14.6. Prevent simplification of semi-natural pasture communities 14.8. Prevent the distribution of introduced species.</p>
b) Inland water		x	<p>National Programme on Biological Diversity sets several targets for maintenance of Inland water ecosystems, although without specific mention of 10% target. Most relevant among them should be mentioned:</p> <p>3.1. Conservation of swiftly flowing river stretches 3.2. Ensure the function of ecological corridors along rivers. 3.3. Prevent the loss of sensitive species and communities, and simplification of communities in fresh waters.</p> <p>River Basin management plans will be developed for main river basins in Latvia, according requirement of Water Framework Directive.</p>
c) Marine and coastal		x	<p>National Programme on Biological Diversity sets several targets for maintenance of Marine and coastal ecosystems, although without specific mention of 10% target. Most relevant among them should be mentioned:</p> <p>1.1. Smooth the decline in communities of the deep sea areas 1.2. Eliminate further decline of macrophyte beds 1.3. Prevent a further decline in coastal community and species diversity, and changes in natural community structure. 1.6. Prevent expansion of introduced species 2.1. Reduce the degradation processes of beach and dune ecosystems. 2.2. Promote conservation of sea cliff areas. 2.3. Monitor the expansion of reed and bulrush populations, and the resulting effects on biological diversity.</p>
d) Dry and subhumid land		-	
e) Forest		x	National Programme on Biological Diversity sets several targets for maintenance of forest ecosystems, although

		without specific mention of 10% target. Most relevant among them should be mentioned: 4.1. Prevent a decline in diversity of forest habitats. 4.2. Ensure suitable conditions for populations of forest animals 4.3. Protect migration paths and reduce the rate of forest fragmentation. 4.4. Maintain the characteristic species composition of forest communities.
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f) Mountain

-

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.

General global and national targets have been incorporated both in National Program on Biological Diversity and in relevant sectoral plans, for example in Agriculture:

Single Programming Document for Latvia (2004-2006) provides the objective of Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection for the respective planning period along with measure "Preservation of Rural Landscape" that foresees support for reduction of expansion of invasive species and restarting the management of abandoned agricultural land.

Rural Development plan for planning period 2004-2006 provides for conservation of biological diversity in the rural areas, but without specific 10% target. Under Rural Development Plan the following rural development measures are supported among others:

- Agri-environment;
- Less-favored areas and areas with environmental restrictions.

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

In Latvia, 10% target has not been sufficiently emphasized as such. Of course, there are number of national targets set and activities undertaken that contribute to effective conservation of at least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions, but they are incorporated into different schemes and strategies and not set separately from other biodiversity targets.

In general, this target is well implemented in Latvia, even if looking only on area of protected territories (Natura 2000 sites) in Latvia, covering 11.9 % of country terrestrial area.

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

Environmental Policy plan foresees related indicator, but without numeric value, namely "Natura 2000 network established".

State Environmental Indicators report does provide two area specific indicators the coverage of particularly protected nature territories and relative areas of protected territories in Latvia, using the IUCN classification system.

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

The main challenge to achieving the target was establishment of network of protected areas of EU importance, Natura 2000 network. It was completed on April 2004.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

List of Natura 2000 sites in Latvia consist of nationally protected sites, more information please see on <http://www.varam.gov.lv/vad/English/Territories.html>

The full text of National Program of Biological Diversity can be found on

http://www.varam.gov.lv/vad/English/Plans/BD_nat_prog/Contents.html

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			
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>National Targets on protection of areas of particular importance to biodiversity are set in NPBD. They are following:</p> <p>34.1. Improvement of the network of particularly protected nature territories. Develop criteria for determination of the territory boundaries.</p> <p>34.2 Develop nature protection plans and specific regulations for protection and use, in order of priority. Ensure their implementation and control.</p> <p>34.3. Consider possibilities to include more territories in lists of internationally important locations (for example, the list of Wetlands of International Importance).</p> <p>34.4. Develop a concept of an ecological network, integrating into the EMERALD and NATURA 2000 protected territory networks.</p> <p>34.5. Develop a section on Nationally important nature territories in the National Plan.</p> <p>34.6. Improve the administrative system and ensure the required resources.</p> <p>34.7. Gradually procure land with Particularly protected nature territories as State land.</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		<p>There are no specific numeric targets, but NPBD sets goals for meadows and pastures and agricultural sector, among them:</p> <p>7.1. Maintain the area of semi-natural meadows</p> <p>7.2. Prevent overgrowing of natural meadows and pasture</p> <p>14.4. Prevent a decrease in coverage of semi-natural meadows</p> <p>One of the priorities of the Rural Development Plan (2004–2006) is maintenance of biologically diverse rural environment; the Agri-environmental section of the plan foresees the support payments for biological farming and maintenance of biologically valuable grasslands. Rural Development plan for the period 2004 – 2006 aims at the maintenance of 78% of the biologically valuable grasslands, most of them being semi-natural and natural meadows. The implementation of the plan shows that the actual maintenance rate will reach at least 90%.</p> <p>Single area payments are foreseen for areas with environmental restrictions, among them Natura 2000 sites.</p>
b) Inland water	x		<p>NPBD sets several targets for maintenance of Inland water ecosystems. Most relevant among them should be mentioned:</p> <p>3.1. Conservation of swiftly flowing river stretches</p> <p>3.2. Ensure the function of ecological corridors along rivers.</p> <p>3.3. Prevent the loss of sensitive species and communities, and simplification of communities in fresh waters.</p> <p>River Basin management plans will be developed for main</p>

		river basins in Latvia, according requirement of EU Water Framework Directive.
c) Marine and coastal	x	<p>NPBD foresees goals for maintenance of biological diversity in marine and coastal areas, among them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2. Eliminate further decline of macrophyte beds. 1.3. Prevent a further decline in coastal community and species diversity, and changes in natural community structure. 2.1. Reduce the degradation processes of beach and dune ecosystems. 2.2. Promote conservation of sea cliff areas <p>Each of these goals has specific targets or sub-goals set, for example, goal No. 2.1. have 10 sub-goals, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1.1. Supplement the protected nature area network with new areas designated by the various categories of protection, and develop and implement the respective nature protection plans. 2.1.2. Determine allowed recreation pressure levels for specific coastal zones that are identified in physical plans. 2.1.3. Develop a unified biological diversity monitoring system for the coastal zone. 2.1.5. Prevent tree planting and building on grey dunes or dune meadows. 2.1.6. Encourage the use of dune meadows for pasture, considering the European Union Regulation (EEC 2078/92) "On agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside" . 2.1.9. Restrict development of expansive species (for example, roses Rosa rugosa, sea buckthorn and elaeagnus) on dunes.
d) Dry and subhumid land	-	
e) Forest	x	<p>NPBD foresees several goals for Forestry sector in order to maintain biodiversity values in forests, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.2. Ensure suitable conditions for populations of forest animals. 4.3. Protect migration paths and reduce the rate of forest fragmentation. <p>Latvian Forest Policy (1998) also sets priorities and main principles for maintenance of ecological value of forests, recommending that scientifically sound protected area system is improved, providing maintenance of ecosystems, species and genetic resources in the forests. It also states that State has the right to limit forestry activities if they do endanger important natural values and does not follow ecological principles.</p>
f) Mountain	-	
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.		

As mentioned above, agriculture and forestry sectors have incorporated some of the strategic goals in their respective strategies. No specific targets have been set at the same time, e.g. with recommended area protected. But main areas of biodiversity importance have been protected, with establishment of Natura 2000 network; this network is incorporated in relevant sectoral policies and strategies (e.g. support payments in Agriculture).

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

Biodiversity areas are gaining more attention and emphasis after accession to EU. To establish Natura 2000 network in Latvia, the inventory of SPNT and selection of new protected territories was done by Latvian experts within the Danish – Latvian project "Analysis of the Specially Protected Nature Territories in Latvia and Establishing of Natura 2000 network". Territories for the Natura 2000 network were selected according to the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No 199 "Criteria for Selecting Sites Eligible for Identification as Sites of Community Importance in Latvia".

The Minister of Environment approved Latvian Natura 2000 – list of protected nature territories of European importance. 336 Natura 2000 territories have been designated in Latvia. 4 of them are Strict Nature Reserves, 3 National Parks, 38 Nature Parks, 9 Nature Monuments, 9 Protected Landscape Areas, 250 Nature Reserves and 23 Micro-reserves. According to the national legislation all Natura 2000 territories have legal protection status.

The Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" provides the scheme of establishment of micro-reserves to protect small-scale biologically valuable areas outside protected territories. Up to date, 928 Micro-reserves have been established.

3 new sites have been also added to Ramsar list of Wetlands of International Importance.

Management plans are being prepared for protected areas; the average rate is ca 30 per year.

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

336 Natura 2000 territories have been designated in Latvia. 4 of them are Strict Nature Reserves, 3 National Parks, 38 Nature Parks, 9 Nature Monuments, 9 Protected Landscape Areas, 250 Nature Reserves and 928 micro-reserves. 6 Ramsar sites are designated in the country, with total area 148,363 ha. They are also nationally protected areas.

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

The protection of areas of particular importance to biodiversity is mainly challenged by unsustainable forestry and intensification of agriculture as well as rather chaotic housing developments. Inside protected areas threats are less dangerous, as different regulations are in place, limiting harmful activities. At the same time, outside protected areas very few mechanisms (e.g. micro-reserves) are in place to protect biodiversity values.

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	x
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	

Please provide details below.

There are no specific selected taxonomic groups that are targeted by special legislative acts. Rare and threatened species are targeted by different strategies and BDNP – this process is described in Box VI of this Report. Latvia has signed the Agreement on Protection of Bats in Europe (Cabinet of Ministers adopted the regulation No.10 on 07.01.2003.) that foresees that necessary measures, including monitoring, are taken to enhance protection of all 15 bat species in Latvia.

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		-	
e) Forest		x	
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.

Entomological Society of Latvia is undertaking several studies on Taxonomy, biogeography, phylogeny of selected arthropods groups. Taxonomical, phylogenetical, ecological and biogeographical studies on the World Cicindelidae, Carabidae, Scarabaeidae, Lucanidae, Passalidae, Staphylinidae, Elateridae, Anthicidae, Trictenotomidae, Tenebrionidae, Cerambycidae (Coleoptera), Sphingidae (Lepidoptera), Cecidomyiidae (Diptera), dragonflies (Odonata) and other groups of invertebrates; Redefinition of the structure of subfamilies, tribes and genera of Anthicidae (Coleoptera) of the World; Revisional studies on the family Trictenotomidae (Coleoptera); Systematics, fauna and ecology of Sphingidae (Lepidoptera) in South-Eastern Asia, especially of Vietnam.

National monitoring program includes bat species monitoring sub-program, methodical guidelines for this monitoring are elaborated in Handbook for Bat monitoring, prepared in 2003.

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 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>NPBD has section on Species Protection that sets several goals:</p> <p>11.1. Prevent decline of numbers and distributions of local wild species in nature. 11.2. Implement actions to ensure protection of species outside of their natural habitats. 11.4. Maintain commercially important wild species resources. 11.5. Protect locations of wild decorative species near urban areas.</p> <p>Specific targets are mentioned to each of these goals.</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	<p>Protection of threatened species is integrated into biodiversity maintenance programmes, as species make integral part of biodiversity in agricultural areas. At the same time, NPBD sets also species – oriented goals for agriculture, e.g. 14.2. <i>Maintain the characteristic species of crop fields.</i></p>
b) Inland water	x		<p>NPBD sets specific goal for maintenance of species in inland waters, such as: 3.3. Prevent the loss of sensitive species and communities, and simplification of communities in fresh waters. 14.9. Maintain local plant varieties and animal breeds.</p>
c) Marine and coastal	x		<p>NPBD sets specific goal for maintenance of species in marine and coastal areas, such as: 1.3. Prevent a further decline in coastal community and species diversity, and changes in natural community structure. 1.4. Decrease mortality of seals and water birds. 1.5. Prevent a decline in fish populations. 1.6. Prevent expansion of introduced species. 2.3. Monitor the expansion of reed and bulrush populations, and the resulting effects on biological diversity.</p>
d) Dry and subhumid land		-	
e) Forest			<p>NPBD sets species oriented goals for the forests, such as: 4.2. Ensure suitable conditions for populations of forest animals. 4.3. Protect migration paths and reduce the rate of forest fragmentation. 4.4. Maintain the characteristic species composition of forest communities.</p> <p>As with all other goals in NPBD, more detailed targets are set for each of the goals mentioned.</p>
f) Mountain		-	
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.	
<p>National Biodiversity Action Plan contains 31 specific actions to implement species protection goals set in NPBD. As for sectoral strategies and programs, the protection of species is integral part of different habitats protected.</p>	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
<p>Law "On protection of Species and Habitats", providing several mechanisms for species protection also outside protected areas, regulates species protection. Forestry and Agriculture sectoral programmes encourage of maintenance of complex of biological diversity, species being part of this complex.</p> <p>Species action plans are being prepared for threatened species, so far plans are prepared for Brown Bear, Eurasian Lynx, Wolf, Black Stork, Capercaillie, Black Grouse and Freshwater Pearl Mussel.</p>	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
<p>Report on Environmental Indicators in Latvia (2002) states few species-related biodiversity indicators, such as:</p> <p>Numbers of plant species and fungi in Latvia, and the proportion of these species in the Latvian Red Data Book;</p> <p>Numbers of wild animals in Latvia, and the proportion of these species in the Latvian Red Data Book.</p>	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
<p>Species protection is looked upon as integral part of habitat conservation in most of the sectoral strategies. This is both good and dangerous. Some species might not be paid enough attention, especially outside protected areas. At the same time, maintenance of species in their natural conditions is favored, leading to better success in their maintenance.</p>	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	
<p>Species protection plans can be found on home page of Nature Protection Board at www.dap.gov.lv</p>	

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	x	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		
Please provide details below.		
<p>National Programme on Biological Diversity has the strategic objective "Maintain the genetic diversity of wild species, as well as of crop varieties and animal breeds". In the Chapter 12 "Protection of crop and livestock breeds" several objectives are listed to maintain genetic diversity and reduce the rate of its loss. In the sectoral part of the National Programme objectives on maintenance of genetic diversity in commercially important tree species, local plant varieties and animal breeds, fish populations are included.</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		Objectives in the National Programme on Biological Diversity for maintenance of local plant varieties and animal breeds.
b) Inland water	x		Objectives in the National Programme on Biological Diversity on protection and maintenance of genetic diversity of both migratory and freshwater fish species.
c) Marine and coastal	x		Objectives in the National Programme on Biological Diversity on protection and maintenance of genetic diversity of both marine and migratory fish species.
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	N/A
e) Forest	x		Objectives in the National Programme on Biological Diversity on protection and maintenance of genetic diversity in populations of commercially important tree species.
f) Mountain		x	N/A

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 objective to maintain genetic diversity in the forest is included in the Latvian Forest Policy.

Rural Development Plan provides for financial support for breeders of 6 local animal breeds.

Ministry of Agriculture has developed National Programme on Maintenance of Genetic Resources of Animal Breeds.

National programme on subsidies includes support to the breeders of local animal breeds, to the working collections of local varieties of crop, vegetables and fodder plants.

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

Advisory Board of the Breeders of Animal Breeds and the Advisory Board of the Maintenance of Genetic Resources of Animal Breeds were established under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Rural Development Plan subsidizes breeders since 2004.

State Joint-stock Company "Latvijas valsts meži" has a programme for *in-situ* conservation of forest genetic resources. The network of forest genetic reserves has been established to protect genetic diversity of commercially important tree species in state forests all around Latvia.

Research project supported by the national Forest Development Fund investigates genetic diversity of those populations of trees.

Maintenance of the network of seed plantations of mother plants of II generation (genetic diversity of commercially most valuable and productive clones of Scots Pine and Norway Spruce from different regions of the country).

Trilateral (Latvia, Lithuania, Taiwan) research project carried by State Fishery Agency investigates genetic diversity in 3 migratory fish species (eel, pikeperch, perch).

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

Number of animals and farmers supported by national subsidies and by Rural Development Plan (EU

subsidies), total amount of both subsidies are indicators for maintenance of genetic resources.

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

Lack of funding.

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 | |
| b) Yes, the same as the global target | |
| c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established | x |

Please provide details below.

One of the Strategic Goals of the NPBD is "To promote sustainable use of natural resources". NPBD have set biodiversity goals for each of the sectors using biodiversity-based resources. Goals are set for sustainable use of living natural resources for forestry, agriculture, fishery, game and animal management, tourism, recreation and sports, building, energy production, transport, urban development and city management, mining of valuable minerals, peat harvesting, sapropel removal, national defense.

National Environmental Policy Plan (2004-2008) sets environmental priorities and targets for main users of biodiversity-based products, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and land-use.

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		Rural Development Plan foresees that sustainable management of biologically valuable grasslands is supported, along with biological farming under sub-measure Agri-Environment. National Environmental Policy plan sets goals for sustainable use of agricultural resources.
b) Inland water	x		Fishing limits have been established. National Environmental Policy plan sets goals for sustainable use of freshwater fishery resources.
c) Marine and coastal	x		Fishing limits have been established. National Environmental Policy plan sets goals for sustainable use of marine fishery resources.
d) Dry and subhumid land	-		
e) Forest	x		Hunting limits have been established, forest cutting limits for different tree stands. Forest policy sets the set of principles to be followed to ensure sustainable use of forests. National Environmental Policy plan sets goals for sustainable use of forest resources.

f) Mountain	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x		
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x		
Please provide details below.			
<p>The concept of sustainable use of natural resources is introduced into all relevant policy documents, although on rather general level and not very specific.</p> <p>NPBD has a set of goals dealing with sustainable management of resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14.2.1. Popularise the use of biological agriculture methods and environmentally friendly production of food products. 14.2.2. On agricultural land not farmed using biological agriculture, techniques, fertiliser and pesticide use should be based on principles of sustainable agricultural principles. 14.2.3. Prevent the flow of pesticides and fertilisers from treated crop fields. 14.2.4. Leave crop field edges free from pesticide and fertiliser use. 14.2.5. Maintain and tend unploughed border balks between crop fields. 14.2.6. Prevent soil compaction. 			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>Sustainable use of biodiversity by agriculture is regulated by Rural Development Plan that provides positive incentives for maintenance of biological diversity and using biological farming methods.</p> <p>Ensuring sustainability in forestry sector is more challenging, as private forests are managed very unsustainably, although there are certification schemes elaborated. As for state forests, there is forest green certification system (FSC – Forest Stewardship Council) in place providing mechanisms to ensure sustainable management. They cover 51% of total forests in Latvia. Only 1.4% of private forests have been certified (PEFC system – Pan European Forest Certification).</p> <p>National Environmental Policy plan sets goals for sustainable use of biodiversity resources, providing specific targets for each sector.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>List of sustainable development indicators 2003 for Latvia states 4 indicators for biodiversity: variations of area proportion of old forest stands, changes in number of corncrakes, changes in number of otters and proportion of protected territories.</p> <p>National Resources Use Evaluation (2004) establishes a list of indicators for each of the sectors using biodiversity based products, e.g. forestry (eco-efficiency in forestry, the age structure of tree species, damage done to forests, restoration of forests, species composition in restoration of forests), peat use, hunting (hunting limits, population size for hunted species), fisheries (fishing limits, fishing quotas, fish production, biomass of spawning groups, eco-efficiency in fisheries, number of released fish stocks), indicators for flow of natural resources (incoming and outgoing natural resources, the distribution of nature resources), land use (number of biological farms, land transformation, amount of clearcuts, area of specially protected nature territories).</p>			
<p>Several indicators are listed also in Environmental Indicators Report of Latvia (2002), among them e.g. Forest regeneration rates, fish catches, increase of fish resources, peat extraction, eco -efficiency of the agricultural sector and others.</p>			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<p>Main challenges are faced in agriculture sector where intensive farming is developing. Although there are support schemes for extensive biological farming, there are not enough incentives to ensure biologically friendly development of agriculture.</p>			

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
One of the Strategic Goals of the NPBD is "To promote sustainable use of natural resources".			
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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
b) Inland water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NPBD states that fisheries might have negative influence on biodiversity (e.g. using non-selective fishing vessels, lack of control over species caught, selective fishing etc.) and sets goals for maintenance of biodiversity for fishing.
c) Marine and coastal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NPBD states that fisheries might have negative influence on biodiversity (e.g. using non-selective fishing vessels, lack of control over species caught, selective fishing etc.) and sets goals for maintenance of biodiversity for fishing.
d) Dry and subhumid land		-	
e) Forest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<p>NPBD states goal to promote the sustainable use of the forest, along with several targets – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.1.1. Develop an action plan for maintenance of biological diversity in forests. 13.1.2. Promote development and implementation of a system for forest management unit certification. 13.1.3. Inform the Private Forest Owner Association and other interest groups on biological diversity, and involve them in finding solutions to the given problems. 13.1.4. Develop and implement economic instruments to promote development of sustainable forestry and maintenance of biological diversity in forests. 13.1.5. Improve education of forestry specialists in biological diversity and raise the level of public knowledge on the biological importance of forests. <p>One of the goals of the Latvian Forest Policy (1998) is to ensure maintenance and increasing of quality of forestlands. More information please see in details below.</p>

f) Mountain	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x		
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x		
Please provide details below.			
<p>NPBD sets sustainability goals and for different sectors using biodiversity products there are also biodiversity goals set.</p> <p>Forest Policy sets sustainability goals as well, please see below.</p> <p>Single Programming Document for Latvia (2004-2006) states: <i>It is considerably more difficult to implement sustainable forestry principles in small forest properties. Besides, the owners of the newly acquired forests lack the knowledge in forestry and market economy. The establishment of associations of forest owners shall advance their competitiveness in the timber market and promote the sustainable management of private forests.</i> It sets goal to increase efficiency of private forest caretaking, improvement of forest resource quality, to motivate for renewing and maintaining of forest resources, to preserve and maintain biodiversity in Latvian forests, to support co-operation among private forest owners.</p> <p>Single Programming document also provides support to sustainable fishery, priority measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjustment of fishing effort (30.5% of the total priority financing are allocated to this measure). Fleet renewal and modernisation of fishing vessels (15.3%). Small-scale coastal fisheries (9.7%). Socio-economic measures (3.4%). Support to members of trade and producer organisations (1.9%). 			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>There are no clear cases when unsustainable consumption (as the Convention sees it) of the biological resources would be taking place. To some extent, it could be said about private forests and unsustainable cutting of forest resources that is mainly due to illegal activities. NPBD states that rate of peat regeneration in the country is higher than level of extraction of peat. Hunting has no strategic document setting main priorities and threat, thus there might be cases when due to lack of country guidelines unsustainable practices could take place.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>National Resources Use Evaluation (2004) establishes a list of indicators for each of the sectors using biodiversity based products, e.g. forestry (eco-efficiency in forestry, the age structure of tree species, damage done to forests, restoration of forests, species composition in restoration of forests), peat use, hunting (hunting limits, population size for hunted species), fisheries (fishing limits, fishing quotas, fish production, biomass of spawning groups, eco-efficiency in fisheries, number of released fish stocks), indicators for flow of natural resources (incoming and outgoing natural resources, the distribution of nature resources), land use (number of biological farms, land transformation, amount of clearcuts, area of specially protected nature territories). This document states the incoming and outgoing flow of natural resources, such as fish, water, energy, mineral, wood, hunted animals, peat,</p> <p>Several indicators are listed also in Environmental Indicators Report of Latvia (2002), among them e.g. Forest regeneration rates, fish catches, increase of fish resources, peat extraction, eco-efficiency of the agricultural sector and others.</p>			

Single Programming document provides result indicators for sustainable fisheries:

Decrease of fishing fleet capacity – fishing vessel number / gross tonnage (in 2002 – 197/17000, in 2006 – 170/14300; Information source – Latvian Vessel Register, National Board of Fisheries).

Increase in number of fish processing companies corresponding to the EU hygiene requirements (in 2002 – 10, in 2006 – 38; Information source – Food Company Register of the Food and Veterinary Service (FVS)).

Increase in number of companies involved in fish farming activities (in 2002 – 48, in 2006 – 63; Information source – Food Company Register of the Food and Veterinary Service).

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

Main challenges can be seen in forestry and fisheries sector, details please see above.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Latvian Forest Policy (1998)

The general objective the Latvian Forest Policy is sustainable management of forests and forest lands. Sustainable management is defined (by the Cabinet of Ministers) as regulation and management of forests and forest land in such a manner and level as to maintain its biological diversity, productivity, capacity for regeneration, vitality, and potential to perform important ecological, commercial, and social functions at local, national and global levels, presently and in the future, and also, to avoid threats to other ecosystems.

The commercial objective of the forest policy is to ensure sustainable development and financial profit of the sector, receiving the maximum possible gain from sales taxes.

The environmental protection objective is maintenance of biological diversity at the present level. To achieve this objective, it is necessary to observe the following principles:

- levels of forest use are nationally regulated, taking into account forest ecosystem productivity, potential for regeneration, and other significant factors;
- the impact of forestry on the environment is assessed;
- the protected area network is strengthened based on research, to ensure maintenance of ecosystems, species and genetic resources in forests;
- ensure maintenance of the diversity of species and their characteristic forest habitats;
- monitoring of forest health is required;
- it is recommended to choose forestry methods which mirror natural processes, to approach ecosystems having natural structure and elements which support biological diversity.

The social objective of forest policy is to balance public and forest owner interests in forest use, and to improve employment in the forest sector. Forests, regardless of ownership, are accessible to the public, excepting cases when legally declared as non-accessible.

Forest management considers the cultural-historical and landscape value of forests.

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	x
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	
Please provide details below.	

EU Regulation 338/97 (09.12.1996) about wild animal and plant species protection by regulating trade is in force in Latvia since joining EU.

The problem is not very relevant to Latvia, due to low desirability of local species for international trade. Latvia has ratified CITES convention in 1997. There are several species in Latvia, that are included in CITES convention, 3 of Annex 1 and more of Annex 2, in total 76 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	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.

Special permit should be obtained for importing or exporting any species that are included in CITES convention. Nature Protection Board issues these permits. In average, 70 permits are issued per year. Trainings for border guards and custom officers about restricted species have been taking place.

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

No indicators.

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

N/A

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.

NPBD sets goals for each of the habitat groups (coastal habitats, inland waters, forests, mires, grasslands, caves, crop-fields) and sectors having impact on natural habitats (forestry, agriculture, mining, tourism, building, transport).

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		NPBD states several habitat – related goals: 14.1. Maintain the characteristic habitat mosaic of rural landscapes. 14.3. Ensure management of semi-natural meadows and fens. 14.4. Prevent a decrease in coverage of semi-natural meadows.
b) Inland water	x		NPBD foresees maintenance of natural inland water habitats, by setting several goals: 3.1. Conservation of swiftly flowing river stretches. 3.2. Ensure the function of ecological corridors along rivers.
c) Marine and coastal	x		NPBD sets goals for maintenance of marine and coastal natural habitats: 1.2. Eliminate further decline of macrophyte beds. 2.1. Reduce the degradation processes of beach and dune ecosystems. 2.2. Promote conservation of sea cliff areas
d) Dry and subhumid land	-		
e) Forest	x		NPBD sets goals for maintenance of forest natural habitats: 4.1. Prevent a decline in diversity of forest habitats. 4.3. Protect migration paths and reduce the rate of forest fragmentation.
f) Mountain	-		

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.

Details about incorporation into NPBD please see above. Action Plan for Biological Diversity foresees several measures to be taken to maintain natural and semi-natural habitats (24 measures for Baltic sea habitats and dunes, 19 for beach and dunes, 18 for lakes and rivers, 14 for forests, 14 for mires, 23 for grasslands, 5 for caves).

Apart from mentioned above, NPBD foresees habitat maintenance related goals also for transport (20.2. Prevent destruction of rare habitats during building of roads and pipeline corridors , 20.3. Along roads and road corridors, promote maintenance of habitats and creation of new habitats which are important for biological diversity), tourism (17.1. Maintain valuable habitats, as well as ecological community structure and composition at popular tourism and recreation sites), building (18.1. Prevent destruction of habitats and locations of rare species during construction).

Latvian Forest Policy (1998) also sets priority goals dealing with maintenance of natural habitats and

main principles to be followed, e.g. ensuring forest habitat and species diversity maintenance.

The strategic goal of the Rural Development Plan for Latvia (2004-2006) is to ensure biologically diverse rural environment. Agro-environmental program of this Plan supports in particular the maintenance of biologically valuable grasslands.

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

Maintenance of area of natural habitats inside protected areas is ensured by legislation, zoning of areas, management plans.

Outside protected areas, Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" lists especially protected habitats and species for Latvia. Mire and dunes protection plans have been prepared in Latvia.

Latvian legislation on the Environmental Impact Assessment provides for the impact of the proposed activity on specially protected species, habitats and territories. If specially protected territory is also site EU importance, Natura 2000 site, the maintenance of the integrity of the site has been assessed as well.

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

Latvian Environmental Indicators Report (2002) lists 2 indicators that to an extent are reflecting state of the natural habitats in Latvia – Coverage of particularly protected nature areas and Relative area of protected territories in Latvia, using IUCN classification system.

2 out of 4 biological diversity sustainable development indicators are also habitat protection related: variation of area proportion of old forest stands and proportion of protected territories.

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

Successful maintenance of natural habitats is challenged mainly by forestry, agriculture and tourism sectors, to some extent by transport.

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						
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	x					
Please provide details below.						
Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" (16.03.2000) provides for control of pathways for introduced species, Chapter IV Species Introduction and Reintroduction.						
BDNP sets numerous goals for control of invasive species in all relevant sub-programmes. Those dealing with control of pathways are described in following sections.						
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		BDNP sets the goals for limiting distribution of invasive species in agriculture: 14.8. Contain the distribution of introduced species. 14.8.1. Allow the introduction of agricultural crops only after rigorous testing and experience in other countries. Observe precautionary prin-			

			<p>ciple when making decisions on cultivation of introduced species.</p> <p>14.8.3. Control the distribution of aggressive species, especially by their removal from natural communities.</p> <p>14.8.4. Develop and implement regulations on introduction of new crops, and stipulate grower responsibility for damages ensued to local species and communities.</p>
b) Inland water	x		<p>BDNP sets the goals for limiting distribution of invasive species in inland waters:</p> <p>1.6.1. Ensure a ban on introduction of alien species into natural waters, and restrictions on their growing in fish ponds</p> <p>15.3. Prevent entry of foreign fish species or other organisms into the natural environment</p> <p>15.3.1. Control and combat the already widespread aggressive species.</p> <p>15.3.2. Assess the safety of the utilised technologies for fish growing in existing aquacultures, and the impact of possible release of the grown foreign species in natural ecosystems.</p> <p>15.3.3. Exclude the introduction of genetically modified aquatic organisms in nature.</p>
c) Marine and coastal	x		<p>BDNP sets the goals for limiting distribution of invasive species in marine and coastal areas:</p> <p>1.6.2. Control the use of ballast waters.</p> <p>2.1.8. Encourage use of local species for dune stabilisation, and prohibit planting of alien species on dunes.</p> <p>2.1.9. Restrict distribution of expansive species (for example, roses Rosa rugosa, sea buckthorn and elaeagnus) on dunes.</p>
d) Dry and subhumid land	-		
e) Forest	x		<p>BDNP sets the goals for limiting distribution of invasive species in forests:</p> <p>4.4.3. Monitor distribution of alien species in forests and combat expansive species.</p> <p>13.9. Control the distribution of foreign tree species in forests.</p> <p>13.9.1. Utilise specific tending methods in forests with high densities of foreign tree species in plant communities.</p>
f) Mountain	-		
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.			
Apart from goals mentioned in previous sections, several additional goals have been set in BDNP, dealing with restricting expansion of invasive species in urban ecosystems:			
10.1. Identify the trends in expansion of distribution of species in human environments, with the appropriate monitoring.			
1.1.1. Control the expansion of aggressive weeds,			

and hunting:

16.5. Prevent the impact of introduced species on natural populations.

16.5.1. Promote hunting of introduced predator species.

16.5.2. Monitor the population dynamics of introduced predator species.

16.5.3. Develop legislation on introduction of foreign species, and ensure compliance.

Action Plan sets several measures to restrict distribution of invasive species: 5 for Baltic sea and dunes, 3 for crop-fields, 3 for urban areas, 1 for species protection.

Single Programming Document for Latvia, under measure 4.4.7. *Preservation of rural landscape* supports the cleaning of agriculture lands from scrubs and invasive weeds (e.g. *Heracleum sosnowskyi*)

National Environmental Policy Plan states distribution of invasive species among main problems in coastal areas and inland waters.

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

One of the main threats to habitats and species in rural areas is *Heracleum sosnowskyi*. This species expansion is controlled by measures supported by Single Programming Document (2004-2006). The pre-condition of receiving EU support for agriculture is following good agriculture practice that include requirement to exterminate this species.

American mink is another invasive species having large impact on waterfowl species in Latvia. Extermination of this species is not regulated on national level.

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

Output indicator for goals set in Single Programming document is "Area where invasive species are limited".

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

Most of the invasive species do not have national strategies or plans for minimizing distribution of these species. Although the main trans-regional distribution pathways are controlled to prevent invasion of new species, distribution of invasive species within the country is not enough controlled.

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	
Programme of work	Yes	No
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		x
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		
Please provide details below.		
BDNP does not require preparation of management plans for invasive 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

a) Agricultural	x	BDNP sets one goal that is related to elaboration of management plans for invasive species affecting agricultural biological diversity: 14.8.2. Promote study of distribution of introduced species and their entry to natural communities.
b) Inland water	x	
c) Marine and coastal	x	BDNP sets one goal that is related to elaboration of management plans for invasive species affecting marine and coastal biological diversity: 1.6.3. Support the study of distribution and population dynamics of introduced species in waters, and their effect of local populations.
d) Dry and subhumid land	-	
e) Forest	x	
f) Mountain	-	
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.		
As mentioned above, few goals in BNDP foresee actions that are related to studies and management planning of invasive species.		
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.		
Recommendations for extermination of <i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i> is prepared by Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Center with funding from Ministry of Agriculture (2001). It describes situation nationwide and recommends methods for extermination of the species. Monitoring of invasive marine species (invertebrates and fish) are gathered within the scope of national sea monitoring program, ran by State Environmental Agency.		
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.		
No indicators related to management plans for invasive species have been set.		
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.		
Main challenges on implementation of this target lie on agriculture (<i>Heracleum sosnowskyi</i>) and hunting sectors (American mink), especially problematic this issue is for coastal areas. Management plans for invasive species in coastal areas should be developed.		
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.			
<p>The Institute of Biology of the University of Latvia carries out the State financed studies to evaluate impact, possible indicators and most relevant targets to be set. Studies are mentioned in The Third National Communication under UNFCCC that was prepared in 2001. Monitoring and research may create preconditions for the development and implementation of adaptation measures. The National Program on Biological Diversity contains the conclusion that by observation of natural processes and accumulating information as well as by studying individual indicator species or ecosystems it is possible to justify the need of different environment protection measures and even change sectoral development policies, develop corresponding legal acts and economic activities.</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	Indicators are being tested and target is under development.
b) Inland water		x	Studies of indicators are carried out.
c) Marine and coastal		x	Indicators are being tested and target is under development
d) Dry and subhumid land		x	N/A
e) Forest		x	Studies of indicators are carried out.
f) Mountain		x	N/A
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.			
<p>The national target will be incorporated in Climate Change Mitigation Programme after the studies that are carried out by the Institute of Biology of the University of Latvia, update of Climate Change Mitigation Programme is expected within two years.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>At present Latvian vegetation is undergoing intensive change mainly under the impact of changes of atmospheric sedimentation, climate and land use. Studies show that plant communities are</p>			

becoming on the whole unstable, there is aggressive proliferation of many alien species.

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

Indicators related to changes of coastal zone and changes of vegetation in different ecosystems are being evaluated to assess climate change impact, vulnerability and adaptation measures. Changes of Latvian vegetation are studied in the Faculty of Geography and Land Science of the University of Latvia and Latvian State Forest Science Institute – "Silava". Studies of Latvian coastal processes are carried out in the Faculty of Geography and Land Science of the University of Latvia.

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

Target is not set yet.

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.			
NPBD mentions several goals dealing with pollution reduction in urban areas, e.g. 21.3.8. <i>Develop and implement waste management systems in cities, and prevent illegal waste dumping</i> and requires reducing of pollution in lakes and rivers (goal 21.3.10).			
National Environmental Policy Plan sets specific policy targets for reducing pollution (6 for air pollution, 7 for water quality, 6 for waste disposal, 1 for biodiversity and pollution), 5 of them are related to impact of pollution on biodiversity, e.g. decrease water eutrophication risk created by air pollution, protect water ecosystems and water dependant ecosystems and wetlands.			
Waste management has been included in goals of the Single Programming Document for Latvia (2004-2006) recognizing that recultivation of many historically polluted areas has not been carried out.			
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		<p>NPBD sets several goals for reducing agricultural pollution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14.2.2. On agricultural land not farmed using biological agriculture, techniques, fertiliser and pesticide use should be based on sustainable agricultural principles. 14.2.3. Prevent the flow of pesticides and fertilisers from treated crop fields. 14.2.4. Leave crop field edges free from pesticide and fertiliser use. 14.2.5. Maintain and tend unploughed border balks between crop fields.
b) Inland water	x		NPBD requires reducing of pollution in lakes and rivers (goal 21.3.10) and monitoring of pollution (goals 3.3.3 and 3.3.4).
c) Marine and coastal	x		NPBD sets goals for preventing damage from pollution to

			<p>marine and coastal areas, namely:</p> <p>1.1.1. Continue improvement of wastewater treatment and control, promote the programme "Water supply and wastewater treatment in small and medium-sized cities of Latvia (800+)"</p> <p>1.1.2. Step-up control of wastewater quality and waste management in coastal municipalities.</p> <p>1.1.3. Halt disposal of fish and fish processing waste from fishing and fish processing vessels.</p> <p>1.1.4. Produce recommendations for development of sustainable agricultural in protection belts around the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Riga, as well as around lakes and rivers, to decrease soil erosion and nutrient runoff.</p> <p>1.2.1. Develop an oil pollution control and oil spill liquidation plan; develop a model to predict oil spill distribution along the Latvian coast.</p> <p>1.2.2. Develop and implement a compensation mechanism which will ensure procurement of compensation for environmental damage ensued.</p> <p>1.2.3. Strengthen international co-operation in exchange of information and liquidation of effects of oil release.</p>
d) Dry and subhumid land		-	
e) Forest		x	
f) Mountain		-	
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.			
National Biodiversity Protection Action Plan foresees 7 actions that are dealing with reduce of pollution harmful to biodiversity.			
Single Programming Document foresees development and the implementation of the remediation plans for the most military and industrially polluted areas.			
In order to receive EU funding for agriculture, good agriculture practice has to be followed by farmers. Requirements of this practice is setting limits for organic manure use, as well as requirements on reporting on run-off, manure storage, manure distribution timing, forbids use of fertilizers in 10 m zone along waterbodies etc.			
Rural Development Plan (2004-2006) supports establishment of protective belts along fields and water bodies in environmentally sensitive areas (Zemgale agricultural region).			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Marine biodiversity is threatened by the pollution of the Baltic sea, Latvia is participating in regional bodies to decrease the pollution (e.g. HELCOM).			
Agricultural runoff is another pressing issue that may become more problematic as EU funds for			

agriculture are available in Latvia. Although the requirements for receiving EU support include practicing good agriculture practice, there is a risk of intensification of agriculture thus leading to increase in agricultural runoff.

Inland water pollution, eutrophication is caused by agricultural runoff and air pollution, as well as by tourism.

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

Environmental Indicators Report for Latvia (2002) provides numerous indicators for air, water pollution, but they are not focused upon from the biodiversity perspective. List of indicators for transboundary air pollution, air quality, eutrophication, transboundary water pollution, drinking water quality, soil pollution, agricultural runoff, waste are included in Report providing overall picture of main threats to biological diversity.

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

Marine pollution and water pollution is in most cases not the responsibility of one country only. Thus, agreements and common programs for reduction of transboundary pollution should be enhanced. Agricultural runoff is becoming more problematic; please see more in IV chapter.

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.			
Problem not assessed from this angle, in Latvian context dealing with sustainable development issues, please see descriptions to Targets 1.1, 1.2, 4.1 and 4.2. To some extent, promotion of sustainable tourism can be related to this issue.			
In general, all measures taken to ensure sustainable farming and forestry, as well as water use promote the maintenance of capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services. Please see more detailed description in respective chapters. For example, forests are maintained as timber resource, habitat for species, oxygen producer, for serving as flood defense system and maintenance of water quality etc. Ecosystems are maintained as a whole thus ensuring maintenance of their capacity to deliver goods and services.			
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	Please see descriptions in Targets 1.1, 1.2, 4.1 and 4.2.
b) Inland water		x	Please see descriptions in Targets 1.1, 1.2, 4.1 and 4.2.
c) Marine and coastal		x	Please see descriptions in Targets 1.1, 1.2, 4.1 and 4.2.

d) Dry and subhumid land		-	
e) Forest		x	Please see descriptions in Targets 1.1, 1.2, 4.1 and 4.2.
f) Mountain		-	

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.

NPBD states biodiversity goal for tourism: *Maintain valuable habitats, as well as ecological community structure and composition at popular tourism and recreation sites.*

The Tourism Development Concept for Latvia states the main State policy goal in tourism:

- to create a Latvia that is attractive for tourists and diverse in tourism activities, where the tourism sector is well organized, economically and socially efficient, environmentally friendly, and safe, which will raise the prestige of Latvia. Therefore:

- tourism development must integrate the principles and objectives of environmental protection;
- natural and cultural/historical heritage must be maintained and protected;
- the maintenance, protection and development of biological diversity must be promoted.

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

Ecotourism and rural tourism has developed quickly in recent years in Latvia. From one hand, it supports local economy; from the other hand there is a risk of overexploitation of ecosystem resources.

As in case with coastal areas, in many places ecosystem resources have been already overexploited, in spite of regulations and legislative basis. Insufficient control both from state and municipal institutions and low awareness of municipalities on the conservation of the biodiversity are cause of this situation.

Forest resources are maintained on satisfactory level in state forests, situation is more difficult with private forests where in many cases sustainable practices are neglected.

Capacity of agricultural lands to deliver goods and services on sustainable basis is enhanced by introduced agri-environmental measures.

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

No indicators.

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

Rapid economic growth and inflow of EU funds are challenging the implementation of this target. Education and public awareness activities should be undertaken in order to prevent overexploitation of ecosystem capacity.

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.			
Problem not assessed from this angle, in Latvian context dealing with sustainable development issues, please see descriptions to Targets 1.1, 1.2, 4.1 and 4.2.			
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	N/A
b) Inland water		x	N/A
c) Marine and coastal		x	N/A
d) Dry and subhumid land		-	
e) Forest		x	N/A
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.			
No information.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
No information.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
No indicators.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
No challenges.			
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			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
Please provide details below.			
Target not applicable to Latvia.			
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	N/A
b) Inland water		x	N/A
c) Marine and coastal		x	N/A
d) Dry and subhumid land		-	
e) Forest		x	N/A
f) Mountain		-	
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			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
Please provide details below.			
N/A			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
N/A			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
N/A			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
N/A			
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.			
Target not applicable to Latvia.			
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	N/A
b) Inland water		x	N/A
c) Marine and coastal		x	N/A
d) Dry and subhumid land		-	
e) Forest		x	N/A
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.			
N/A			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
N/A			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
N/A			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
N/A			
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			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.			
<p>Multi-institutional working group was established under the Ministry of Agriculture for gap analyses and the development of working plan to get progress in the field of genetic resources and to implement international plans and strategies. Report of the working group to the Ministry will be compiled till the end of 2005.</p>			
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.			
Target not applicable to Latvia.			
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	N/A
b) Inland water		x	N/A
c) Marine and coastal		x	N/A
d) Dry and subhumid land		-	
e) Forest		x	N/A
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.			
N/A			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
N/A			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
N/A			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
N/A			
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			x
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Latvia has recently entered the EU and considered as country with economy in transition. Thus, this question is not applicable for Latvia.			
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	N/A
b) Inland water		x	N/A
c) Marine and coastal		x	N/A
d) Dry and subhumid land		-	
e) Forest		x	N/A
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.			
N/A			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
N/A			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
N/A			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			

N/A

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			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x		
Please provide details below.			
NPBD states several goals dealing with exchange of experience in scientific field, please see 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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	
b) Inland water		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	
c) Marine and coastal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	
d) Dry and subhumid land		<input type="checkbox"/> -	
e) Forest		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x	
f) Mountain		<input type="checkbox"/> -	
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> x		
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
NPBD sets several technology transfer related targets:			
35.8. Review information on the existing data banks and develop a unified system for exchange of information of biological diversity, which is related to international data bank networks,			
35.9. Ensure accessibility of the basic information for scientific and nature protection goals,			
35.10. Develop a unified system for recording of commercial species resources and their regeneration,			
35.11. Establish a Biological Diversity Information Centre,			
35.12. Support publishing of scientific literature on various aspects of biological diversity, including publishing of a scientific periodical.			
National Biological Diversity Action plan foresees establishment and maintenance of CHM home page.			

IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.
CHM home page have been established and maintained on http://www.lva.gov.lv/daba/eng/
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
CHM home page established.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
Financial capacity is an obstacle to successful 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	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	x
Please specify	
The National Programme on Biological Diversity states to promote the study of all systematical organism groups and to prevent decline of numbers and distributions of local wild species in nature.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	

Flora of vascular plants of Latvia is published and accessible for wider public (Gavrilova, Šulcs, 1999. Flora of Latvian Vascular plants. List of taxa. Riga. Latv.Akad. b-ka.). The flora of vascular plants includes 1937 species (1304 indigenous, including 18 extinct, 633 alien- 293 escaped cultivated species, 340 adventitious species) and 39 subspecies.

List of lichen species of Latvia is published (Piterans, A. 2001. Checklist of the lichens of Latvia. *Latvijas vegetacija*, 3, 5-46). The list includes 503 species, 5 subspecies and 8 varieties.

List of bryophytes of Latvia is published (Abolina, A. 2001. List of bryophytes of Latvia. *Latvijas vegetacija*, 3, 47-87). The list includes 512 species.

Lists of Polypores and Agaricoid and Boletoid Fungi are published (Meiere, D. 2002. Checklist of Polypores of Latvia. *Latvijas vegetacija*, 5, 7-42; Daniele (Avota), I., Krastina, I. 2002. Checklist of Agaricoid and Boletoid Fungi (Agaricales s.l.) of Latvia. *Latvijas vegetacija*, 5, 43-174). The list includes 149 Polypores and 639 Agaricales species, 17 subspecies and 4 forms.

There is no list of algae of Latvia. It is stated that the list of vascular plant flora, lists of bryophytes, and fungi is still incomplete. Almost every year new species of fungi, lichen or bryophyte species for Latvia are found. Often they are found during the implementation of other, non-taxonomic projects, such as preparation of management plans for Protected Nature Areas, which usually include species inventories, and MSc or PhD projects.

Leading taxonomic centres are at University of Latvia (Institute of Biology with Laboratory of Botany; Faculty of Biology, Department of Botany and Ecology). Some taxonomic groups are covered by experts in Latvian Forestry Research Institute "Silava" (mosses), Nature History museum (fungi), and National Botanical Gardens.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

Projects `Flora of vascular plants of Latvia (Spermatophyta)` and `The national botanical nomenclature of Spermatophyta` undertaken by Laboratory of Botany, Institute of Biology at University of Latvia.

Project `Survey of bryophytes of Latvia` (2004-2006) undertaken by Latvian Forestry Research Institute "Silava".

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

No indicators used.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of projects dealing with this target (except vascular plants and bryophytes) and insufficient funding; lack of specialists (concerning lower plants).

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

b) No

x

Please specify

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) Yes

x

b) No	
Please specify	
<p>The National Programme on Biological Diversity states to ensure suitable protection status for threatened species.</p>	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>Evaluation of conservation status of vascular plants, fungi, and lichens has been done during the compilation of the Red Data Books (1996, 2003). Five categories are used in the Red Data Book of Vascular plants of Latvia (Extinct species, Endangered species, Vulnerable species, Rare species and Species insufficiently studied) and four categories for evaluation of fungi and lichens (Extinct species, Endangered Species, Vulnerable species, Species insufficiently studied) that can be compared to the internationally accepted criteria of the IUCN.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p>The List of Specially Protected Plant Species and Species with Exploitation Limits (Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia No 396/ 14.11.2000) is based on the evaluation of conservation status of plant species and is being regularly updated by the Ministry of Environment of Latvia according to the most recent data available. However, the list does not include any protection categories.</p>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
<p>The latest updates in The List of Specially Protected Plant Species and Species with Exploitation Limits was made in 2005. There are 228 vascular plant species, 62 fungi, 129 bryophytes, 60 lichen, and 6 algae species on the list.</p>	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
<p>Lack of funding.</p>	
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	
b) No	x
Please specify	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	x
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>The National Programme on Biological Diversity states to develop and implement protection plans that will ensure species distributions and sustainability of populations.</p>	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	

The priority species for which Species Conservation Actions plans should be prepared are plant species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

Species Conservation Action Plan for Lady's Slipper *Cypripedium calceolus L.* (1999) prepared.

Practical guidance to ensure plant conservation and sustainable use activities are also reflected in the management plans of particular protected nature territories.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

Legal basis for preparation of Species Conservation Plans is ensured.

Ministry of Environment of Latvia determines guidelines for preparation of the Management plans for Specially Protected Species and Habitats, and facilitates implementation of those plans.

Order of Ministry of Environment of Latvia on Development of Species and Habitats Conservation Plans (No 166/ 04.07.2003) states the procedure of preparation of Species and Habitats Conservation Plans.

Law on Species and Habitats (No 121/122 05.04.2000) states that the responsible institution for co-ordination of Species and Habitats Conservation Plans is Nature Protection Board.

Law on Specially Protected Nature Territories (01.04.1993) states the need to prepare management plans for specially protected nature territories.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

No indicators used.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of capacity.

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

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

The National Programme on Biological Diversity states following goals:

- 1) Develop a network of protected meadows that have highest biological value, including meadow communities with nationally and regionally rare and protected species, and integrate this network into physical planning.
- 2) Expand the list of protected areas of forest protection;
- 3) Expand the network of protected areas, to ensure protection of mire biological diversity in all regions and of all mires important for biological diversity;
- 4) Create protected areas in coastal waters and develop their nature protection plans.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

About 12 % of the land surface of Latvia is covered by protected nature areas (not including the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve).

About 49% of the protected nature areas are covered by forests, 12 % - by different aquatic habitats, 10 % - by mires and 6% - by pastures and grasslands. All the natural habitat types found in Latvia are represented within the network of protected nature areas. In addition to the system of specially protected nature territories the micro-reserves are established for the protection of particular habitat types.

Various limitations on forestry have been set out in Latvia's forests with aim to protect the environment. Forestry is prohibited on 75 400 ha of forest land (2,5% of total forest land), final felling is prohibited on 131 700 ha (4,5% of total forest land) and clear-cut is not allowed on 170 000 ha (5,9% of total forest land), in total 12,9% of forest have forestry limitations.

Also some voluntary schemes as WKH protection and forest certification (FSC and PEFC) increases proportion of protected forest areas.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

The evaluation of existing network of protected nature areas was carried out within the frame of the project 'Coordination of Latvia's system of specially protected areas with the EMERALD / NATURA 2000 network of protected areas', funded by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency and prepared and implemented by the consultancy firm DARUDEC (*Danish Rural Development Consultants*) (2001-2004).

Inventory of Annex I habitat types and Annex II species of the Habitat's Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) was carried out and additional protected nature territories were established for habitat types and species insufficiently represented within the existing protected nature territories. One hundred and ten new protected nature areas were established. There are 336 NATURA 2000 sites proposed in Latvia.

Project `Grasslands of Latvia. Status and conservation of semi-natural grasslands` (2001-2003) funded by the PIN-MATRA programme of the Ministries of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands was carried out in order to identify botanically valuable grasslands in Latvia. The project resulted in about 17 000 ha botanically valuable grasslands, but it did not cover all the territory of Latvia.

About 30 of the new protected nature areas established in 2004 include biologically valuable grasslands.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

Cover of protected nature areas of the territory of Latvia has increased from 8.9% in 2001 to 11,9% in 2004.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of compensation mechanisms for legal restrictions in protected nature areas, especially concerning restrictions in forestry.

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

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

The National Programme on Biological Diversity states to supplement the network of protected nature areas for rare species and establish micro reserves for species protection outside of the protected nature areas.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

The evaluation of existing protected nature areas and areas outside them according to the criteria for identification of important plant areas as mentioned in the Selection Manual for Identifying Important Plant Areas (Plantlife, 2002) have not been made in Latvia. However, based on inventories undertaken during establishment of Natura 2000 site network in Latvia, it is assumed that majority of the most important areas for plant diversity conservation is already state protected.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

Latvian Fund for Nature became a member of the *Planta Europa* network in April 2005 and expressed a special interest in the project `Identification of Important Plant Areas` .

Legislative measures:

Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" (16.03.2000)- prohibits gathering of specially protected species in wild.

Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers:

On the List on Specially Protected Species and Species with Exploitation Limits (No 396/ 14.11.2000) - lists species considered rare and threatened in Latvia;

On the Establishment, Protection and Management of Micro-reserves (No. 45/30.01.2001) - states procedure for establishment and management of micro reserves.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

One hundred and ten protected nature areas established in 2004. Sixty-one micro reserves for rare and threatened plant species established outside the protected nature areas.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of funding.

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

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

The National Programme on Biological Diversity states the following goals in forestry:

- Promote sustainable forest management;
- Continue maintenance of the genetic diversity of commercially important tree species;
- Control the distribution of foreign tree species in forests;
- Conduct activities to improve biological diversity when conducting forestry activities in forest edges;
- Promote activities to ensure the presence of characteristic elements of natural forests;
- Reduce the impact of disturbance from forest activities.

In species protection: Maintain commercially important wild species resources.

In agriculture:

- Maintain the characteristic habitat mosaic of rural landscapes;
- Maintain the characteristic species of crop fields;
- Ensure management of semi-natural meadows and fens;
- Prevent simplification of semi-natural pasture communities;
- Prevent a decrease in coverage of semi-natural meadows;
- Maintain local plant varieties and animal breed.

Forest Policy of Latvia (28.04.1998) states that the **goal** of the forest policy in environmental protection is the preservation and maintenance at current levels of biological diversity.

The Environmental Policies of LVM (Stocking company Latvian State Forests). The goal of LVM in protecting the environment is to preserve biological diversity (genetic resources, species which are rare or are threatened by economic activity) and the related process of protecting soil, bodies of water and landscape.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

Agricultural intensity has increased since different support programmes and funds from EU become available for farmers. The logging intensity has doubled in the last ten years.

About 11 000 ha of pastures and grasslands were managed consistent with a Code of Good Agriculture Practices (Data from Rural Support Service) in 2004.

About 14 % of forests of Latvia are state protected. Clear cutting and selective cutting is prohibited in 2% of all forests in Latvia (State Forest Service, 2005).

Mainly native tree species from local seed populations are used in tree plantations.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

Legislative measures:

Forest Law (24.02.2000) regulates forestry activities in state and private owned forests.

Nature Protection Regulations in Forest Management (No 189/05.05.2001).

Other measures:

The Code of Good Agriculture Practices prepared (1999) supporting maintenance of biological diversity in agricultural lands.

State Forest Policy accepted (1998).

Inventory of Woodland Key Habitats has revealed about 50 000 ha of biologically valuable forests in state forests (Final report 1997 – 2002. Inventory of Woodland Key Habitats in Latvia). Woodland Key habitats in state forests are protected on the basis of free will of the Stocking Company Latvian State Forests so far. The establishment of micro reserves for Woodland Key Habitats has started. Woodland key habitats are the sites in the forest, which provide conditions for the existence of rare and endangered species having highly specific demands for the habitat. The forest structures and features essential for these species are most commonly found in places where the forest has continuously existed for hundreds of years and where no or insignificant management has been done for a long time.

One hundred and ten new protected nature areas were established in 2004. There are 371 micro reserves established in forests with the total area of 12 565 ha (State Forest Service, data on 2004).

Project `Grasslands of Latvia. Status and conservation of semi-natural grasslands` (2001-2003) funded by the PIN-MATRA programme of the Ministries of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands was carried out in order to identify botanically valuable grasslands in Latvia. The project resulted in about 17 000 ha botanically valuable grasslands, but it did not cover all the territory of Latvia.

About 30 of the new protected nature areas established in 2004 include biologically valuable grasslands.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

No indicators developed. See IV) Measures taken to achieve target.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of compensatory mechanisms for restrictions in forestry.

Low public awareness.

Land use changes - from grasslands to arable land or forest or construction area.

Land abandonment in remote areas.

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXX.

Target 7. Sixty percent of the world's threatened species conserved *In-situ*.

I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?

a) Yes

b) No

Please specify

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No	
Please specify	
<p>The National Programme on Biological Diversity states to prevent decline of numbers and distributions of local wild species in nature.</p>	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>There are 228 vascular plant species, 129 bryophyte, 60 lichen, 62 fungi and 6 algae species protected by law in Latvia. There are 336 protected nature areas in Latvia and majority of them host at least one rare and protected plant species. Sixty-one micro reserves were established for rare and protected plant species. Current conservation status in terms of percentage of population under state protection known only for 14 vascular plant species and 5 bryophytes listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p><u>Legislative measures:</u> Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" (16.03.2000). Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers: On the List on Specially Protected Species and Species with Exploitation Limits (No 396/14.11.2000) – lists species considered rare and threatened in Latvia; On the Establishment, Protection and Management of Micro-reserves (No. 45/30.01.2001) – states procedure for establishment and management of micro reserves.</p>	
<p><u>Other measures:</u> Inventories carried out in 2001-2003. One hundred and ten new protected areas established in 2004. Management plans for about 20 protected nature areas are prepared annually. List of specially protected plant species updated in 2005 and accepted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia. All the known most important areas for plant conservation are included within NATURA 2000 sites.</p>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
<p>The number of localities of rare and protected plant species under state protection has increased during the last two years.</p> <p>Indicators used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover of protected nature areas of territory of Latvia increased from 8,9 % in 2001 to 11.9 % in 2004; • Number of management plans for protected nature areas prepared annually increased from 3 in 1996, 8 in 1997 to about 20 in 2004. 	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
<p>Lack of financial resources for species inventories. Lack of compensatory mechanisms for restrictions in forestry in order to maintain species habitats. Low public awareness.</p>	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXI.

Target 8. Sixty percent of threatened plant species in accessible *Ex-situ* 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 | |
| b) No | x |

Please specify

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

- | | |
|--------|---|
| a) Yes | x |
| b) No | |

Please specify

The National Programme on Biological Diversity states to implement actions to ensure protection of species outside of their natural habitats by developing plant collections and seed banks.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

National Botanical Garden has a collection of about 70 Latvian Red List plant species. About twenty species are kept in tissue cultures. All specimens have native origin from *in-situ* localities. Spores of fungi species listed on the national Red List have been collected *in-situ* and stored in National Collection.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

National Botanical Garden is going to be a State Agency and the main task of the agency will be the implementation of the relevant targets of the National Programme on Biological Diversity.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

No indicators used.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of funding.

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 | |
| b) No | x |

Please specify

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No	

Please specify

The National Programme on Biological Diversity states to maintain local crop varieties and to maintain commercially important wild species resources including medicinal plants. It states the following goal in forestry - continue maintenance of the genetic diversity of commercially important tree species.

The Environmental Policies of LVM (Stocking company Latvian State Forests). The goal of LVM in protecting the environment is to preserve biological diversity (genetic resources, species which are rare or are threatened by economic activity) and the related process of protecting soil, bodies of water and landscape.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

Part of the local crop genetic varieties (about 2000) is kept in the Latvian Gene Bank of Cultivated Plants and in the seed collections.

All native tree and scrub species grow in arboretum of National Botanical Gardens. Special effort has been made to collect all species, appomictic species and hybrids of Rosa, Crataegus, Sorbus and Cotoneaster *in-situ* and to plant them in the arboretum. As a part of genetic diversity, wide range of different native ornamental forms of native coniferous trees has been collected *in-situ*, bred and planted in arboretum.

National Collection of Micro-organisms stores wide range of microbial strains including commercially important strains of bacteria and fungi.

Only State Forest Service certified reproduction materials are used for tree plantation in forests. For forest plantation also reproduction material from the same area can be used. The main source of forest reproduction material comes from "Seeds and Plants" of the stock company "Latvian State Forests". There are ten main tree plantations run by the stock company "Latvian State Forests".

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

The special commission was established at the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia in 2005 in order to make a gap analysis of status in preserving the genetic diversity of crops.

Legislative measures:

Regulations on reproductive forest materials (19.11.2003) states measures on preserving local genetic variety of commercially important tree species.

Forest Law (24.02.2000) states that only certified reproduction materials can be used for tree plantation in forests and it should be of suitable origin for a given region in Latvia. State Forest Service is responsible for registration of certified sources for forest reproduction materials.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

No indicators used.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Not known.

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

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

The National Programme on Biological Diversity states to contain the distribution of introduced species by controlling the distribution of aggressive species.

Interim guiding principles are integrated in the National Programme on Biological Diversity (in relevant chapters on marine, forest, agricultural and urban ecosystems and fishery, forestry and agriculture sectors).

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

No management plans for alien species prepared.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

Legislative measures:

Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" states regulations for introduction of alien species.

Annex 1 to the Law "On Environmental Impact Assessment" states that projects for introduction of wild species, which are not native to the territory of Latvia, Impact Assessment is required.

Law "On Plant Protection" states regulations for import and export of plants.

Other measures:

List of the most important and aggressive alien species made and it includes 15 species.

Latvian State Centre of Plant Protection and Institute of Biology of Latvia, Laboratory of Botany took part at the EU 5th FW, "Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development" – Assessing and Conserving Biodiversity project "Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) a perilous invasive weed: developing sustainable strategy for alien invasive plant management in Europe". Studies on *Heraceum sosnowskyi* (genetics, ecology), which is considered to be the most aggressive species on agricultural lands in Latvia, were carried out in the frame of this project. Researchers of the Latvian University of Agriculture carried out project on biology of Giant Hogweed in 2001-2002.

Studies on distribution of alien species in coastal habitats of Latvia carried out (Faculty of Biology, University of Latvia, 2002).

State Plant Protection Service established (1998).

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

Localities of alien species mapped along the coast of the Baltic Sea and species composition analysed.

The cover of areas invaded by *Heracleum sosnowskyi* in Latvia recorded.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of capacity (specialists), knowledge and funding.

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

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

The National Programme on Biological Diversity states to ensure the appropriate actions as required by the Convention "On International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora".

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

Species of the family *Orchidaceae* might be subject to international trade, but no official data exist.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

Permits and information division of Nature Protection Board (established in 2002) fulfils functions of Management Authority of Convention on International Trade in Endangered species of wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) including issuing of CITES permits.

National legislation adopted:

On Trade with Endangered and Protected Species of Plants and Animals (Regulations No 133/06.04.1999)

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

No indicators selected.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of capacity and funding.

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

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

The Latvian Forest Policy, accepted in 1998, was developed to ensure sustainable use of wood resources.

The National Programme on Biological Diversity (1999) states to promote sustainable forest management.

The National Programme on Biological Diversity states to maintain the characteristic habitat mosaic of rural landscapes by implementing the European Union directive EEC 2078/92 On agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside and by implementing and promoting the Code of Good Agricultural Practices.

The Programme for Development of Biological Agriculture (2003-2006) developed by the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia. The main tasks are as follows:

1. determine state and role of biological agriculture in Latvia;
2. promote production, processing and sales of high quality organic products;
3. promote environmentally friendly agriculture.

The Rural Development Plan for Latvia for the implementation of the Rural Development progress (2004-2006) states to support organic farming and promote production, processing and sales of high quality organic products. The aim is that by 2006 at least 2.3% of total agricultural lands is managed with organic farming methods.

The Rural Development Plan states to encourage application of environment-friendly methods and conduct economic activity in line with the environmental requirements in the areas of environmentally vulnerable territories (established in accordance with the Nitrate directive) exposed to a particularly high risk of soil and water pollution by establishment of field and water buffer belts in intensively used agricultural lands. The main aim is that by 2006 2.5 % of the total arable land in the country is managed with environment-friendly techniques and that economic activity meeting the needs of preservation of the habitats of wild flora and fauna species and environment protection carried out in 13 % of areas of agricultural land situated in environmentally vulnerable zones.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

The wood harvest has increased about two times during the last ten years, but the land area affected by forest activities tends to decrease. The volume of wood has increased due to an increase in forested land area, and in improvement of forest productivity by various methods (planting, promotion of natural regeneration, thinning, tree breeding and land drainage).

All the regional branches of the State Stock Company Latvia's State Forests have received the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certificates.

There are 350 certified organic farms in Latvia (2004) and area managed by these farms reaches 16 900 ha. The main branches are grain-farming, vegetable-growing, dairy farming, and apiculture. However, there are no data on amount of organic products obtained and sold. Biological products are mainly sold at regional markets and on farms. Very few products can be obtained in supermarkets.

No data available on existing grassland buffer belts in environmentally vulnerable zones so far.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

Legislative measures:

Forest Law determines sustainable forest management in Latvia.

Law "On Agriculture And Rural Development" determines the implementation, supervision and evaluation of policy in the sphere of agriculture and rural development in order to facilitate the sustainable development of this policy.

On 18 December 2001 the Minister Cabinet Regulations No. 531 "On Protection of Water and Soil from Nitrate Pollution Caused by Agricultural Activity" were issued in accordance with the EU Directive 91/676/EEC. These Regulations stipulate the vulnerable territories that are subject to more stringent requirements in respect of water and soil protection from pollution of water and soil with nitrates from agricultural activity, as well as the criteria for determination of those territories and the procedures for management thereof. Owners and users of land in environmentally vulnerable territories shall, when engaging in agricultural activities, observe the Conditions of Good Agricultural Practice. In order to enhance the biodiversity, the key elements of maintenance thereof must be preserved in intensively farmed areas by means of creating and managing of buffer belts of fields.

Regulations No.514 On Turnover Of Biological Agriculture Products and Certification Procedure (26.11.2002).

Others:

- Trademark "Latvijas ekoproducts" (Latvian Ecoproduct) developed. Latvian Ecoproduct is Latvian Organic Agriculture Product. "Latvian Ecoproduct" is competent to be used only by the producers certified according to organic agriculture demands.
- Support Center of Consultations and Education of Agriculture of Latvia provides courses on biological agriculture. (Latvijas Lauksaimniecības konsultāciju un izglītības atbalsta centrs)
- Biological agriculture is included in the study programme at the Latvian Agricultural University.
- Association of Latvian Organic Agriculture Organisations (ALOAO) was founded in April 7, 1995. It is a professional organisation in the framework of which people producing, processing and selling organic agriculture products as well as people supporting organic movement have been united.
- Green market offering organic products organized annually in Riga in order to promote health food and biological agriculture.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

The proportion of trees at felling age and potentially important tree stands for biological conservation in forests has slightly increased (Sustainable Development Indicators in Latvia 2003).

Indicators identified and published in the *Latvian State of Environmental Indicators Report 2003*: Forest resources -wood harvest, growing stock, land area affected by forest activities.

Number of organic farms has increased from 39 in 1998 to 350 in 2004, area of organic farming supported has increased from 1426 ha in 1998 to 16 900 ha in 2004.

No data available on existing grassland buffer belts in environmentally vulnerable zones so far and on amount of organic products obtained and sold.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of trees at felling age in the future.

Lack of compensatory mechanisms for restrictions in forestry.

Organic product processing is poorly developed.

Lack of co-operation among producers of biological agriculture.

Poorly developed science and education system concerning biological agriculture.

Low public awareness on biological agriculture.

Insufficient education of biological farmers on how to work in free market conditions.

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

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

The National Programme on Biological Diversity states to maintain commercially important wild species resources.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

Traditional health care in terms of using herbal teas is popular in Latvia. There are several companies producing herbal teas from medicinal plants gathered in wild. Herbal teas can be bought in pharmacy shops and on open markets. The use of medical plants is not considered to be dangerous for wild plant sustainability so far. Gathering of mushrooms and wild berries is popular type of leisure in Latvia.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

Legislative measures:

Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia On the General Protection and Use of Specially Protected Nature Territories (No 415/ 22.07.2003) states that in nature protected areas gathering of wild berries and mushrooms by means of special devices is prohibited.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

No indicators selected.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of information on current status.

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

b) No

x

Please specify

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?

a) Yes

x

b) No

Please specify

The National Programme on Biological Diversity states the following goals:

- 1) Regularly plan information programmes or directed information campaigns for the mass media;
- 2) Integrate the biological diversity theme into primary and secondary education, and regularly include school education activities for different ages;
- 3) Include courses on biological diversity in professional education programmes and higher education, particularly in fields directly or indirectly associated with natural resource use;
- 4) Produce and distribute simple booklets on current nature protection issues;
- 5) Produce and distribute informative displays at important nature sites and protected territories, as they aid in changing public awareness and action, helping to protect nature values;
- 6) Educate and inform interest groups, using also the newest mass media instruments.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

The public awareness on importance of plant diversity is rising gradually.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

Weekly broadcast `Zalais mantojums` (The Green Heritage) on Latvian Television on nature conservation issues created;

Annual events within the framework of the Biological Diversity day organized for school children;

Leaflets, posters, books and videos on nature conservation issues including on plant conservation are regularly prepared by different organizations;

The Action – `Plant Species of the Year` is organized annually by Society of Botanists of Latvia and stamps with the species picture are printed by Post of Latvia.

Publication "Rare plants and animals" issued irregularly.

Public education and awareness activities are included in all nature conservation projects and management plans for protected nature areas.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

No indicators developed.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of capacity in terms of human resources and funding.

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

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

The National Programme on Biological Diversity states that a successful National programme on Biological Diversity will require:

- 1) Creation of Department of Nature Protection and a Nature Protection Board to co-ordinate implementation of nature protection actions;
- 2) Create a network of regional nature protection institutions utilizing the existing administrations of the particularly protected territories.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)

There are nine people working at the Department of Nature Protection at the Ministry of Environment of Latvia and 14 people working at the Nature Protection Board.

One or two officers are working at each of the eight Regional Environmental Boards, Units of Nature Protection. However, majority of them are not botanists. Administrations exist for all three national parks of Latvia, Ziemeļvidzeme Biosphere Reserve, Teici Strict Nature Reserve and Engure Lake Nature Park. However, only Teici Strict Nature Reserve, Slitere National Park and Gauja National Park have a specialist in botany as staff member.

IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)

The Nature Protection Board established in 2002.

Department of Nature Protection at Ministry of Environment of Latvia established.

Project *Implementation of Latvian Biodiversity Action Plan* (2001 –2003) dealt with further development and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy. Project was financed by Danish Ministry's of Environment and Energy agency DANCEE and implemented by Danish consultant company Carl Bro.

Four main outputs: Organizational development, training and capacity building, Public Awareness raising, and establishment of the National Programme on Biological Diversity implementation unit (=Nature Protection Board) - were carried out during the project period. Different training activities and workshops for environmental inspectors and other specialists working in nature conservation field were organized.

It is planned to establish regional branches of the Nature Protection Board.

In order to improve the communication with society the Latvian – Danish co-operation project "Development of Latvian Environmental Interpretation Service"(VITILA) (2001-2003) was carried out.

Measures taken within the VITILA project were as follows:

- 1) Environmental Interpretation Secretariat established at the Latvian Museum of Natural History;
- 2) Training program for interpreters developed and implemented;
- 3) Handbook for environmental interpreters published (Vides gidi rokasgramata, 2003).

As the result of the VITILA project network of environmental interpreters was created and twenty-two environmental interpreters was prepared.

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)

The number of people working in nature conservation in general has increased since 1999.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of funding.

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

b) No

x

Please specify

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)
There is no network designed exactly for plant conservation in Latvia. However, the Nature Protection Club (<i>Vides aizsardzības klubs</i>) dealing with different nature conservation issues has many regional branches.
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)
Latvian Fund for Nature joined the <i>Planta Europa</i> network in April 2005.
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)
No indicators developed.
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target
Low public awareness.
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.

The main outcomes of the actions taken in implementing National Programme in Biological Diversity, which is a keystone towards the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, are improvement of national legislation concerning plant conservation and sustainable use of nature resources, enlargement of total area of protected nature areas and increasing capacity of people working in nature conservation. The main impact is, from one side, an increasing negative attitude from landowners towards nature conservation due to lack of compensatory mechanisms, especially in forestry, and from other side - rising of public awareness on nature conservation values. The main constraints encountered in implementation of National Programme in Biological Diversity are lack of human resources and funding.

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	
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	
b) Yes, within the country	x
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.

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	x
b) No, some programmes are under development	

¹ Please note that all the questions marked with **?** have been previously covered in the second national reports and some thematic reports.

c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
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.	
As being in an early stage of implementation of the ecosystem approach, we do not consider it reasonable allocating funds for facilitating the exchange of experiences, capacity building, technology transfer and awareness raising outside the country before a positive experience is gained locally.	

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	
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 comments on the creation of an enabling environment for the implementation of the ecosystem approach.	
Ecosystem approach has been implemented in the preparation of Nature Conservation Action plan procedure. It requires involving a wide range of experts and local stakeholders to ensure balanced way of the actions planned. A wide and open discussion process is a part of the procedure thus avoiding dominance of narrow management approaches in the Action Plan.	
Also preparation of Species Conservation Action plans and Habitats Conservation action plans require the scope of plan being on ecosystem level to avoid risk that actions that are planned for benefit of some species or habitats might cause adverse effects on other species or habitats.	
Principles of the ecosystem approach have been implemented in the procedure of environmental impact assessment (EIA) that is applied to various development projects if there is a risk of affecting ecological processes. The procedure require that the scope of the assessment is done on level of ecosystems, not only on level of habitats and species affected and it requires full synthesis of information provided by various field experts to ensure integration of all aspects that might be causing possible changes in the ecosystems.	

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)	x
c) Yes, multilateral cooperation (please give details below)	x
d) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation (please give details below)	x

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.

- a) Bilateral cooperation agreements have been signed with Estonia and Lithuania (please see details in 2nd National Report). Numerous bilateral cooperation projects are taking place, for example in North Vidzeme Biosphere reserve (PIN-MATRA funded Latvian/Estonian cooperation project "Integrated management of wetlands and forests in transboundary North Livonia area", resulting in cooperation agreement between Latvian and Estonian ministries of Environment about transboundary protection of biodiversity). Bilateral agreement between Latvia and Lithuania "On cooperation in management of international river basins" has been signed in 2003. Cooperation with Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova has been promoted. National Environmental Policy plan foresees that cooperation agreements about minimizing transborder pollution with Estonia, Lithuania and Russia have to be signed in 2005.
- b) Cooperation with UNDP is continuing. Support for several projects has been received, such as UNDP/GEF project "Maintenance of biological diversity in North Vidzeme biosphere reserve".
- c) Regional and sub-regional cooperation is continuously taking place in the scope of several biodiversity related international conventions: Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Wetlands of International importance, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Convention of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. Latvia is participating in HELCOM activities, several Baltic sea based projects are under implementation.
- d) In addition, the accession to EU has brought more cooperation schemes, such as EU LIFE project experience exchange.

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) | |
| d) Yes, existing mechanisms have been strengthened (please provide details below) | x |

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

Different NGO networks working towards achieving 2010 target exist and have been strengthened in due course, such as Eurosite, European Environmental Bureau, CEE-WEB, among others.

Baltic Environmental Forum is actively promoting cooperation in biodiversity field. The project "Baltic States' Regional Co-operation Programme for Natura 2000", called BANAT, was set-up to assist the three Baltic Ministries of Environment in the implementation of the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives and development of the NATURA 2000 Network. It was also meant to support the countries in the negotiation process with the European Commission on the Annexes of both Directives. The project was started in 1999 and is currently implemented in its 3rd phase - BANAT 3 from 1 October 2003 until 31 March 2005.

With accession to EU, cooperation within biogeographical regions is also strengthened; Latvia belongs to Boreal biogeographical region.

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.

The project "Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)" was undertaken in 2002. The study was carried out within the framework of UNDP/GEF project. The ultimate goal of the project was to develop priorities and tasks for increase of capacity in fields of biological diversity, climate change and land degradation according to the following conventions:

- Rio-de-Janeiro Convention "On Biological Diversity" (1992);
- UN General Convention "On Climate Change" (1992);
- UN Convention "To Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (1994).

The project intended to create analysis of institutional, social, administrative, organizational, legal, informative and technical systems by finding possibilities to complete and improve them, in order to implement fully the requirements of adequate conventions. Project gives evaluation not only of problems in the field to introduce the conventions, but also synergy of the mentioned fields as well as analysis of legislation mechanism for introduction of the conventions in Latvia and aspects of mutual legal synergy, including comparison of national environmental legislation with similar legislation in European Union.

As Latvia is small country it is not in the position of elaborating separate strategies and action plans for each of the MEAs ratified. Therefore, the National Program on Biological Diversity is excellent example of integrating and harmonizing implementation of various MEAs as it provides means for implementation of several biodiversity related conventions. Goals and measures provided in the National Program on Biological Diversity meet requirements of Ramsar, Bern, Bonn and Washington (CITES) Conventions. Program fully serves as strategic document for all mentioned conventions. Integration of requirements of other conventions in biodiversity strategy and their simultaneous implementation helps to reach the goals in most efficient way.

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.

Main outcomes of cooperation agreements signed is improved coordination of activities thus leading to better results in achieving the targets set by Convention. Since December 2003, the Baltic Environmental Forum is implementing the project "Experience exchange on habitat management among Baltic LIFE-Nature projects". The main objective of the project is to promote the quality of management and implementation of LIFE-Nature projects dealing with management of Natura 2000 sites through co-operation and exchange of experience among the existing and prospective project implementers in Baltic countries.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

National biodiversity action plan foresees 5 actions under implementation of this Article, most of them already implemented.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

Main constraints are related to lack of effective partnerships and in some cases too many partnerships that, combined with institutional weakness creates problem of lack of focus.

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)	
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	x

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

The main strategic document that provides a national framework for implementation of the Convention is the National Programme on Biological Diversity (elaborated and approved in 2000) and the Action Plan. The Programme consists of 3 chapters: 1) – Nature protection (contains description of problems and objectives for protection of species, ecosystems and genetic diversity); 2) Sustainable use of living natural resources (includes problems associated with direct use of natural resources by economic sectors (forestry etc.), as well as sectors which can indirectly affect species and ecosystems) and objectives to be achieved for biodiversity protection. The 3^d chapter is Instruments and prerequisites of introduction of a strategy on biological diversity. The Action Plan of the Programme (elaborated in 2000, updated in 2003) contains a list of priority actions to be undertaken to implement the Programme. According to the Programme, issues of biodiversity protection have to be included also in other cross-sectoral plans or programs.

Issues of biodiversity protection are highlighted also in the National Environmental Policy Plan (2nd edition, revised and adopted in 2004). Regarding biodiversity protection the Policy Plan describes the main problems of protection of ecosystems and species, policy targets, expected results and the main actions for implementation of the Policy Plan.

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

a) No	x
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)

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

The Action Plan of the National Programme on Biological Diversity (elaborated in 2000, updated in 2003) contains a list of priority actions to be undertaken to implement the Programme, as well as sets responsible institutions, shows required finances, time schedule and output indicators.

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) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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

All actions listed in the Action Plan of the National Programme on Biological Diversity were identified as priority actions and therefore included in the Action Plan.

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) | |
| c) Yes, in major sectors (please provide details below) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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.

Issues of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity have been included in the Latvian Forest Policy, in the national FSC standard, in the Conception of Development of Tourism in Latvia and the National Programme of Tourism Development (2001-2010), the Environmental Protection Strategy of the National Armed Forces of the Ministry of Defense, the Rural Development Plan (it provides special subsidies for maintenance of biodiversity in natural grasslands, establishment of buffer belts and preservation of genetic resources of farming animals). In order to receive subsidies from The Rural Development Plan farmers have to follow the Conditions of Good Farming Practice. Requirements for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use are included also in the legislation of mentioned sectors as well as in the legislation of fishery, game animal management, building, physical and spatial planning etc. National Programme on Forests and Related Sectors is being elaborated; it will include chapter on forest biological diversity.

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

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) No | |

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

- (a) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species

Issues of conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species are not highlighted separately in the National Programme on Biological Diversity (NPBD), but they are covered with

	different chapters under Part I "Nature protection" and Part II "Sustainable use of living natural resources" of the NPBD.
(b) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats, including protected areas	Issues of conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats are not highlighted separately in the National Programme on Biological Diversity (NPBD), but they are covered with different chapters under Part I "Nature protection" and Part II "Sustainable use of living natural resources" of the NPBD. There is separate chapter "Particularly protected nature territories" in the NPBD.
(c) Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration	Objectives related with minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration (related to habitats protection and restoration, game animal management, legislation etc.) are included in different chapters of the NPBD.
(d) Research and monitoring for migratory species	Issues of biodiversity research and monitoring are included in the Chapter 35 "Monitoring and Research" of the NPBD. The NPBD contains several objectives to be fulfilled regarding research and monitoring; the Action plan contains a list of particular actions to be realized to achieve objectives mentioned in the NPBD.
(e) Transboundary movement	The Chapter 36 "International Cooperation" of the NPBD <i>inter alia</i> contains objective "Enter international treaties on cooperation regarding trans border protection of protected nature territories and migratory species".

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	
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.

Several projects that incorporate sustainable use of resources being implemented in forestry sector and agriculture, projects are in line with Climate Change Mitigation Programme (CCMP) for 2005-2010, which was approved by Government in the beginning of 2005. The measures foreseeing diversification of agriculture and increase of forested territory as well sustainable use of forest are incorporated in CCMP and biodiversity conservation are mentioned as one of important precondition

for projects implemented under the Programme.

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

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.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are incorporated in Climate Change Mitigation Programme for 2005-2010 that is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment. Responsible body was established and the responsible officials for United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification were involved elaboration of the Programme according to the prescription of Government.

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.

The implementation of measures and projects aimed at mitigation and adoption to climate change is in starting stages, therefore it is too early to evaluate impact of these actions. Nevertheless the preconditions are incorporated in Climate Change Mitigation Programme for 2005-2010 and participation of authorities responsible for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of resources in various sectors in elaboration of this Programme ensure success for implementation of the CCMP.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention. The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

CCMP as well as sectoral policies for sectors like forestry, agriculture, transport, and energy have integrated provisions from the National Programme for Biodiversity.

Main constraints are related to lack of studies on impact of climate changes on biodiversity at national level and lack of monitoring data than can ensure appropriate assessment of the impact.

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.

Although there is no permanent governmental body dealing with identification of the components of biological diversity at the genetic, species, and ecosystem level as defined in the Article 7(a) of the Convention, Institute of Biology of the University of Latvia aims to fulfill these tasks. Two main directions of its scientific activities are:

- Investigations of Latvian nature resources and their sustainable use, environmental and ecological issues, nature conservation
- Investigations of life processes and biological productivity of plants and animals

These investigations involve various aspects of biological diversity at the genetic, species, ecosystem level.

In addition, several countrywide inventories devoted to identification of the components of biological diversity at the species and ecosystem level have been carried out by other institutions during the last decades:

- CORINE Biotopes (1994 – 1997) was an inventory of occurrence, distribution and status of wide set of species and habitats, covering all terrestrial ecosystems occurring in the country.
- Species and Habitats project (1998 – 2000) carried out full countrywide inventories of selected species and habitats that resulted in Conservation Action Plans for the species and habitats involved
- Emerald/Natura 2000 (2001 – 2004) was an inventory of occurrence, distribution and status of wide set of species and habitats, covering all terrestrial ecosystems occurring in the country. It resulted in defining most important territories for conservation of these species and habitats, establishing a network of protected territories.
- Latvian Breeding Bird atlases (1980 - 1984, 2000 – 2004) were carried out by Latvian Ornithological society and provide benchmark information on distribution and status of bird species regularly breeding in Latvia.
- Atlas of Latvian Mammals (1990 – 1995) was carried out by Latvian Theriological society and provides benchmark information on distribution and status of mammal species regularly occurring in Latvia.
- Atlas of Latvian Amphibians and Reptiles (main data collection period 1985 – 1990) provides benchmark information on distribution and status of amphibian and reptile species regularly occurring in Latvia.

In light of this, it can be considered that the country has ongoing programmes to identify components of biological diversity at the species and ecosystem level, however they do not cover all ecosystems and species.

As reported by the project "Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)", identification/inventories of species (habitats) is traditionally most developed and widely used action in nature conservation in Latvia.

Specialists have assessed that at the moment the level of identification in Latvia is high enough to resume that there are no unknown territories with high natural values existing. At the same time, there is recognized inconsistency between qualification of specialists and their ability to prepare ecologically sound management recommendations.

Implementation of this Article was assessed with 3.6 points (in the scale of 1 (very bad) to 5 (excellent) points.

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)	Marine pelagic (70%) Benthic soft bottom (70%) Benthic hard bottom (0%) Coastal (1%) Inland waterbodies (0%) Rivers and streams (<1%) Mires (<1%) Farmland (2 %) Forest (< 1%)
b) at species level (please provide number of species per taxonomic group and percentage of total known number of species in each group)	Mammals (26/41%) Birds (49/15%) Reptiles (0/0%) Amphibians (0/0%) Fishes (40/50%) Invertebrates (450/3%) Plants (2/0%)
c) at genetic level (please indicate number and focus of monitoring programmes)	1 (Population monitoring of <i>Blumeria graminis</i>)

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

The National Environmental Monitoring Programme has been prepared and accepted by the Minister of Environment in 2002. Programme consists of 5 parts: monitoring of air and climate change, monitoring of waters, monitoring of biological diversity, monitoring of terrestrial environment and its components and monitoring of geological processes.

It integrates all monitoring needs in accordance with CBD. However, due to limited financial resources several subprograms and monitoring activities have not been started yet. A review of the monitoring programme has been started in 2005 to modify and improve it according to needs defined in CBD and other international conventions and agreements.

The biological diversity monitoring part of the existing programme consists of two sets of subprograms: ecosystem (habitats and species) monitoring and species monitoring.

There are 9 ecosystem (habitats and species) monitoring subprograms:

- Habitats and species monitoring of the Baltic Sea
- Habitats and species monitoring of the coastal ecosystem
- Ramsar site monitoring
- Habitats and species monitoring of inland waterbodies
- Habitats and species monitoring of river ecosystems
- Habitats and species monitoring of mire ecosystems
- Habitats and species monitoring of meadows and farmland
- Habitats and species monitoring of forests
- Habitats and species monitoring of cliffs

Ecosystem monitoring programmes provide also monitoring data on species level for the species that are characteristic to these ecosystems.

There are 7 species monitoring subprograms and 4 of them are compliant with Article 7 (b) of the

Convention:

- Endangered plant species monitoring
- Endangered bird species monitoring
- Migratory bird species monitoring
- Bat species monitoring

In addition to species monitoring subprograms mentioned above counts of all huntable (e.g. *Canis lupus*, *Lynx lynx*, *Alces alces*, *Capreolus capreolus*, *Cervus elaphus* and *Sus scrofa*) and formerly huntable (e.g. *Lutra lutra*, *Ursus arctos*) mammal species (19 species altogether) are carried out annually by State Forest service. It carries out counts of 3 game bird species (*Tetrao urogallus*, *Tetrao tetrix* and *Lagopus lagopus*) too.

Monitoring of terrestrial environment and its components part consists of 8 subprograms that contributes to monitoring at ecosystem level:

- Forest monitoring
- Integral monitoring
- Soil and vegetation monitoring of farmland
- Monitoring of heavy metals in mosses
- Monitoring of pollen
- State of environment bio indication monitoring
- Monitoring of soil radiation
- Land cover monitoring

Although there are no separate subprograms for monitoring at genetic level, several components of genetic monitoring have been included under the ecosystem monitoring subprograms in the Biological Diversity Monitoring section of National Environmental Monitoring Programme. Population monitoring at genetic level of the Powdery Mildew of Barley agent *Blumeria graminis* is being carried out at 2 monitoring stations since mid 1980-ies and so far is the only monitoring scheme carried out at genetic level.

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)	x
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)	x

Further comments on monitoring programmes on key threats to biodiversity.

b) The subprogram "Alien (invasive) plant species monitoring" of the Biological Diversity Monitoring section in National Environmental Monitoring Programme has not been started yet due to lack of financial resources. Monitoring of 5 invasive alien plant species occurring in farmland was started in 3 pilot monitoring plots as a part of Habitats and species monitoring of meadows and farmland' subprogram, but due to limited financial resources, the data have not been collected annually as planned.

c) Monitoring of the climate change is carried out according to 'Climate change monitoring subprogram' included in the Air and climate change monitoring section of the National Environmental

Monitoring Programme.

- d) Monitoring of soil pollution and degradation, agricultural run-off and sources of pollution is included in the subprogram 'Soil and vegetation monitoring of farmland' of Terrestrial environment and its components monitoring section and monitoring subprogram 'Agricultural run-off water monitoring' of 'Water monitoring' section in National Environmental Monitoring Programme. Monitoring of atmospheric pollution is included in the subprogram 'Monitoring of heavy metals in mosses' of Terrestrial environment and its components monitoring section in National Environmental Monitoring Programme. Radioactive pollution monitoring is included in subprogram 'Monitoring of soil radiation' of Terrestrial environment and its components monitoring section in National Environmental Monitoring Programme. Ozone and nitrogen pollution level monitoring is included in subprogram 'State of environment bio indication monitoring' of Terrestrial environment and its components monitoring section in National Environmental Monitoring Programme.
- e) Land use and land cover changes for the whole country are monitored by CORINE Landcover programme (Land cover monitoring subprogram of Terrestrial environment and its components monitoring section in National Environmental Monitoring Programme) using satellite imagery and aerial photography. Currently datasets for 1995 and 2000 exist. It has been planned that this subprogram will be carried out every 5 years.
- f) Overexploitation and unsustainable use of terrestrial environment is monitored through Integral monitoring subprogram and 'Soil and vegetation monitoring of farmland' subprogram included in Terrestrial environment and its components monitoring section in National Environmental Monitoring Programme. Land degradation on a countrywide scale is monitored also by CORINE Landcover programme (Land cover monitoring subprogram of Terrestrial environment and its components monitoring section in National Environmental Monitoring Programme).

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	
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)	x

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

Latvian Environmental, Geology and Hydrometeorological Agency (former Latvian Environment Agency) is the institution primarily responsible on maintaining and organizing data derived from inventories and monitoring programmes. It coordinates information collection and management at the national level. The following biodiversity related databases are currently available in the Latvian Environmental, Geology and Hydrometeorological Agency:

- CORINE Biotopes database, Database of protected nature territories, Database of micro-reserves and Natura 2000 database are site based databases containing data on occurrence, numbers and conservation status of species and habitats that are important for the sites and for conservation of which the sites have been designed.
- STATUS Database is a species and habitats based database where a record unit is every single species and habitat and database reflects the current knowledge on distribution, numbers/area covered, status and other relevant information on the species/habitat.
- Database of protected plant species localities and Database of protected trees is a locality-based database containing information on each known locality of protected plant species or

protected trees.

- Monitoring databases for every subprogram of Biological Diversity monitoring section of the National Environmental Monitoring Programme where monitoring activities have been started so far.

In light of this it can be considered that the country has relatively complete system in place to maintain and organize data derived from inventories and monitoring programmes.

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)

c) Yes, some indicators identified and in use (please describe and, if available, provide website address, where data are summarized and presented)

x

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.

The set of indicators that are reported at national level are identified in the National Environmental Monitoring Programme. The reports containing annual indicators of the monitoring subprograms which have been launched so far, are available at <http://www.lva.gov.lv/lea> (data available in Latvian version of the website only).

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.

During the development of the National Environmental Monitoring Programme an inventory of the existing monitoring schemes and an analysis of their compliance to CBD, other international agreements and national needs were carried out. Measures have been taken to coordinate monitoring activities internationally on regional and continental scale. Adoption of the Programme in 2002 led to preparation and adoption of the Action plan for its implementation in 2003. This provided a timeframe and defined financial needs necessary for full launch of the data collection and analysis according to the programme. Substantial part of the subprograms defined in the Programme is already running. Review of the Programme has been started to identify insufficiencies thus allowing its improvement.

The adoption and implementation of the National Environmental Monitoring Programme leads to fulfillment of the points 1.2, 1.5 and 1.6 of the Goal 1, point 3.1 of the Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention as well as to progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target in 'Status and trends of the components of biological diversity' focal area. The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

The main constraint for implementation of National Environmental Monitoring Programme is insufficient funding for both identifying the components of biological diversity, especially at the genetic level, and launching and maintaining monitoring programmes at all (genetic, species, ecosystem) levels.

As reported by the project "Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)", due to lack of funding several sub-programmes of Monitoring Program are not implemented, e.g. Inland waters and Forest monitoring. Also human impact monitoring is practically not taking place. Lack of prioritization of actions in this program is also mentioned among main setbacks of the Program. Lack of cartographic material is mentioned as another crucial problem of implementation of Article 7.

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.

The main holders of taxonomic collections in Latvia are Natural History Museum of Latvia and Nature Museum of the University of Latvia. Both of these institutions receive regular state support in order to maintain their daily business, to some extent, but this funding is not sufficient. Latvian Environmental Protection fund have funded several projects related to improvement of infrastructure for taxonomic collections in 2005: "Re-structuring of collection of rare and protected plant species in National Botanic Garden" and "Assimilation of collection of soil mites as indicators of the soil quality" implemented by Entomological Society of Latvia.

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| a) No | x |
| b) Yes (please provide details below) | |

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

Natural History Museum of Latvia is undertaking some activities related to training and capacity building for taxonomic research. Project "The expertise of entomological collections. Training with experts from Germany" is undertaken since 2001, in regular cooperation with Ecological center of Kiel University and Museum of Zoology (Germany).

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	x
c) Yes, for some institutions	
d) Yes, for all major institutions	

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	
b) No, but collaborative programmes are under development	x
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.

Yes, professional Societies are collaborating with respective organizations worldwide to assess regional taxonomic needs and identify main priorities. For example, Entomological Society of Latvia is cooperating with 39 professional partners worldwide.

Natural History Museum of Latvia since year 2002 is participating in the BioCASE (A Biological Collection Access Service for Europe) project, ECCF project: *Mapping and monitoring macromycetes in Europe* and others.

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	x
b) Yes, basic assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and 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.

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.

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.

There are fragmented studies that do not qualify for state program level. For example, Entomological Society of Latvia is dealing with:

Forest entomology. Forest entomologists deal with monitoring, control and forecasting of forest pests, mainly coniferous, testing of pheromones and also microbiological methods against forest pests; Preparation of the list of indicator species and forest habitat specialists of typical forest biotopes in Latvia is taking place.

Agricultural entomology. Agricultural entomologists work under integrated method of pest control in orchards, microbiological methods for pest control in greenhouses, forecasting and warning of outbreak of pests by aerobiological investigations, transmission of viral diseases; Monitoring of epigaeous insects in agricultural landscapes is taking place.

Taxonomy of *Aquila pomarina* has been studied by Dr. Ugis Bergmanis.

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	x
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)	
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.	

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	
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)	x

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.

In the National Programme on Biological Diversity *in-situ* conservation is included in Part 11. *Species Protection*. Under the target "Prevent decline in numbers and decline of distribution area of native species" most important measure is to develop network of micro reserves for particularly protected species outside protected areas. Development of species management plans, promotion of studies on species ecology and biology to have scientific bases for proper management also is among planned measures. Sustainable use of commercially important wild species is another target in this part of National Programme. Particular stress is made on game animal management (Part 16). Sustainable use of all traditional biological resources in forests and aquatic environment had been an integrated part of national legislation for decades. Strict limits on yearly amounts of forest cutting and harvest of commercial marine and fresh water fish species have been introduced. Game animal annual census and annual hunting quota for main game species have been introduced. Limits on harvest of Roman snails have been introduced.

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.

Since 1992, the legal system in Latvia has undergone rapid development.

The harmonization of the legal system was closely associated with the 1995 agreement with the

European Union.

The Law "On Specially Protected Nature Territories" regulates the development of the national system of particularly protected areas. All National Parks, Strict Nature Reserves and Biosphere Reserve are established in accordance with the above-mentioned Law. Respective regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers list established Nature Reserves, Nature Parks, Protected Landscape Areas, and Nature Monuments. The development of the system of protected areas goes back to the first part of 20th century. The network of protected sites was widened during following decades on the regular bases. At the moment protected territories cover more than 12% from the whole territory of Latvia. To fulfill the requirements of EU Habitat Directive and to support NATURA 2000 network inventories of protected sites according EU criteria were secured.

The Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" regulates the conservation of particularly protected species and habitats. Lists of those species and habitats are included in appendices of relevant regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers. Main conservation measure of species and habitats outside protected sites is development of micro reserves. In forest habitats ongoing inventory of forest key habitats forms a basis for development of national network

Set of laws regulates the use of most important biological resources: Forest Law, Fishery Law, and Hunting Law.

35. ? On Article 8(l), 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.

Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats", Articles 11 and 12 set list of prohibited activities to species. Data collection on accidental killing of animals and introduction of relevant actions to prevent such accidental killing in future is one of the tasks for regional environmental boards.

Species Management plans are developed for several species. Very effective conservation tool is individual protection and management regulations for particular specially protected nature territories, which are adopted by Cabinet of Ministers.

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

Relatively high ecosystems and species diversity has been maintained in Latvia depending on development of economical practices, their intensity and local tradition. Species and habitat conservation in-situ has been ensured / implemented by adequate legal and institutional system.

Current legal and institutional system serves as one of footsteps to reach 2010 target. Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of all 4 main goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention. The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

The communication level between state institutions and landowners in the process of establishment of protected areas and explaining benefits and restrictions is clearly insufficient.

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)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive targets and indicators established (please provide details below)	

Further comments on targets and indicators for protected areas.

Work on this issue is related to the accession of Latvia to EU. As significant part of the transposition of the EU nature protection legislation in the Latvian legislation was the establishment of the Natura 2000 network – network of the protected areas of the EU importance securing the implementation of the 2 EU directives - Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds and EEC Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 may 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Objective of the implementation of both directives is to ensure favorable conservation status for the species and habitats of EU importance. This objective also corresponds to the target to halt loss of biodiversity by 2010.

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.

Since 1999 Latvia has made inventory of existing specially protected nature areas in order to find out if and how many of those already comply with the criteria for Natura 2000 sites. Criteria were presence of protected species and habitats as provided in the Annexes of both directives. It was concluded that 75% of the existing protected areas already qualify as sites of EU importance. In order to ensure sufficient protection level for protected species and habitats of EU importance, 111 new protected areas and 15 micro-reserves were established and 48 existing protected areas were adjusted. As a result specially protected nature areas now occupy 11.9% of the Latvia's territory (=774189,05 ha) (previously 8.9%).

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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	

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.

Out of the 336 Natura 2000 sites, protected areas of EU importance, several sites are established for the protection of 7 inland water habitats and species. There are no sites established for the protection of marine habitats. However, 5 terrestrial protected areas also include marine territories, mostly for the protection of wintering, nesting and resting sites of the migratory birds.

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)	
d) Yes, many steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

Protected areas and the provisions for their management and protection are included in the territorial plans of municipal, regional and national level as well as development plans for the municipalities. For all significant projects as well as territorial plans themselves the environmental or strategic impact assessments respectively are done.

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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

EIA procedure is determined by the Law "On Environmental Impact assessment" (1997) done in conformity with the EU directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of environmental impacts of certain public projects and UN/ECE convention on the environmental impact assessment in transboundary context (Espoo). All plans are to be assessed in the conformity with the directive on the strategic environmental assessment. Impact of the proposed plan or project is examined with respect of several criteria out of which protected areas, species and habitats are to be evaluated as well.

If protected area is also designated as area of EU importance Natura 2000 site proposed plan of project could be approved only when no significant negative effect on Natura 2000 site is confirmed by the adequate assessment. If no significant negative impact can be ruled out fully, proposed plan or project has to be rejected by the authorities. Latvian legislation also provides for consultation with the European Commission in cases when project and plan should be implemented because of

overriding public socio – economic interests.

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.

Latvia has implemented UNDP/GEF project "National capacity self-assessment" (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99). The topics of the project are 3 global conventions – biodiversity, climate change and desertification. The main goal of the project is to make capacity self-assessment in order to identify convention specific and cross-cutting capacity problems. The most important source of conflict between nature protection and the private land owners and municipalities is the lack of compensation measures for the restriction of economic activities within the protected areas.

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

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

The most important capacity problems in the field of biodiversity as identified by National capacity self-assessment project are - compensation and incentive programs for landowners within specially protected nature territories are not fully operational and / or sufficiently understood by key stakeholders, and the SPNT management mechanism / system is inadequate, particularly with respect to the integration of existing regional and municipal authorities.

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	
c) Yes, relevant plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant plan is being implemented (please provide details below)	x

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

The majority of the management in the protected areas is financed by state budget and relevant EU funding through EU Structural funds and EU LIFE program. Ministry of Environment is ensuring that funding available through the structural funds includes also sufficient funding for protected areas.

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)	x
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)	

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

Most of the EU LIFE funded projects include also the activities on the monitoring of the management activities implemented by the project. Experience gained and knowledge is widely distributed to other projects as well as to other interested parties.

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.

As a result of Latvia's accession to EU, number of protected areas in Latvia increased from 8.9% till 11,9% of the country's territory.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

Protected areas are considered as one of the most important tools for conservation of the biological diversity. Importance of this tool is stressed also in the NPBD. NPBD sets several measures to be implemented in order to ensure successful functioning of the protected area system, namely optimize protected areas system, in order to ensure sufficient protection for threatened species and habitats, as well as to designate Latvian protected territories as part of international networks of protected areas (e.g. Ramsar sites, Natura 2000 sites, etc.). Protected areas also form significant part of the development and spatial plans of municipalities and quite often serve as additional benefit for the development of the municipalities.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

In the recent years the main activity in this respect was the establishment of Latvian protected areas of EU importance Natura 2000 sites. The major constraint in this process was the time pressure which often led to insufficient explanation of the concept of the protected areas and consequences of the establishment of the protected area to local stakeholders. Also lack of sufficient financial support to the land owners within the protected areas does not stimulate positive attitude towards protected areas. As a result process of establishment of protected areas quite often was followed by resistance from

local stakeholders.

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	
c) Yes, some alien species identified and tracking system in place	
d) Yes, alien species of major concern identified and tracking system in place	x

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)	x
c) Yes, for most alien species (please provide details below)	

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

Alien species are not considered as serious problem for biodiversity in Latvia. Proper legal base for introduction of species have been developed.

Only few alien species are considered to be expansive and cause real damage for natural species and habitats, namely *Mustela vision*, *Nyctereutes procyonoides*, *Heracleum sosnowskyi*

Ministry of Agriculture has initiated collection of available scientific information on techniques to control expansive plant species Giant Hogweed *Heracleum sosnowskyi*. Distribution of species has been surveyed and expenses of particular control measures have been calculated in co-operation with experts from the University of Agriculture. Pilot projects are going to be started to select best control techniques of Hogweed.

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)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	x

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

Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" has a chapter, which regulates introduction and reintroduction of species. Introduction of alien species in wild habitats is prohibited. After positive EIA, introduction of certain species for particular economic or social use is possible. Relevant regulations of Cabinet of Ministers set a procedure of introduction and reintroduction.

Control of expansive alien species as strategic measure is mentioned in several parts of National Pro-

gramme on Biological Diversity (to prevent expansion of alien species in marine environment, to monitor distribution of aliens in forests and urban habitats).

Only few alien species are considered to be expansive and causes real damage for natural species and habitats.

Giant Hogweed distribution of has been surveyed and expenses of particular control measures have been calculated. New hunting periods for American mink and Raccoon dog were introduced. Hunting of these species is allowed whole year.

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 | |
| c) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation | x |
| 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.

Regional co-operation on alien invasive species is realized with Nordic and Baltic countries project NOBANIS. European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species endorsed by Standing Committee of Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats through Recommendation No99 (2003).

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 | |
| c) Yes, national needs and priorities have been identified (please provide below a list of needs and priorities identified) | x |

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

Guiding principles are integrated in the National Programme on Biological Diversity (in relevant chapters on marine, forest, agricultural and urban ecosystems and fishery, forestry and agriculture sectors) and in the national legislation (Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats", Law "On Environmental Impact Assessment", relevant regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers).

Few invasive alien plant species colonize secondary habitats and are not considered as threat for natural habitats. Monitoring of those species and habitats is included in the National Programme on Biological Diversity and in the State Environmental Monitoring Programme.

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	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	x
Further comments on the mechanisms created to coordinate national programmes for implementing the Guiding Principles.	
<p>It has been decided that for Latvia will be prepared only one biodiversity related strategy, which will incorporate also strategic goals of other international conventions (Ramsar, Bonn, CITES and regional conventions like Bern and HELCOM.) It is approved as the National Programme for Biodiversity. Sectors like Forestry, Agriculture, Fisheries, Transport, and Energy have to integrate provisions (including activities to reduce the treats of invasive species) from the National Programme in their strategies and programmes.</p>	

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	
c) Yes, review completed and adjustment proposed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, adjustment and development ongoing	x
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	
c) Yes, relevant programmes are in place (please specify below the measures taken for this purpose)	x
Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighboring countries.	
<p>In National Programme on Biological Diversity the chapter on international co-operation has been included. In Part 36. <i>International co-operation</i> besides others is goals on transboundary co-operation: enter international treaties on co-operation regarding transboundary protection of pro-</p>	

tected areas and migratory species; promote co-operation between local municipalities in management of transboundary protected areas.

The Ministry of Environment has actively co-operated with neighboring countries. Co-operation agreements have been signed with environmental protection institutions of The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Finland, and Byelorussia. NOBANIS project on invasive alien species within Nordic and Baltic countries. Common information network of invasive alien species.

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)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	x

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

Since 1 May 2004 Latvia had started environmental impact assessment of the plans and programmes (so called strategic environmental impact assessment), in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Its purpose is to assess possible environmental impacts of the implementation of plans and programmes, to involve the public in the discussion and decision making, and to develop proposals for the prevention or minimization of possible adverse effects of these plans and programmes. Strategic environmental impact assessment shall be carried out during the preparation of plans and programmes, and before their adoption or submission for the adoption procedure. Strategic environmental impact assessment shall be carried out for plans and programmes, which may have significant impact on human health and the environment, including plans and programmes, which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, mining, as well as regional development, land use, town and country planning.

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	
b) No, but relevant measures and policies are under development	
c) Yes, some measures, policies and tools are in place (please provide details below)	x
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.

It has been decided that for Latvia will be prepared only one biodiversity related strategy, which will incorporate also strategic goals of other international conventions (Ramsar, Bonn, CITES and regional conventions like Bern and HELCOM.) It is approved as the National Programme for Biodiversity. Sectors like Forestry, Agriculture, Fisheries, Transport, and Energy have to integrate provisions (including activities to reduce the treats of invasive species) from the National Programme in their strategies and programmes.

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.

Alien species issues have been included in the National Programme on Biological Diversity. Activities related to alien species have been included in the 1st Action Plan of National Programme on Biological Diversity (2000) as well as in the updated (2003) Action Plan that is planned for the period till 2006. Each year the Ministry of Environment summarizes information of all activities implemented according to the Action Plan as well as other activities implemented.

National Programme on Biological Diversity sets target 35.8 *To summarize information on existing databases and establish unified biodiversity information exchange system, connecting it to international databases networks*, 35.9. *Provide accessibility of primary information for scientific and nature protection goals*, among others. Alien species list home page, established on <http://lv.invasive.info> is contributing to information transfer, along with other home pages, involved in Nobanis project. Nobanis project home page www.sns.dk/nobanis

Current legal and institutional system serves as one of footsteps to reach 2010 target. The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

Lack of institutional capacity and financial resources as well as relatively low interest from landowners and land users are the main challenges to implementation of the Program.

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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.

N/A

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) No, but review is under way | |
| c) Yes, a review undertaken (please provide details on the review) | |

Further information on the review.

N/A

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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.

N/A

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) No, but some programmes being developed | |
| c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below) | |

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.	
N/A	

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.	
N/A	

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.	
N/A	

Support to implementation

64. Has your country established national, subregional and/or regional indigenous and local community biodiversity advisory committees?	
a) No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Yes (please provide details about the outcome of meetings)	
Further information on the outcome of regional meetings.	
N/A	

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.	
N/A	

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.

Questions not applicable to Latvia.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 adopted for the *ex-situ* conservation of components of biodiversity native to your country and originating outside your country.

In-situ conservation measures are a priority in Latvia. No native species or group of species has reached critical size of populations or critical loss of habitats to give priority to *ex-situ* measures.

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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.

In-situ conservation measures have a priority. No native species or group of species has reached critical size of populations or critical loss of habitats to give priority to *ex-situ* measures or to reintroduction.

Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" and related regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers form a legal base for the species reintroduction.

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.

Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" introduce strict condition for taking of strictly protected species from wild. Further procedure of issuance of permits for collection of biological resources are regulated by Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 34 "On issuance of permits for taking from wild non-game species, introduction of wild species that are alien to Latvia (introduction) as well as for restoration of previously extinct populations of species (re-introduction) (2001).

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.

Ex-situ conservation issues have been included in the National Programme on Biological Diversity. Activities related to *ex-situ* have been included in the 1st Action Plan of National Programme on Biological Diversity (2000) as well as in the updated (2003) Action Plan that is planned for the period till 2006. Each year the Ministry of Environment summarizes information of all activities implemented according to the Action Plan as well as other activities implemented.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

As reported by the project "Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)", implementation of this Article was assessed with 3.44 points (in the scale of 1 (very bad) to 5 (excellent) points).

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

Lack of institutional capacity and financial resources are the main challenges to implementation of the Program.

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) | |
| d) Yes, in most relevant sectors (please provide details below) | x |

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

National Programme on Biological Diversity has been developed involving representatives of all ministries, researchers from several universities and institutes as well as NGO's. Objectives of the National Programme are to ensure conservation of biodiversity, planning of natural resources management, sustainable development and fulfillment of international obligations regarding nature protection. The requirements for nature conservation and the use of natural resources are integrated in sectoral policies on the basis of National Programme on Biological Diversity (NPBD). Sectoral legal acts are elaborated in consistency with NPBD and sectoral policies.

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) | |
| d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below) | x |

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

The legislation of sectors dealing with use of biological resources foresees instruments for limitation of use of resources or prohibitions of use for endangered species. Systems of licenses for limited harvest of marine and freshwater fish species, lampreys, Roman snails are in force. Similar system exists to limit hunting of wild game. Annual total felling is limited in state owned (50% of the total forest cover) forests. The highest felling area is set for other forests. The Hunting Law, the Fishery Law and Forest Law and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers are legal bases for regulated use of biological resources.

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.

No legal acts in Latvia set preference for or exemption from the established practice for the customary use of natural resources.

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)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	x

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

Measures are included in sectoral legal acts and different support mechanisms. Rural Development Plan foresees support for diversification of agriculture with the aim of restoration of traditional landscape, for management of valuable grasslands etc. Single Programming Document (prescribe utilization of EU structural funds) foresees support for forest restoration with the aim of establishment of forest stands with higher biodiversity. Forestry legislation requires obligatory reforestation of deforested areas.

Several projects initiated by local stakeholders with EU financial support dealing with restoration of degraded areas such as afforested dunes, drained bogs etc.

Permits for extraction of peat or gravel resources provides for mandatory recovery of the used area.

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.

Indicators identified and published in the Latvian State of Environmental Indicators Report annually. Set of indicators for timber, game and fish resources have been developed. Baltic Environmental Forum has developed similar system of indicators for timber, game and fish resources for Baltic States.

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	x
b) No, but potential practices, programmes and policies are under review	
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 information on sustainable use programmes and policies.

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

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

System of licenses for limited harvest of marine and freshwater fish species, lampreys, Roman snails is in force. Similar system exists to limit hunting of wild game. Annual total felling is limited in state forests. The Hunting Law, the Fishery Law and Forest Law and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers are legal bases for regulated use of biological resources.

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 | |
| b) No, but the principles and guidelines are under review | x |
| 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.

Principles and guidelines are under review, several principles indirectly are used for some time, the review is carried out to assess the level of correspondence.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, existing mechanisms are under review	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Although no national level mechanisms are in place, some local level pilot projects are taking place. In 2005, a project, financed by the Latvian Environment Protection fund was started in the Gauja National Park (GNP). In the framework of this Project, the following documents will be developed:

1. The study "The impacts of tourism on environment and their analysis based on tourist camp sites in the Gauja National Park."
2. Methods of estimation of the impacts of tourism on environment in the tourist campsites in the Gauja National Park.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but programmes are under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please describe below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

A course „Tourism and Environment” has been accredited and delivered for several years at the Vidzeme University college. Within this course, the students learn about the diverse impact of tourism on the environment, biotopes and biological diversity. Other universities in Latvia offer similar courses. The Vidzeme University college offers lectures on tourism management, in the context of environmental impact, for tourism entrepreneurs and self-governments. Within project framework, municipalities in Latvia organize lectures or seminars where the impact of tourism on environment and biological diversity is analyzed.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but relevant programmes are being considered	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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.

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	x
c) Yes, a few principles of the guidelines are integrated into some sectoral plans and NBSAPs (please specify which principle and sector)	
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.

The present Latvian legislation on tourism – the laws and policy documents do not contain guidelines for protection of biological diversity. (The principles of sustainable and environment friendly tourism development, and specific actions, directed to protection of nature and biological diversity, were incorporated in the National Tourism Development Programme for 2002 - 2010. Program will updated in 2005)

Tourism as a sector of national economy is included in the Chapter 17 "Tourism, recreation and sports" of the National Biological Diversity programme (accepted by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia on May 16, 2000). According to this chapter, in Latvia "*valuable biotopes and their natural structure and contents of species shall be preserved in popular tourism and recreation sites*". A respective action plan has been developed to achieve this goal.

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the activity "Development of the ecotourism infrastructure in the potential territories of the NATURA 2000", for which the national programme "Development of the ecotourism infrastructure in the potential territories of the NATURA 2000" has been developed. This program will be implemented using the financial resources of the European Regional Development fund (ERDF).

The Latvian Country Tourism Association "Lauku celotajs" has developed, under a project, financed by the EC LIFE programme, the Regulation of the eco-label "Green Certificate", and established the National eco-labelling commission, assigning the "Green Certificate" to rural tourism accommodations. One of the key criteria of this eco-label is rational use of natural resources and protection of biological diversity in rural tourism establishments. Owners of the rural guesthouses have been trained in the sustainable use of the resources (mainly water and electricity) and provided assistance in the using of resources saving household equipment.

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.

In order to ensure the development of tourism as a rapidly growing economical sector, the maintenance of interest from the tourist side and the protection of biological diversity, as well as balanced coexistence of these two sectors, it is necessary to implement the following actions:

- In the tourism legislation and policy panning documents should be

incorporated actions, which guarantee sustainable and "caring" tourism development in the country.

- The legislation related to environmental protection must be revised and updated in the context of tourism impact on environment.
- The evaluation methodology of the tourism impact on environment in the nature protection areas and NATURA 2000 sites must be developed and implemented.
- The nature tourism infrastructure must be developed in nature protection areas, NATURA 2000 sites and in the whole territory of Latvia.
- Scientific studies about the environmental impact caused by tourism in the whole territory of Latvia must be done.
- Materials about environmentally friendly tourism principles (the tourist ethics manual) and the maintenance of biological diversity in the nature protection areas and other popular tourism sites must be developed and published in printed materials and on the Internet.
- The development of eco-labelling (for example the "Green Certificate" for rural accommodations) must be stimulated in Latvia.
- Study courses about sustainable use of nature resources and maintenance of biological diversity in the context of environmentally friendly and sustainable tourism must be incorporated in the curriculum of the professional and academic education programmes.
- The tourism industry must be educated about the nature protection and environmentally friendly tourism.

For the successful implementation of the above mentioned actions co-operation between the responsible ministries and their subordinated institutions, NGOs, local governments, tourist information centers, tourism and environmental experts, tourism entrepreneurs and other stakeholders is crucial.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goals 2, 3 and 4 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention. The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

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.

Latvia has developed the Rural Development plan where biodiversity issues are fully integrated. Implementation of the Rural development plan is financially supported by the EU European Agriculture Guidance Guaranty fund. Biodiversity issues concern both the requirements to be taken into account under to regular agriculture activities as well as special dedicated activities for the management of important habitats. These are management of the valuable grasslands as well as establishment of buffer zones along the watercourses and water bodies. Support is also provided for the Least favorable areas for the agriculture production and areas with environmental restrictions. Therefore farmers in the protected areas get extra support to manage their land in the biodiversity-friendly way. Support given from the Rural development plan serves both as incentive for biodiversity

conservation as well as social measure preventing rural areas from abandonment.

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	x
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	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	x

Further information on the proposals considered when designing and implementing the incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Latvian Ministry of Environment has drafted law on the compensation of the loss due to the restriction of economic activity in the protected areas. The objective of the draft law is to compensate loss of income or additional costs resulting from the total or partial restriction of the economic activities (mostly forestry) for the sake of nature protection. Two kind of compensation is provided in the law – financial compensation and land swaps. Compensation will be granted only for those restrictions, which totally limit landowner's ability to get financial profit out of their property (e.g. total ban of forestry activities or general felling of the forest stands).

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)	

d) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified and removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	x
--	---

Further information on perverse incentives identified and/or removed or mitigated.

Only perverse incentive identified was in the law on energy. In order to decrease dependency of the imported electricity, law provided that State energy company should buy surplus of electricity generated by the small hydropower stations and state energy company should buy this electricity for the double price as electricity is sold to the retail users. As a result more than 100 small hydropower plants (HPP) were built. As Latvia is rather flat country with small rivers in order to operate HPP dams are built which from one hand are flooding big areas, from other hand are seriously influencing river habitats and species downstream the dams. Now this provision from the law has been taken out. As a result no new small hydropower plants are built.

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.

The most significant incentive in 2004 turned out the payments provided in the Rural development plan, namely agro-environment and payments for areas with environmental restrictions. As a result more agriculture land especially meadows and pastures were managed in sustainable way thus preventing them from overgrowing with bushes. These payments also provided significant source of income for the rural population that was depending from natural subsistence farming for quite a long time. Thus pressure on the use of forest resources as source of income decreased.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of all 4 major Goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

Incentives provided facilitate the implementation of the several measures of the National Biodiversity program regarding the conservation of meadows and pastures as well as arable land.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

As reported by the project "Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)", one of the main obstacles for successful implementation of Article 11 in forests is lack of compensatory mechanisms, especially in private forests.

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.

NPBD includes 2 sections dealing with education, monitoring and science. Section "Education and communication" foresees 6 measures dealing with communicating issues of biological diversity, section "Monitoring and science" provides 12 targets, among them target "to develop long-term state program for assessing biological diversity, strengthen intellectual capacity of scientific institutions".

University of Latvia and other academic institutions of Latvia are running educational programs dealing with scientific and technical education and training on biodiversity, as part of academic 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.

Although financial resources are limited, there are government funding mechanisms for research contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity – Latvian Environmental Protection Fund, Scientific council grants, Forest Protection Fund.

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.

Modeling of species and habitat distribution is done using remote sensing techniques. A handbook "Current experience in management of species and habitats" has been produced within bilateral Latvian-Danish project that summarize newest developments and experience in management of different ecosystems. A pilot project on using satellite pictures for forest bird census was implemented by the Latvian Ornithological society.

Institute of Biology is running projects dealing with genetic markers.

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.

University of Latvia is providing training courses, as part of academic programs. State Forest Service has trained forest key habitat experts, as result of Danish government funded project.

UNDP/GEF project "Maintenance of Biological Diversity in North Vidzeme Biosphere reserve" is planning to reinforce ecological, integrated approach as a base for North Vidzeme Biosphere reserve management. A number of educational programmes will be established, e.g. Nature Watch Program to increase public involvement and subsequent decision-making.

Some activities are organized by NGOs, too. Latvian Ornithological society is implementing project dealing with training of volunteers for monitoring, project is supported by Latvian Environmental Protection fund.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

NPBD sets several targets related to application of scientific advances in conservation of biodiversity, e.g. target 35.6. *Develop species and habitat monitoring, especially in relation to different management and protection methods* or 35.12. *Support publication of scientific works related to different biodiversity aspects, including scientific periodicals*. State Monitoring program has been prepared, containing biodiversity monitoring section, among others. Due to lack of financial resources it is only partly implemented.

As reported by the project "Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)", lack of coordination in data gathering is main problem in implementation of successful research projects. There is no unified system for data flow to maintain them in databases of Latvian Environmental Agency. Not all data gathered in different projects is delivered to Agency. Implementation of this Article was assessed with 2.75 points (in the scale of 1 (very bad) to 5 (excellent) points).

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

Lack of financial resources already mentioned in description to section d) is one of the key obstacles to successful implementation of the Article. There are also quite common cases when scientific knowledge is disconnected from its application to practical conservation actions. It happens due to lack of active partnerships between scientific institutions and managers of protected territories. Major capacity problems, identified by the project "Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)" are: lack of solid scientific center for environmental protection and biodiversity issues, academic science sector is lacking capacity (due to lack of funding, lack of human capacity, updated information), environmental training and education programs are suffering from overload of trainers, not well planned scientific education programs and lack of teaching materials.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but a CEPA strategy is under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a limited extent (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, a CEPA strategy developed and public participation promoted to a significant extent (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on the implementation of a CEPA strategy and the promotion of public participation in support of the Convention.	
<p>A special CEPA strategy regarding CBD has not been elaborated in Latvia, so far. On the national level the Environmental Communication and Education Strategy and Action Plan was elaborated. Issues on communication and education regarding biodiversity protection are included in the National Programme on Biological Diversity and the National Environmental Policy Plan.</p>	

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	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but some programmes are under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, many activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on the activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on CEPA.	
<p>All large biodiversity related projects (mainly financed by the EU Life programme, GEF, MATRA, DANCEE etc. funds), recently started or already completed in Latvia, contain educational and public awareness component. Also other state institutions, NGOs etc. are implementing different educational and informative activities all the time. Latvian Environmental Protection funds has special funding allocated to support public education and awareness building activities (e.g. campaigns, printed materials, summer camps, education materials etc.)</p>	

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	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but some programmes are under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Necessity of promotion of biodiversity related issues through the mass media is highlighted in the

National Programme on Biological Diversity, but due to lack of capacity and national CEPA strategy information on biodiversity related issues from the state institutions directly dealing with biodiversity protection at the national level is not as regularly and effectively prepared and delivered to the mass media as it could be. Frequently information on different issues and activities comes after implementation of these activities. Several NGOs and other organizations/ institutions frequently and regularly provide different information on biodiversity related issues through the press – information mainly related to actual information on activities undertaken within the different projects (financed by the EU Life programme, GEF, MATRA and other funds) related to biodiversity conservation; information on endangered species and habitats; also information on changes in legislation and on actual nature conservation problems etc. Amount and quality of information depend on willingness and capacity of each particular organization. Mass media by themselves quite frequently are interested to display information on different conflicts between private landowners and state institutions and/or nature conservation specialists as well as providing information on nature related topics, however, mostly as tackling hot and problem issues.

At the same time national TV regularly (one a week) broadcasts program "Environmental Facts" where information and more detailed analysis of environmental and nature topics is provided. In order to facilitate interest of journalists to provide information on environment and nature Ministry of Environment has established yearly award to journalists preparing materials for different media (press, TV, radio) on environment and nature protection.

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.

Promotion of communication, education and public awareness at the local level mainly is being done by the mentioned large-scale projects (LIFE etc. projects), different local institutions, such as administrative bodies of specially protected nature territories, regional environmental boards, local NGOs or regional groups of some NGOs. It is mainly done by issuing different informative materials (books, booklets, films etc.), organizing seminars, lectures, excursions and campaigns and by involving local people in different species protection and habitat restoration and management activities. Local people are being invited also to participate in different decision-making activities (participation in discussions on designation of specially protected nature territories; participation in public hearings during elaboration of site management plan; participation in elaboration of different legislative acts, national policies, programmes and plans). Issues of genetic diversity have been less promoted at the local level, so far.

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	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities supported (please provide details below)	x
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.

All large biodiversity related projects (mainly financed by the EU LIFE programme, GEF, MATRA, DANCEE etc. funds), recently started or already completed in Latvia, contain educational and public awareness component. All mentioned projects, as well as other state institutions and NGO's issue different kind of informative materials (booklets, films etc.) on biodiversity issues. All LIFE projects have their web pages; information in the web pages of different state institutions and NGO's dealing

with biodiversity protection also is being updated all the time. The Ministry of Environment in 2005 for the second time announced competition for environmental journalists for the best publication, TV and radio broadcast on environmental issues.

The clearing-house mechanism web page was elaborated under the web page of the Latvian Environmental, Geology and Hydrometeorological Agency (former Latvian Environment Agency) and includes information on the Convention, links to other conventions, national legislation, species and habitats in Latvia, relevant projects, researches and other information.

During the project "Implementation of Latvian Biodiversity Action Plan: Institutional Development and Capacity Building" (2001-2003) a public awareness strategy was elaborated. This strategy contained different actions (publication of the newspaper "Nature diversity" (4 times per year), the campaign "Propose a territory!", celebration of the Biodiversity Day, realization of public opinion poll on nature protection and biodiversity issues etc.) which were realized during the project. This project contained also capacity building activities – seminars, trainings, workshops on different issues, including public awareness and communication, project implementation, on work with mass media and stakeholders etc. The main target groups of these seminars were representatives from the Ministry of Environment and its subordinate institutions and other organizations/ institutions (NGOs etc.).

The projects "Baltic States' Regional Co-operation Programme for Natura 2000 sites" and "Management of Natura 2000 sites – needs, possibilities, perspectives" (implemented by the Baltic Environmental Forum) include different activities related to awareness raising among stakeholder groups, integration of nature conservation in other policy fields, sharing knowledge on information etc.

In 2001 Latvian – Danish co-operation project "Development of Latvian Environmental Interpretation Service" started (finished in 2003). The aim of this project was to establish the basic framework of the national Environmental Interpretation Service in Latvia. Environmental interpretation is a pedagogical activity performed by environmental interpreter with the aim to achieve better understanding of the environmental processes (the interaction between the natural, cultural and socio-economical development), promoting public awareness raising and environmentally friendly behavior. During the project 20 environmental interpreters were trained; so far in total more than 40 environmental interpreters have been trained; they are acting in different places in Latvia, including specially protected nature territories and their administrations. Different educational materials were published within this project. After the project the Natural History Museum of Latvia overtook the functions of the project and the Environmental Interpretation Service Coordination Centre at the Museum was established. In 2005 a new group consisting of 23 environmental interpreters is being trained.

Also the GEF financed project „Biodiversity Protection in North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve" ongoing in Latvia includes different kind of educational, informative and capacity building activities.

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	x
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
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.

Some activities regarding capacity building in communication, education and public awareness are included in the Action Plan to the National Programme on Biological Diversity (e.g. organization of different campaigns and programmes; organization of different activities for environmental journalists and other target groups etc.) and in the Action Plan to the Environmental Communication and Education Strategy. As such programmes we could consider, for example, above-mentioned development of the network of environmental interpreters and activities realized by the Natural History Museum of Latvia (different campaigns, seminars etc.). There are information and visitors

centers in almost all specially protected nature territories with their own administration, as well as in other specially protected territories (nature parks "Pape" and "Lake Engure" etc.) where large biodiversity conservation projects are being carried out.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the promotion of cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness, at the national, regional and international levels.

There is no regular and systematic promotion of cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education in Latvia. Some activities exist (e.g. there is unilateral cooperation with Universities of Helsinki and Bremen (students from Latvia are going to study there, but their students are not coming to study here); on national level there was cooperation between University of Latvia and University of Daugavpils (second largest city in Latvia) on elaboration of study programme on biology for Daugavpils University), but they are few and irregular.

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)	
b) Yes, some activities undertaken for some issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.

Some CEPA activities are being implemented regarding most relevant thematic programmes and several cross-cutting issues. Different CEPA activities related to the thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues adopted under the Convention are being undertaken within the different projects (targeted to conservation of different ecosystems in Latvia, e.g. forests, coastal zone, particular inland water bodies etc.) realized by different organizations (NGO's, local municipalities etc.). Different state institutions directly or indirectly dealing with biodiversity conservation (e.g. the Ministry of Environment and its subordinated institutions, the Ministry of Agriculture and its subordinated institutions etc.) are also realizing educational and public awareness raising activities regarding biodiversity protection.

Examples for some cross-cutting issues adopted under the Convention:

- Different informative activities were carried out by the Ministry of Environment and several NGO's during establishment of *Natura 2000* network (special areas of conservation of European importance) in Latvia. After establishment of this network in Latvia different educational and public awareness raising activities regarding conservation of different ecosystems, habitats, species in these territories are being continued.
- Traditional knowledge of use of different resources and management of habitats also is being promoted within the mentioned large scale projects ongoing in Latvia.

Some educational and informative activities (by the Ministry of Agriculture, its subordinated institutions etc.) have been realized regarding particular invasive alien species (e.g. *Heracleum sosnowskyi*) in Latvia.

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

b) Yes (please provide details below)

x

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.

There is possibility for any kind of legal person to get funding for environmental education and public awareness projects from the Latvian Environmental Protection Fund (state institution, subordinated to the Ministry of Environment). There are a lot of different large scale projects targeted to biodiversity conservation (projects funded by the GEF, EU Life programme, different DANCEE funded projects finished in the previous years, projects realized by the State Forest Service (e.g. "Inventory of Woodland Key Habitats", etc.) which include also educational and informative activities and which have co-funding from different state and municipal institutions.

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

x

b) No, but some programmes are under development

c) Yes, some programmes developed and activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)

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.

Box LII .

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.

The main outcomes of different CEPA activities implemented in Latvia are: more and more information on biodiversity related issues are being delivered to different target groups through the different biodiversity conservation projects and other activities realized in Latvia; more informative materials are being prepared and issued, more information is available on the web; biodiversity conservation is being promoted through the integration of biodiversity issues into the different sectoral plans, programmes and legislation; people are invited to act, travel, build etc. sustainable, preserving nature and its resources.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

CEPA issues have been included in the National Programme on Biological Diversity (adopted in 2000). Activities related to education and public information have been included in the 1st Action Plan of NPBD (elaborated in 2000) as well as in the updated (2003) Action Plan that is planned for the period till 2006. Each year the Ministry of Environment summarizes information of all activities implemented according to the Action Plan as well as other activities implemented.

Ministry of Environment has realized the problem of lack of capacity of state institutions to inform and educate general public of biodiversity issues. Therefore, the establishment of Communication Department is foreseen in the Strategy of the Ministry of Environment (2005-2007). Given the limited funding available, establishment of Communication division within the Ministry is considered as a minimum goal. Ministry of Environment has also prepared several issues containing the replies on the frequently asked questions regarding the nature protection in general as well as specially protected nature territories and protection of species and habitats in particular.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

The main constraint implementing CEPA activities is lack of capacity (financial resources, human resources). As reported by the project "Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)", communication level between state institutions and landowners in the process of establishment of protected areas and explaining benefits and restrictions is clearly insufficient. This project also brings up the capacity problem of lack of dialogue between NGOs and state institutions, especially what concerns long-term visions of state environmental policies as well as lack of involvement of public in decision-making. Implementation of this Article (in sense of awareness on importance and necessity of biological diversity) was assessed with 2.27 points (in the scale of 1 (very bad) to 5 (excellent) points. Evaluation of economic and social components of biological diversity protection (also linked to education and public awareness) was evaluated with least points – only 1.8.

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.

Requirements are included in the national law and regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers described below.

The Law "On Environmental Impact Assessment":

In the preamble of the national law the definition of Environmental Impact includes biodiversity as one of components of the impact;

Article 4 of the Law requires both EIA for the projects likely to have adverse effects on NATURA 2000

sites and strategic EIA for planning documents likely to have adverse effects on NATURA 2000 sites;

Article 11 lists criteria for EIA of planned activity. Among others – impact on particularly protected sites, internationally important wetlands, micro-reserves for species and habitats, protected belt along the coast of the Baltic Sea and of the Gulf of Riga, protected belts of inland waterbodies, rivers and streams and on protected species and their habitats, protected habitats.

The Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 157 of March 23, 2004 "Procedures for Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment" regulate Procedures for Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment; The Cabinet of Ministers regulations No. 87 of February 17, 2004 "Procedures for Environmental Impact Assessment", prescribe in precise and detailed fashion the implementation procedures of the requirements stipulated in the Law "On Environmental impact assessment".

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 Law "On Environmental Impact Assessment" requires Strategic EIA for all planning documents accepted by Parliament, Cabinet of Ministers, any state institution or municipalities in the field of agriculture, forestry, fishery, energetic, transport, industry, waste management, management of water resources, telecommunication, tourism, mining industry and for planning documents of regional development, land use and territorial planning.

The Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 157 of March 23, 2004 "Procedures for Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment" requires Strategic EIA for all national policies and strategies, guidelines, plans and programs of all sectors. The above-mentioned regulations prescribe necessary procedures for Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment. The biodiversity is included as important component in the procedures of Strategic EIA. Analyses of potential impact on particularly protected sites, micro reserves for species and habitats, protected belt along the coast of the Baltic Sea and of the Gulf of Riga, on protected species and their habitats, protected habitats and on the NATURA 2000 sites and species listed in the Annexes of EU Directives as well.

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.

Latvia had acceded to 1991 Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-boundary Context on July 1, 1998 and has signed the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Estonia on Environmental Impact Assess-

ment in a Transboundary Context in March 14, 1997.

The Law "On Environmental Impact Assessment" requires analyses of transboundary impact as one of components in the process of EIA. The Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 157 of March 23, 2004 "Procedures for Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment" prescribes procedures for the development process of documents planning activities likely to affect other countries.

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	
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	x

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.

Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 259 (passed on 19.06.2001) "Procedures for Industrial Accident Risk Assessment and Risk Reduction Measures" regulates procedures for industrial accident assessment and reduction of the impact after an accident.

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)	x
d) Yes, major aspects being applied (please specify below)	

Further comments on application of the guidelines.

In the current legal acts mainly the impact assessment on protected species, on habitats and nationally and internationally protected sites is included as integrated component during EIA procedures. Impact on genetic diversity or on reproductive isolation of ecosystems is not a part of legal acts in force, however, when assessing impact on sites of EU importance (Natura 2000) integrity of the site and the network in general should be assessed as well.

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.

The Article 4 of the Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" delegates to the Cabinet of Ministers to develop measures regarding redress for damage to protected species and their habitats and to protected habitats. The Article 9 prescribes the liability of landowners and users of the land in the field of protected species and habitats.

Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers "On Recompense of Damage for Spoilage or Destruction of Individuals of Specially Protected Species and Habitats" (Nr. 117/03.13.2001) provide for measures regarding redress for damage to protected species and habitats.

Law "On Environmental protection" and related regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers also provide for recompensation for the damage done for environment in general, and for the damage done to nature monuments in particular. Code of administrative penalties contains the chapter on fees for the breaching environmental legislation.

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)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	

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

Developed legal system of protected sites, protected species and habitats, legal acts on sound use and maintenance of forest and fish resources, biodiversity aspects in the legal acts on spatial planning and construction, developed EIA procedures.

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	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities being undertaken (please provide details below)	x
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.

Close and long-term cooperation with Denmark in the field of capacity building of government

institutions and relevant stakeholders regarding biodiversity conservation. Latest project "Implementation of Latvian Biodiversity Action Plan: Institutional Development and capacity-building" (2001 – 2003) is financed by Danish Ministry's of Environment and Energy agency DANCEE and implemented by Danish consultant company Carl Bro. Some aspects of the prevention of damage to biodiversity were a part of activities carried out by this project. Danish experts share their experience in the financial and legal aspects of this field.

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.

Main outcomes are developed legal system: national law and associated regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers describing procedures of EIA; operating Environmental State Bureau – responsible national institution for the procedures of EIA and strategic EIA on the national scale.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention. Started bilateral cooperation with Estonia on EIA issues; developed legal bases for evaluation of cross border impacts of planned actions (Goal 1). Improved both human and technical capacity of Environmental State Bureau, improved legal base for EIA procedures, gathered experience during series of EIA and strategic EIA during finalized EIA projects. (Goal 2). Biodiversity aspects included in EIA legislations, regulations, procedures and into operating EIA and strategic EAI projects (Goal 3). Wide public participation during several EIA projects (EIA for Ozolsala Pulp Plant project), improved public awareness on biodiversity aspects (Goal 4).

Current legal and institutional system serves as one of footsteps to reach 2010 target.

EU requirements requiring assessing impact on NATURA 2000 sites are incorporated into national legal acts; Still slow progress of implementation of Article 33. (EIA) of National Programme on Biological Diversity, particularly to its objectives on scientific criteria (33.1) and development of guidelines for assessment of impact on biodiversity (33.3) and development of redress for damage to biodiversity (33.4).

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*. Growing number of environmentally sound projects having less impact on biodiversity, more spatial and development plans of municipal scale supporting sustainable development of local municipalities and maintaining its biodiversity and natural resources.

Main constraints are poor knowledge and scientific bases to develop criteria for evaluation of potential impact on biodiversity; low intellectual and material capacity in universities to improve curriculum on the issue; low institutional capacity to have sufficient and effective influence on the process of spatial planning and during strategic EIA for such plans of regional and municipal scale.

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.

National focal point has been established in the Laboratory of Plant Genetics (prof. Isaak Rashal, Institute of Biology, University of Latvia). The Latvian Gene Bank of Cultivated Plants has been developed and facilitates access to plant genetic resources of local origin.

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

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 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.

Only some particular scientific projects share their own information with other parties – providers of genetic resources. No national initiatives, guidelines or legal acts exist.

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

x

b) No, but potential measures are under review

c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)

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.

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

b) Yes (please provide details below)

x

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.

Latvia joined the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. A working group of the Ministry of Agriculture elaborates necessary changes in existing legislation or will consider new legislation to implement the multilateral system of access and benefit sharing.

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

x

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

c) Yes (please provide details below)

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

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)

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)

x

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.

The national Law "On Protection of Plant Varieties" is in force. This Law implements UPOV rules in national legislation.

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

a) Yes (please provide details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No	

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.

With financial support of the Nordic Council of Ministers specialists from both scientific institutions (Institute of Biology, University of Latvia; State Plant Breeding Stations) and Ministry of Agriculture participate in training courses, seminars and workshops in PGR.

Latvia was a recipient during the development of the Latvian Gene Bank of Cultivated Plants financially supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

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.

The Latvian Gene Bank of Cultivated Plants is established. The national Law "On Protection of Plant Varieties" is in place.

Established multi institutional working group under the Ministry of Agriculture for gap analyses and the development of working plan to get progress in the field of genetic resources and to implement international plans and strategies. Report of the working group to the Ministry will be compiled till the end of 2005.

National subsidies for cultivation of local plant varieties and breeding of local animal breeds are in place.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.

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 | |
| 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 | x |

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 | |
| 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 | x |

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.

N/A

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) No, but relevant programmes are under development | |
| 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.

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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.

N/A

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 | |
| b) No, but assessments are under way | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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.

National monitoring program includes assessment of methods required to implement the program.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but assessments are under way	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but some programmes are under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, some programmes are in place and being implemented (please provide details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

CHM home page to a limited extent is contributing to strengthening information systems for technology transfer and cooperation. Habitat management projects funded under EU LIFE fund all have experience exchange component, as a rule.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but a few measures being considered	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, some measures taken (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, many measures taken (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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.

Technologies on protection and management of habitats are widely shared and transferred both on national and European level. In 2003, The Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF) has started a project "Management of NATURA 2000 sites – needs, possibilities, perspectives" (BANAT-MP) to support Latvian nature conservation authorities in the process of preparation of management plans, accompanying it with info-exchange and increasing know-how on particular issues, e.g. public involvement and socio-economic aspects of management of NATURA 2000 sites. Since December 2003, the BEF is implementing the project "Experience exchange on habitat management among Baltic LIFE-Nature projects". The main objective of the project is to promote the quality of management and implementation of LIFE-Nature projects dealing with management of Natura 2000 sites through co-operation and exchange of experience among the existing and prospective project implementers in Baltic countries.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

NPBD sets target 35.8 *To summarize information on existing databases and establish unified biodiversity information exchange system, connecting it to international databases networks*, 35.9. *Provide accessibility of primary information for scientific and nature protection goals*, among others. CHM home page, established on www.lva.gov.lv/daba is contributing to technology transfer and dissemination of information, along with other home pages, e.g. home page of Nature Protection Board www.dap.gov.lv, Ministry of Environment www.vidm.gov.lv, Latvian Fund for Nature www.ldf.lv, Latvian Ornithological society www.loib.lv and others.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

Lack of institutional capacity and financial resources are the main challenges to implementation of the Program.

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	N/A
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.

CHM mechanism have been established, all state institutions have elaborated and maintain home pages, e.g. www.vidm.gov.lv; www.dap.gov.lv; www.biosfera.lv; www.gnp.gov.lv. NGOs and societies also mainly have home pages, e.g. www.ldf.lv, www.ezeri.lv, www.wwf.lv, www.lob.lv and others. Internet is widely used among inhabitants of main cities, while in the countryside local municipality, library and newspapers are still the main sources of information. These measures mainly concern public information, although are also used for scientific and technical purposes. Latvian Environmental Agency is maintaining protected areas database that is available for searching and use. Some NGOs also maintain databases, e.g. www.ezeri.lv on Latvian lakes etc.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goals 2 and 4 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

National Biodiversity Action Plan includes actions dealing with facilitation of the exchange of information from publicly available sources – e.g. Maintenance of CHM (in implementation), establishment of BioCASE – European level biological collections data bases network (in implementation), establishment of monitoring data information system by Latvian Environmental Agency (in implementation), publication of scientific periodicals, e.g. "Latvian Vegetation", "Latvian vascular plant flora", "Rare species and animals", "Birds in Nature" and others.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

As reported by the project "Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)", lack of coordination in data gathering is main problem in implementation of successful research projects. There is no unified system for data flow to maintain them in databases of Latvian Environmental Agency. Not all data gathered in different projects is delivered to Agency, even those funded by State budget. The lack of unified cartographic system (e.g. insufficiencies in digitizing borders of protected areas) in the country is creating obstacles

to successful protection of biological diversity as it creates juridical problems and enforcement of legislation.

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.

Transboundary projects are being implemented, in cooperation with Estonian and Latvian institutions and organizations, such as North Livonia project (Latvia and Estonia), scientific conferences within the frame of different cooperation networks. Baltic Environmental Forum is promoting Baltic cooperation in several projects dealing with implementation of Natura 2000 network, requirements of European Union Directives etc. (please see more detail in Box LVIII below). Transboundary agreements described in earlier sections are also contributing to implementation of the Article 18.

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	
c) 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	
b) Yes (please provide some examples below)	x

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

Research program for Wolves have been running in 1999-2000, in cooperation with Estonian Fund for Nature. It involved border guards in assessment of wolf numbers, elaborated methodology for counts.

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	
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---	-------------------------------------

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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.

N/A

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 | |
| c) Yes (please provide details below) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Further comments on development of relevant initiatives.

CHM home page has been established on www.lva.gov.lv/daba. This information system supports thematic and cross-sectoral programs of the Convention and includes information on species and habitats diversity and protection in Latvia.

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 | |
| b) Yes (please specify services and tools below) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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

Capacity Self-assessment of Latvian institutions in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation was carried out within the framework of UNDP/GEF project LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99. The ultimate goal of the project was to develop priorities and tasks for increase of capacity in fields of biological diversity, climate change and land degradation according to the following conventions:

- Rio-de-Janeiro Convention "On Biological Diversity";
- UN General Convention "On Climate Change";

- UN Convention "To Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa". Within the course of the project capacity constraints were revealed both for each convention as well as cross-cutting issues. Measures to solve identified problems were proposed as well.

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.

CHM home page along with other home pages related to implementation of the goals of the Convention contributes largely to information sharing and improving technical and scientific cooperation. Technical cooperation is actively taking place among administrations of the protected areas and within the frame of LIFE projects.

The project "Baltic States' Regional Co-operation Programme for Natura 2000", called BANAT, was set-up to assist the three Baltic Ministries of Environment in the implementation of the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives and development of the NATURA 2000 Network. It was also meant to support the countries in the negotiation process with the European Commission on the Annexes of both Directives. The project was started in 1999 and is currently implemented in its 3rd phase - BANAT 3 from 1 October 2003 until 31 March 2005.

The Baltic Environmental Forum has started a project "Management of NATURA 2000 sites – needs, possibilities, perspectives" (BANAT-MP) to support Latvian nature conservation authorities in the process of preparation of management plans, accompanying it with info-exchange and increasing know-how on particular issues, e.g. public involvement and socio-economic aspects of management of NATURA 2000 sites.

Since December 2003, the BEF is implementing the project "Experience exchange on habitat management among Baltic LIFE-Nature projects". The main objective of the project is to promote the quality of management and implementation of LIFE-Nature projects dealing with management of Natura 2000 sites through co-operation and exchange of experience among the existing and prospective project implementers in Baltic countries.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

NPBD foresees several targets related to implementation of this Article, e.g. 36.2. *To sign international agreements about cooperation in protection of Transboundary protected areas and migrating species;* 36.3. *To ensure participation of Latvian experts and authorities in work of international organizations;* 36.5. *To ensure cooperation of municipalities in management of Transboundary protected areas.* International cooperation agreements have been signed, as described above, experts and authorities participate in scientific conferences, state support is provided to this participation to a limited extent. Action Plan foresees 5 priority measures, such as signing Transboundary cooperation agreements with Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, bilateral cooperation agreement with Lithuania "On cooperation in management of transboundary river basins" etc. Most of these measures have been implemented or are currently under implementation.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability.*

No major constraints apart from financial limitations to technical cooperation. As reported by the project "Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)", lack of coordination in data gathering is main problem in implementation of successful research projects. There is no unified system for data flow to maintain them in databases of Latvian Environmental Agency. Not all data gathered in different projects is delivered to Agency.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.

No information.

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	There is no money allocated from the national government to any of the line ministries and earmarked for the implementation of the CBD. The direct budget allocations for the nature protection are approx. 2 M euro annually. Indirect allocations through the Latvian Environmental protection fund are 0,5 M euro annually.
b) Extra-budgetary resources (identified by donor agencies)	
c) Bilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	Bilaterally the Danish EPA, as well as Sweden, the Netherlands and Japan provided the most substantial support. The biggest support was in 2001, when from bilateral sources Latvia received approx. 1,5 M euros. However, in following years bilateral supported decreased and now is approx. 0,1 M euro.
d) Regional channels (identified by donor agencies)	Latvia has attracted 10 M euros from the EU LIFE program for the management of important protected habitats of Latvia, e.g. developing of management plans, habitat restoration activities, public information and awareness building activities. In order to decrease pressure of tourism activities on protected areas, European Regional Development fund provided assistance to 7 projects for establishment of eco-tourism infrastructure in the Natura 2000 sites. Total sum of the 7 projects is 5 M euros for 2004 – 2006.
e) Multilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	Latvia has received support for 5 biodiversity projects from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) – 2 EA projects, 1 PDF-B, 1 FSP and special support for the preparation of the 3 rd Country report to the CBD.
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.

In 1995 Latvian parliament adopted Law "On Nature resources tax", which provides for imposing tax on use of natural resources such as water, air, etc. Tax is also paid for the packaging material. All tax is collected in the Latvian Environmental Protection fund, which finances on the project basis project proposals in the 8 different budget lines. The most important are budget lines "Biodiversity" and "Environmental education and awareness building". LEPF also provides co-financing to important nature protection project proposals submitted to the Global Environmental Facility, EU LIFE program, and bilateral projects. Project spending in the budget line "Biodiversity" are approx. 0,5 M euro annually. Since 2002 LEPF finances are considered as indirect budget allocations from the national government, therefore this fund in the table above is not marked in the g) line.

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Yes, incentives only (please provide a list of such incentives below) | |
| c) Yes, financial support only | |
| 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) | |

Further comments on new and additional financial resources provided.

N/A

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) No, but procedures being established | |
| c) Yes (please provide details below) | |

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

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.

Private land owners are entitled to real estate tax exemption if his/her land has restriction of economic activities due to the nature protection legislation.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but review is under way	
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.

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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	

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

Biodiversity issues are fully integrated in the Rural Development Plan, implementation of which is financially supported by the EU European Agriculture Guidance Guaranty fund. Biodiversity issues concern both the requirements to be taken into account under to regular agriculture activities as well as special dedicated activities for the management of important habitats.

Biodiversity considerations are one of the most important ones when carrying out strategic environmental assessment of the development plans and territorial plans for the municipalities as well sectoral strategies also should be assessed in accordance with these criteria.

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)	x
d) Yes, into major sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity into sectoral development and assistance programmes	
Please see above.	

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.

Areas	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)	
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)	
e) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)	
f) Implementation of the Bonn Guidelines (decision VI/24)	
g) Implementation of programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (decision V/5)	
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)	
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)	

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)	
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.	
N/A	

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	x	x	
b) National capacity self-assessment for implementation of Convention (decision VI/27)	x		
c) Priority actions to implement the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision V/9)			
d) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)		x	x
e) Development of national strategies or action plans to deal with alien species (decision VI/23)			x
f) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation, establishment and maintenance of <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation facilities (decision V/26)			x
g) Projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 (Education and Public Awareness) (decision VI/19)			x
h) Preparation of national reports (decisions III/9, V/19 and VI/25)	x		
i) Projects for conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity (decision IV/4)	x	x	x
j) Activities for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity (decision V/5)	x		x
k) Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision VI/26)	x		

I) 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.			
Main funding agencies for site related biodiversity maintenance activities in past 5 years are EU LIFE program, several GEF funded projects (e.g. Maintenance of Biological Diversity in North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve) are taking place as well. In addition, EU subsidies are paid for maintenance of biodiversity in agricultural lands; Latvian Environmental Protection fund is financing smaller scale national environmental and biodiversity protection projects.			

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.

Latvia as country in transition has received substantial assistance from different bilateral and multilateral sources for the development of national biodiversity strategy and for capacity building in different areas related to biodiversity protection. As a result the capacity to obtain different funding increased as well. Thus the implementation of the National Program on Biological diversity was significantly facilitated, as due to lack of finances nature protection was not among the priorities for budgetary allocations. Still Latvia hosts large biodiversity that is mainly protected and managed with financial assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

However, Latvia has not promoted the establishment of other incentives in order to facilitate broader support from private persons and enterprises. Mostly it is due to willingness of Government to secure state budget income in order to ensure economic development and prosperity of the country. At the same time, private enterprises and persons are willing to donate money for nature protection purposes.

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

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

- a) NPBD sets 14 goals related to implementation of Inland water program in Rivers and Lakes section and 6 goals in Mires section.
Biodiversity Action Plan contains 32 defined measures for implementation of these goals, most of them implemented or under implementation. Please see more information in Box LXIII.
- b) There is no separate wetland policy or strategy for Latvia. Components of such have been included in National Program of Biological Diversity. Nevertheless, there are cases when more detailed, particular habitat related action plans are being elaborated. For example, Mire Habitat Conservation Plan for Latvia was elaborated in 2003. It contains issues dealing with Program of work for inland water ecosystems, e.g. restoration activities, inventories of mire species, actions to minimize pollution, establishment of protected areas and management of those etc.
- c) Preparation of river basin management plans (as required by Water Framework Directive) has begun in Latvia. Report on implementation of Directive 2000/60/EK "Description of River Basins. Evaluation of anthropogenic pressures on inland waters. Economic analysis" was prepared by River Basin Authority, containing both biodiversity and socio-economic consideration of waterbodies.
- d) Cooperation and coordination between different actors dealing with inland water ecosystems on river basin level is supported through establishment of River Basin Consultative Boards, consisting of institutional, municipal and NGO level participants. Cooperation between actors on protected area level is enhanced during management planning process, by establishment of management plan supervisory groups (containing all involved stakeholders) and for larger areas on permanent basis – by establishment of protected areas consultative councils.

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	
c) No, but potential measures were identified for synergy and joint implementation	
d) Yes, some measures taken for joint implementation (please specify below)	x
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.	
Cooperation between CBD and Ramsar focal points in Latvia is very close, as the same institution (Ministry of Environment) and even department (Nature Protection Department) is responsible for implementation of both. As already mentioned before, NPBD sets goals for implementation of both conventions, thus their implementation is well coordinated.	

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.			
a) and b) River Basin Management Plan lists socio-economic values of inland water ecosystems, although focusing on economic value of water use. To some extent, on particular protected areas level, such data is provided in management plans. Mire Habitat Conservation Plan to some extent evaluates the socio-economic value of mires. Nevertheless, there has been no national level assessment on goods and services provided by inland water ecosystems.			

- d) State monitoring program is containing several components related to monitoring of wetlands and species depending on them. Latvian Environmental, Geology and Hydrometeorological Agency (former Latvian Environment Agency) is responsible for implementation of the monitoring program.
- e) Threats to wetland ecosystems are listed in NPBD and Mire Habitat Conservation Plan, as well as in management plans for protected areas. One of the recently recognized threats to inland water ecosystems, particularly rivers is construction of small hydroelectric power stations, destroying river ecosystems. The study on impact of such actions was undertaken by WWF Latvia, resulting in restrictions to construction of HES. River Basin Management Plan contains evaluation of pressures and anthropogenic impact on both surface and underground waters.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, the guidelines have been reviewed and found inappropriate	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, the guidelines have been reviewed and application/promotion is pending	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, the guidelines promoted and applied	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further comments on the promotion and application of the guidelines on the rapid assessment of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

Box LXIII.

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.

Coordination of actions related to management and protection of biodiversity of inland water ecosystem has improved by establishment of consultative and coordination bodies on different planning levels. Preparation of Mire Protection Plan has led to better coordination of mire protection in the country and assisted with receiving of EU LIFE project funding for implementation of Mire Habitat Conservation Plan in Latvia (project is implemented in 2004-2008 by Latvian Fund for Nature). Inventory of Latvian wetlands along with EMERALD/Natura 2000 project has led to better information on important wetlands in Latvia and subsequent establishment of protected areas. Baltic Environmental Forum started the implementation of the project "Involvement of NGOs in the new water management policy in Latvia" since October, 2004. The project aims to develop and strengthen participation and involvement of NGOs in implementation of the new water management policy based on river basin district approach. The project is targeted towards Latvian/Lithuanian transboundary river basin Lielupe.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goals 1 and 2 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

Only few of the implemented actions are listed below to illustrate progress with implanting NPBD and Action Plan. Most of the actions foreseen in the Action plan (2003) are implemented or under implementation.

Rivers and Lakes. Recommendations for control of small HES have been prepared by State Environmental inspectorate, resulting in better control on impact of HES on river ecosystems. Natura 2000 sites have been established in most valuable wetlands, all of them assured also national protection level. To protect the natural values of inland water ecosystems outside protected areas, the system of establishment of micro-reserves is in place. Restoration of natural flow of Slampe river is taking place under LIFE project in Kemerī National park, it is planned also to restore sluices and fish migration routes at the Kanieris lake. Habitat restoration program is foreseen with UNDP/GEF funding in Salaca river. Restoration of Staicele river is foreseen within the frame of the same project. Preparations for restoration of Pededze river are taking place within the frame of LIFE project in Pededze river, Lubans wetland complex. Exchange of water between Pape Lake and Baltic sea is planned to be restored in 2006, by LIFE project.

Mires. Handbook "Methods for monitoring of mire habitats and species" is prepared within UNDP project. Inventory of mire habitats in Teici Nature reserve is done by Teici administration. Management plans for mires included in Mire Habitat Protection Plan are elaborated or in the process of preparation by Nature Protection Board or within LIFE Mires project. Natura 2000 sites have been established in most valuable mires in Latvia. It is planned to restore hydrological regime of Kemerī bog, to restore wetlands and calciferous fens in Kemerī National park. Inventory and assessment of invasive species is done within the frame of monitoring of invasive species. Integrated wetland and forest management plan for transboundary North Livonia area is under development in cooperation with Estonian partners with PIN-Matra project funding.

Management plans and individual site protection rules for several wetland sites are in elaboration. Monitoring of wetlands (including also monitoring of Ramsar sites) is taking place as part of State Monitoring Program ran by State Environmental Agency. Quality of surface waters is also monitored by the same agency.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

As reported by the project "Capacity Self-assessment of Latvia in Fields of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation (LAT/02/G32/A/1G/99)", the implementation of protection required by the Convention is most problematic in lakes where fisheries interests face nature conservation interests. Lakes where additional feeding of fish and adding fish resources initiates eutrophication and changes of habitats can be mentioned as example. It is mentioned that Fishery Law is prescribing elaboration of Rules for Use of lakes, but this Law do not specifically elaborate on content of these Rules. Thus, lakes are usually not looked upon as ecosystems providing biological diversity (species and habitats) but rather as place where fish resources are managed. Thus, it is almost impossible to oppose fisheries management in sensitive lakes outside protected areas.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Improving the management of existing marine and coastal protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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.

National program on Biological diversity provides the following measures:

- a) 1.3.2. Create protected areas in coastal waters and develop their nature protection plans; 2.1.1. Supplement the protected nature area network with new areas designated by the various categories of protection, and develop and implement the respective nature protection plans.
- b) 2.1.1. Supplement the protected nature area network with new areas designated by the various categories of protection, and develop and implement the respective nature protection plans; 2.1.4. Develop programmes for protection of beach and dune habitats.
- c) 1.5.2. Support the study of distribution, population dynamics and limiting factors of rare species, as well as methods for their artificial reproduction; 1.6.3. Support the study of distribution and population dynamics of introduced species in waters, and their effect of local populations; 2.2.1. Supplement the list of Specially Protected Natural Monuments to include the typical sea cliff stretches with most importance for biological diversity; 2.2.2. Promote the study of sea cliff ecosystems; 2.2.3. Promote the education and distribution of information on the importance of sea cliffs and their protection; 2.3.1. Promote the study of factors affecting the expansion of reed and bulrush populations; 2.3.2. Promote the integrated ecosystem study of reed and bulrush habitats.
- d) 1.1.2. Step-up control of wastewater quality and waste management in coastal Pagasts; 1.1.3. Halt disposal of fish and fish processing waste from fishing and fish processing vessels; 1.1.4. Produce recommendations for development of sustainable agricultural in protection belts around the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Riga, as well as around lakes and rivers, to decrease soil erosion and nutrient runoff; 1.3.1. Control commercial activity in the coastal shallow water zone, and enforce compliance to restrictions; 2.1.2. Determine allowed recreation pressure levels for specific coastal zones which are identified in physical plans.
- e) 1.2.1. Develop an oil pollution control and oil spill liquidation plan; develop a model to predict oil spill distribution along the Latvian coast; 1.2.2. Develop and implement a compensation mechanism which will ensure procurement of compensation for environmental damage ensued; 1.2.3. Strengthen international co-operation in exchange of information and liquidation of effects of oil release; 1.2.4. Promote and support study of macrophyte community distribution, dynamics and limiting factors.
- f) 1.1.1. Continue improvement of wastewater treatment and control, promote the programme "Water supply and wastewater treatment in small and medium-sized cities of Latvia (800+)"; 1.1.2. Step-up control of wastewater quality and waste management in coastal Pagasts; 1.2.1. Develop an oil pollution control and oil spill liquidation plan; develop a model to predict oil spill distribution along the Latvian coast; 1.2.3. Strengthen international co-operation in exchange of information and liquidation of effects of oil release.
- g) 15.1.1. Control the use of fishing methods which destroy benthic communities; 15.1.2. Increase the selectivity of fishing tools; 15.1.3. Maintain the natural relative abundances of species by use of artificial reproduction management; 15.1.4. Regulate commercial harvest of aquatic plants and invertebrates; 15.1.5. Promote study of fish resources and key-stone habitats in food chains; 15.1.6. Strengthen the system of fish resource monitoring; 15.1.7. Enforce fishing control; 15.1.8. Combat the use of illegal fishing methods (electrical fishing, explosives, use of chemical substances, and others).
- i) 2.1.6. Encourage the use of dune meadows for pasture, considering the European Union Regulation (EEC 2078/92) "On agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the environment and the maintenance of the countryside".

For implementation of these goals, 24 actions for Baltic sea and Riga Gulf and 19 actions for coast and dunes have been listed in Biodiversity Action Plan.

In addition to actions listed, EU LIFE funded project "Protection and management of Coastal Habitats in Latvia" implemented by University of Latvia have been undertaking actions to support conservation and sustainable use of coastal biodiversity, for example, supporting nature tourism, maintenance and restoration of coastal dunes, enforcement of existing Regulations and development of new ones, as well as elaboration of the management plans for coastal protected areas. New project have been proposed for funding under LIFE fund, dealing with establishment and management of marine protected areas. If supported by the EC, it will begin in September 2005 and will be implemented by the Baltic Environmental Forum. Similar PDF-B project has been supported by the GEF.

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	x (marine)
b) Early stages of development	x (coastal)
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	

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

Law "On Protective Belts" foresees integration of biodiversity conservation issues into territorial planning of the municipalities. In practice, although the system is in place, its enforcement is problematic, mainly due to low capacity of local municipalities and lack of political support.

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.

On national level, there is no legislative or administrative basis for ecosystem based management of marine or coastal resources, but there have been some initiatives aimed at establishment of such. Integrated coastal zone management plan for Engure-Kemeri pilot area have been elaborated with the assistance of HELCOM, it is implemented by the GEF funded Baltic Sea Regional Project (ran by Agricultural Advisory and Training Center). This project includes both, watershed management (improvement of manure storages to minimize agricultural runoff), monitoring and coastal zone management (promoting nature friendly coastal activities).

Also above-mentioned LIFE Coastal project is contributing to implementation of ecosystem-based approach.

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	
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)	x
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	
Management plans for some of the critical components of ecosystems are in place (e.g. management plan for grey dunes), some are planned to be developed. Preparation of Species Protection plans for key fish species are foreseen in the Biodiversity Action plan. NPBD foresees protection of critical marine ecosystem components, such as deepwater communities, <i>macrophyte</i> stands, seals and waterbirds, particular fish species; also coastal components are identified – beach and dunes, cliffs.	

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.

A c t i v i t i e s	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 career opportunities for marine taxonomists and				x

ecologists				
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)				x
Please elaborate on ongoing activities.				
N/A				

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 (coastal)
b) Management plans for these marine and coastal protected areas have been developed with involvement of all stakeholders	x (coastal)
c) Effective management with enforcement and monitoring has been put in place	x (coastal)
d) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas is under development	
e) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas has been put in place	
f) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas managed for purpose of sustainable use, which may allow extractive activities	
g) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas which exclude extractive uses	
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.

a) There have been no marine protected territories established to date in Latvia. Some of the coastal areas include also marine part (e.g. Lake Engure Nature park and Lake Pape Nature park), but most of the marine areas are yet waiting for establishment.

As for coastal areas, 14 protected areas have been established to date, all of them both, nationally protected and Natura 2000 sites.

b) Management plans have been prepared for 7 of the coastal protected areas, all stakeholders have

been involved in elaboration of the plans, as foreseen by the official procedure for preparation of management plans in Latvia.

c) For some coastal protected areas, there is state administration in place (e.g. Slitere reserve, Kemer National Park, North Vidzeme Biosphere reserve), for some administration functions are implemented by local NGOs (Lake Engure Nature park, Lake Pape Nature park). Many of the coastal protected areas are running LIFE projects to prepare and implement management plans, establish management infrastructure. LIFE projects are in the process of implementation for Lake Pape Nature park, Kemer National park, just finished in Lake Engure Nature park. GEF/UNDP funded project in North Vidzeme Biosphere reserve is dealing with establishment of integrated management of this protected area. In addition LIFE Coastal project is dealing with enforcement of legislation and establishment of integrated management approach in whole coastal area.

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	
b)	Development and application of effective site selection methods in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management	
c)	Development of effective methods for effluent and waste control	
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	
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	
m)	Not applicable	

Further comments on techniques that aim at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.

Latvia has no any aquaculture farm on seawater or cultivation of marine species. Only the releasing of salmonids for stock enhancement and sea ranching has been developed.

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	
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)	x
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.

The transferring of alien species for aquaculture has been restricted and controlled by the national legislation.

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.

Although establishment of marine protected areas is pending, the coastal protected areas have been established and provide rather comprehensive coverage of coastal habitats. Most of them are having management plans in place, implementation of some also in the process. Integrated management of coastal areas is of particular importance in Latvia, as coastal zone is one of the most conflicting areas in Latvia – high nature values combined with high expectations on economic use from general public. Concept of management planning in Latvia integrates both nature protection and socio-economic development needs, in theory. But it is not always so easy when elaboration of the management plans is in process. Management plan Supervisory Group is established for preparation of each management plan; it consists of representatives of all major stakeholders in the respective area. But there are cases when groups of stakeholders do not agree on solutions in the management plans and sometimes it is not possible to reach agreement that satisfies all parties. Therefore, implementation of the management plans also is not always easy and smooth going. Most of the nature protection projects, implemented in the coastal zone (see mentioned above) are dealing not with pure nature conservation only; they deal also with establishment of integrated coastal zone management practices. The process has begun and needs to be continued.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of Goals 1 and 2 of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

NPBD and Action Plan foresees several activities to be implemented, many of them are in place, e.g. Action program for agriculture in environmentally sensitive areas (catchments and coastal zone) is prepared by Ministry of Environment, assessment of soviet-army pollution to be removed is done by Latvian Fisheries institute, restrictive measures for setting up windmills in the sea are in place, monitoring of by-catch is in place, data on invasive species is assessed and analyzed, management plans and individual site protection rules have been prepared for list of coastal areas, monitoring of coastal habitats and species is in place, coastal habitats have been mapped, priority habitats are in the process of restoration, assessment of invasive species is done, etc.

Some of the activities foreseen are in the process of implementation, e.g. Strategy of environmental investments is elaborated by Ministry of Environment, assessment of tourism pressure and allowed tourist loads will be finalized in 2006, management plans for Daugavgriva and Vakarbulli nature reserves will be prepared in 2007, establishment of tourism infrastructure in the coastal areas is in place, etc.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*.

Major constraints to implementation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Program are related to lack of political support and high public pressure on use of coastal resources, combined with weak institutional system of nature protection instances (lack of coastal zone related institutions) and lack of capacity of municipalities (lack of funding to manage protected areas, lack of human resources, will and capacity to apply integrated management approach).

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.

Rural Development Plan (2004 –2006) includes measure Agro-environment with 3 sub measures: Maintenance of biological diversity in grasslands; Establishment of buffer zones along water courses and water bodies; Maintenance of the genetic resources of local animal breeds.

National Programme on Biological Diversity has a separate chapter on Agriculture with 9 main objectives and 36 proposed measures to prevent decline of agro-biodiversity components.

National Environmental Monitoring Programme has the Biodiversity monitoring part with the extensive monitoring programme of species and habitats of agro-environment.

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	x
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
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.

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.

Assessment of plant genetic resources, partly assessment of animal genetic resources is in progress.

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	x
b) Yes, assessments are under way	
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).

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.

Sharp changes and fluctuations in the intensity of agriculture during the transition period do not show clear trend in agricultural biodiversity since 1993.

Some bird species (corncrake) indicates overall restoration of populations of bird species. Decrease in the total area covered with semi-natural grasslands indicates degradation in this aspect.

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	x
c) Yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	

Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies.

Biological agriculture support agricultural biodiversity.

EU subsidies for farmers supports management of valuable grasslands and help to prevent overgrowing of abandoned land. Rural Development Plan requests farmers to follow good agricultural practices which suggest to apply particular mowing techniques in order to decrease mortality rate of ground nesting birds.

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.

Rural Development Plan by providing special financial and expertise assistance increased the capacity of farmers to manage semi-natural grasslands that are of high biological value but due to economic reasons may be abandoned.

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

x

b) No, but potential mechanisms being identified

c) No, but mechanisms are under development

d) Yes, mechanisms are in place

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.

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

x

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)

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.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Yes, by supporting institutions in undertaking relevant assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, by developing policy and planning guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, by developing training material	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Yes, by supporting capacity-building at policy, technical and local levels	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Yes, by promoting synergy in the implementation of agreed plans of action and between ongoing assessment and intergovernmental processes.	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Yes (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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.

No actions taken.

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.

Main outcomes: biodiversity issues included in the Rural Development Plan; developed system to provide EU subsidies for farmers managing biologically valuable semi-natural grasslands and breeding local animal breeds; national subsidies for collections of local plant varieties.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of all 4 main Goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention through participation of experts on biodiversity issues during development of legal acts, national and sectoral programmes and procedures for EU subsidies; growing public awareness during the implementation of Rural Development Plan and its Agri-environmental measures.

Several objectives of National Programme on Biological Diversity have been implemented in the fields of management of semi natural grasslands and maintenance of local animal breeds; still slow progress in other issues stated in the article 14. Agriculture; Rural Development Plan is the most effective instrument to implement National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan into this sector.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*. Rural Development Plan and EU subsidies support sustainable development of rural communities and small-scale agricultural practices.

Main constraints are low institutional capacity to implement the National Programme on Biological Diversity into the policy of the sector; insufficient human and scientific capacity to include biodiversity related issues into the new Rural Development Plan; low technical and human capacity for the scientific projects of agri-biodiversity.

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	
c) Yes, please describe constraints/obstacles encountered in the process	
d) Yes, please describe lessons learned	
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

Issues of protection of forest biological diversity are incorporated in the Latvian Forest policy and National Programme of Biological Diversity. These issues will be reflected in Latvian National Programme of the Forest Sector and Related Industries that is under development. The main targets are:

1. Promote sustainable forest management.
 - 1.1. Develop an action plan for maintenance of biological diversity in forests.
 - 1.2. Promote development and implementation of a system for forest management unit certification.
 - 1.3. Inform the Private Forest Owner Association and other interest groups on biological diversity, and involve them in finding solutions to the given problems.
 - 1.4. Develop and implement economic instruments to promote development of sustainable forestry and maintenance of biological diversity in forests.
 - 1.5. Improve education of forestry specialists in biological diversity and raise the level of public

knowledge on the biological importance of forests.

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.

Issues of protection of forest biological diversity are incorporated in the Latvian Forest policy and National Programme of Biological Diversity. National Programme on Biological Diversity has been developed involving main stakeholders such as representatives of sectoral ministries, researchers from several universities and institutes as well as NGO's. Latvian National Programme of the Forest Sector and Related Industries that contains further directions for forest biodiversity conservation is under elaboration. Wide range of stakeholders has been involved in this process.

System of specially protected nature territories ensures conservation of the most important forest habitats. In addition to the specially protected nature territories, Latvia has established micro-reserves to provide protection of valuable forest stands outside protected areas.

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.

National Programme on Biological Diversity has been developed involving different NGO's - several seminars took place during the elaboration of the Programme local communities as well as municipalities attended these seminars and expressed their interests and needs.

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.

In co-operation with Northern European countries several projects were carried out to increase understanding and knowledge of employees in forestry sector about forest biodiversity, forest ecosystem functions and importance of forest biodiversity elements.

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.

There is close co-operation with governments of Sweden, Finland and Denmark as well with Russian Federation in the field of forest biodiversity. Several projects, aimed to capacity building and exchange of knowledge were implemented with financial support of these Governments.

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?

a) No (please provide reasons below)	
b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below)	x
c) Yes (please provide details below)	

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).

Some attempts were made in particular projects. One of the ongoing projects supported by government of the Sweden with State Forest Service as partner from Latvia's side foresee development of management schemes for Woodland Key Habitats (high biodiversity value forests) based on sample areas. WWF Latvia with UNDP/GEF support elaborated fact sheets for private forest owners with guidance for ecosystem approach in forest management. There are no approved and widely used guidelines for ecosystem approach to management of forests. All State owned forests (50% of total forest area) are certified according to FSC scheme; in these forests ecosystem approach to management of forests is under development.

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	x	<p>Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions</p> <p>Objective 1: Assessment of the treat of alien species is foreseen in Action Plan of National Programme on Biological Diversity. National legislation prohibits use of alien tree species for forest restoration or afforestation.</p> <p>Objective 2: Monitoring programmes that help evaluate impact of pollution are carried out by State forest Service, annual reports are available.</p> <p>Objective 3: Latvian State Forest Science Institute – "Silava", studies changes of Latvian forest vegetation caused by climate change.</p> <p>Objective 4: Forest protection system against forest fires is under optimization to increase efficiency.</p> <p>Objective 5: The project "The Management of Woodland Key Habitats (WKH) in Latvia" launched in 2003 is a continuation of successful cooperation between the SFS, the State Stock Company "Latvijas valsts meži" (LVM) of Latvia, and the Östra Götaland County Board of Forestry of Sweden. One of management activities that will be tested during the project is controlled forest fire.</p> <p>Objective 6: Restrictions for forest clearings are elaborated in national legislation. Project for identifying the WKH concentration areas is cared out.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

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).

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Objective 1: Provisions for restoration of forest biodiversity with the aim to restore ecosystem services in managed forests are incorporated in forestry legislation.</p> <p>Objective 2: Threatened species and restrictions for activities with these species are listed in Law "On Protection of Species and Habitats" and dependant legal acts.</p> <p>Objective 3: 45% of territory of Specially Protected Nature Territories is forestland. Almost 20% of forests are to some extent limited in use, 13% are excluded from timber production.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

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).

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Objective 1: All State owned (50% of all) forests are FSC certified. Certification of private forests has begun.</p> <p>Objective 2: Annual total felling is limited in state owned (50%) forests to secure sustainable use of wood.</p> <p>Objective 3: Not relevant.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

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).

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		<p>Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 5 and describe measures undertaken</p>
b) No	x	<p>Please provide reasons below</p> <p>According to national legislation only forest owner (State or private) have rights to use wood in forest; other resources are available for local communities. Systems of licenses for limited hunting of wild game animals exists, according to national legislation State owns game animals. There are no limitations for access to forest genetic resources in national legislation. The use of all forest resources (except wood and game animals) is based on customary law.</p>
<p>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)</p>		

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	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Objective 1: The causes of losses of forest biological diversity are analyzed during elaboration of Latvian National Programme of the Forest Sector and Related Industries.</p> <p>Objective 2: Issues of protection of forest biological diversity are incorporated in the Latvian Forest policy and National Programme of Biological Diversity. Latvian National Programme of the Forest Sector and Related Industries that contains further directions for forest biodiversity conservation is under elaboration.</p> <p>Objective 3: Forestry legislation under review to assess gaps for forest biodiversity protection.</p> <p>Objective 4: Law on accounting of harvested timber is elaborated.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

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).

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	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Objective 1: Support for agriculture is provided to encourage landowners and to reduce pressure on wood resources as only source of income. Law on compensations for restrictions in Specially Protected Nature Territories is pending for approval in Parliament.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p> <p>[Empty box]</p>
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).		

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	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Objective 1: During several projects public awareness campaigns were carried out, several booklets were produced and articles in regional magazines published.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p> <p>[Empty box]</p>
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).		

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	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p>

		<p>Objective 1: Compatibility of national forest classification system with regional classification system under assessment.</p> <p>Objective 2: Existing forest classification under review.</p> <p>Objective 3: To identify in woodlands the sites/objects where the concentration of biological values is especially high and achieve their purpose-oriented protection, in 1997 the State Forest Service and the Östra Götaland Regional Board of Forestry of Sweden carried out a joint project "Woodland Key Habitat Inventory".</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>
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).		

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	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Objective 1: Several indicators were used for first phase of elaboration of Latvian National Programme of the Forest Sector and Related Industries to compile chapter Forest Biodiversity.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>
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).		
There is still no agreement on indicators to use to assess the status of the 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	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Objective 1: Latvian State Forest Science Institute – "Silava", carries out State supported research programmes on forest ecosystem functions.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

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).

Research programmes are narrow scoped and the range of subjects for studies is insufficient, the main reasons are lack of financial resources and low human capacity due to previously low funding to science institutions that led to tremendous decline in scientific capacity.

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		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	x	<p>Please provide reasons below</p> <p>Insufficient financial and human capacity.</p>

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).

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.

Main outcomes are amendments of legislation and increased knowledge for improvement of programmes and plans.

Actions undertaken and described in above section contribute to the achievement of all 4 main Goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention. The actions undertaken contribute to progress towards the 2010 target, especially Goals 1.; 2.; 4.; 5.; 8.

NPBD sets several targets related to forest biodiversity protection e.g. target 4.1. Prevent a decline in diversity of forest habitats, 4.2. Ensure suitable conditions for populations of forest animals, 4.3. Protect migration paths and reduce the rate of forest fragmentation, 4.4. Maintain the characteristic species composition of forest communities. Several activities listed in Action Plan of NPBD were carried out to fulfill above-mentioned targets.

The actions undertaken contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal 7 Ensure

environmental sustainability.

The main challenges for implementation of the programme still are notable; as wood is the main export product of Latvia (43% of export income) there are discussions on reduction of timber harvesting amount and increase of restrictions for forest use for biodiversity protection reasons, establishment of new protected areas. Also there is lack of effective dialogue with stakeholders.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.

N/A

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.

N/A

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.

N/A

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.	
N/A	

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	x
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.	
N/A	

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.	
N/A	

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.

N/A

Mountain Biodiversity

Programme Element 1. Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use ad benefit sharing

193. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity?

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a) No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) No, but relevant 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 taken to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity

N/A

194. Has your country taken any measures to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity?

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a) No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 taken to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity

N/A

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems

N/A

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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

N/A

**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	X
b) No, but relevant frameworks are being developed	
c) Yes, some frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	
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.

N/A

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	X
b) No, but some cooperation frameworks are being considered	
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

N/A

**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	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 for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biodiversity

N/A

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further comments on the measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

N/A

201. Has your country taken any measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems?

a) No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further comments on the measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems

N/A

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.

N/A

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

x

b) Yes (please provide details below)

Further comments on the regional and subregional activities in which your country has been involved.

No activities carried out for the period from the last report. In 2000 the intergovernmental conference "Biodiversity in Europe" was held in Riga.

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

x

b) Yes (please provide details below)

Further comments on regional and subregional cooperation and processes.

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

x

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)

Further comments on support for the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes.

N/A

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

x

b) Yes

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

x

b) Yes (please provide details below)

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.

F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT**Box LXXV.**

Please provide below recommendations on how to improve this reporting format.

The questions are too open-ended, allowing different interpretation of information requested, potentially leading to difficulties of comparing the information received from different Contracting Parties.

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